

Council

Date: Wednesday 21st July 2021

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Zoom Online <https://www.youtube.com/bathnescouncil>

To: All Members of the Council

Dear Member

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **Council** on **Wednesday 21st July 2021** in **Zoom Online** - a link will be provided to Members.

This informal virtual meeting will help to inform the decision-making meeting on 22nd July 2021. This virtual meeting will be conducted in the normal manner but, as any decisions made will not be legally enforceable, they will be formally made on 22nd July 2021.

This approach is for this July Council meeting only, and will be reviewed for any future meetings, in line with health guidance at that time.

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely

Jo Morrison
Democratic Services Manager
for Chief Executive



NOTES:

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

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

Paper copies are available for inspection at the Guildhall - Bath.

2. **Details of indicative decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the notes which will be passed to the formal meeting on 22nd July 2021.

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. We request that those filming/recording meetings avoid filming public seating areas, children, vulnerable people etc; however, the Council cannot guarantee this will happen.

The Council will broadcast the images and sounds live via the internet <https://www.youtube.com/bathnescouncil>. The Council may also use the images/sound recordings on its social media site or share with other organisations, such as broadcasters.

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.

The Council now has a maximum time limit for this, so any requests to speak cannot be guaranteed if the list is full.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

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

5. Supplementary information for meetings

Additional information and Protocols and procedures relating to meetings

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

Council - Wednesday, 21st July, 2021

at 6.30 pm in Zoom Online

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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

(b) The nature of their interest.

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

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

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

4. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

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

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

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

6. DRAFT B&NES LOCAL PLAN PARTIAL UPDATE (Pages 7 - 178)

The Council, in its statutory role as the local planning authority, has a duty periodically

to review its local plan to assess if it requires updating. That review process has been undertaken and Council is now asked to agree the attached Local Plan Partial Update proposed-submission draft for public consultation and then submit it to the Secretary of State for public examination.

7. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2021/22 (Pages 179 - 214)

The Local Authority has a statutory duty, in consultation with named partners Health, Police and Probation, to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Plan sets out how services are to be organised and funded and what functions they will carry out to prevent youth offending and re-offending across Bath and North East Somerset.

8. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2020/21 (Pages 215 - 232)

This report gives details of performance against the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Plan for 2020/21.

9. LGA NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT (Pages 233 - 254)

This report presents to Council a draft code of conduct for approval, following discussions with the Standards Committee members.

10. APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER (Pages 255 - 258)

This report seeks Council's approval of the appointment to the new position of Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer.

11. MOTION FROM LABOUR GROUP - COMMONWEALTH VETERANS (Pages 259 - 260)

12. MOTION FROM CONSERVATIVE GROUP - MEMORIAL FOR COVID VICTIMS (Pages 261 - 262)

13. CROSS PARTY MOTION - SAFETY FOR WOMEN (Pages 263 - 264)

14. QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

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

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

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING	Council
MEETING	22 nd July 2021
TITLE:	Draft B&NES Local Plan Partial Update
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
Attachment 1 - Proposed submission draft B&NES Local Plan Partial Update document including Policies Map changes	

1.0 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Council, in its statutory role as the local planning authority, has a duty periodically to review its local plan to assess if it requires updating. That review process has been undertaken and Council is now asked to agree the attached Local Plan Partial Update proposed-submission draft for public consultation and then submit it to the Secretary of State for public examination.

RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Council is asked to agree;

- a) the B&NES Local Plan Partial Update proposed submission draft and the Policies Map changes (as contained in Attachment 1 to this report), and publish them for consultation;
- b) that the consultation period should be 27th August to 8th October 2021;
- c) that delegated authority is granted to the Head of Planning to make minor amendments and correct any errors to the Local Plan Partial Update proposed submission draft, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing, and to undertake the public consultation.
- d) Following the public consultation, and subject to any changes made as a result of c) above, that delegated authority is granted to the Head of Planning to submit the B&NES Local Plan Partial Update to the Secretary of State for examination.

- e) **grant to the head of planning delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing, to consult upon and agree modifications to the local plan partial update during the examination.**

3.0 THE REPORT

Background

- 3.1 The B&NES Local Plan (the Core Strategy and the Placemaking Plan) needs to be updated in order to reflect the Council's Declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergencies and the commitment to securing net zero by 2030. Whilst it is a statutory process subject to an external examination, the Local Plan is part of the council's corporate plan and the Planning Service is focused on delivering the key aims of the council.
- 3.2 All Local Plans must be reviewed at least 5 years after adoption and updated if required. The B&NES Local Plan was adopted in 2014 and its policies run to 2029. The Local Plan was reviewed in 2019 following the publication of a new Corporate Strategy and this review concluded that a number of policies now need updating
- 3.3 The importance of the Local Plan is that by law, decisions on planning applications must be taken in accordance with the adopted Local Plan (unless material considerations indicate otherwise). The scope of the Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) therefore responds to the three key priorities for action and speed of ambition needed to achieve the 2030 target as identified in the Climate Emergency Progress Report to Council in October 2019. The priorities are:
- (1) Energy efficiency improvement of existing buildings and zero carbon new build;
 - (2) A major shift to mass transport, walking and cycling to reduce transport emissions;
 - (3) A rapid and large-scale increase in local renewable energy generation.
- 3.4 There are also other key policies that need to be brought up to date, in particular, replenishing the housing land supply in order to provide sufficient homes and maintain a robust housing land supply. The other policy updates are listed below.
- 3.5 A full review of the Local Plan will be undertaken within the strategic context of the forthcoming West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) reflecting any changes arising from national planning reform. The scope of the LPPU therefore needs to be focussed on immediate priorities and must not seek to pre-empt strategic decisions which are the remit of the SDS or significantly change the strategic policy framework of the existing Plan, such as the spatial strategy, key development sites and the plan period.
- 3.6 Accompanying the LPPU, a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are also being reviewed or prepared via single member decisions. These SPDs will provide further detail and support the implementation of the proposed policies in the LPPU and will also help to address the climate and ecological emergencies. The Draft SPDs are programmed to be subject to consultation alongside the LPPU

- 3.7 The proposed policy changes to the Local Plan, along with changes to the Policies Map, are included as Attachment 1. It is only these changes that comprise the Partial Update and which will be published for public consultation, not the unchanged parts of the Local Plan or Policies Map. Key proposed changes are outlined below;

Addressing the Climate Emergency

- 3.8 The proposed policy changes include;
- a. A new Net Zero Carbon policy for new build residential and non-residential development.
 - b. Introducing an energy matrix to require lower energy requirements for space heating and general energy use and the total energy use to be met by renewable energy
 - c. Replacing the currently adopted policies that encourage sustainable construction and on-site renewable energy to reduce carbon emissions by 10% with a policy that requires all new development to be zero carbon
 - d. Introducing a heating and cooling hierarchy where applicants are required to show that development minimises heating and cooling demand and residual heat and cooling demand to be met via renewable heat sources
 - e. The retrofitting energy efficiency measures to existing properties to be required to achieve specified carbon reduction levels (supported by the SPD)
 - f. Introducing a policy requiring a Whole Life Cycle Carbon assessment of new buildings
 - g. Revision of the currently adopted renewable energy policy to set out a clearer, more positive strategy in helping to facilitate renewable energy infrastructure development particularly encouraging it in the most appropriate locations in the District
 - h. Introducing a policy requiring all new residential development to provide electric vehicle charging infrastructure (to be supported by a Transport SPD)
 - i. Ensuring that Green Infrastructure provided also maximises benefits for active travel (sustainable transport and health benefits)
 - j. Requirement for applicants to produce a management plan for artificial pitch proposals to address pollution issues NB Sports England objects to restricting the use of 3G pitches
- 3.9 The accompanying **Sustainable Construction & Retrofitting SPD** will set out guidance for homeowners and occupiers on adapting their dwellings to reduce energy use. This will be updated to provide consistent, practical and user-friendly advice relating to measures that can be introduced to reduce energy use in all types/ages of buildings. The opportunity is also being taken to reflect changes in technology that have moved on quickly over the last eight years in relation to the types of measures available and their cost. The SPD will also now help to address fuel-poverty issues, including in historic buildings, where achieving affordable warmth is a particular problem.

The Nature Emergency

- 3.10 Proposed policy changes include;
- a. Updating adopted nature conservation policies so that they more effectively protect irreplaceable habitats and facilitate nature recovery
 - b. Bringing forward a new policy (in advance of the national requirement) for developers to deliver 10 % Biodiversity Net Gain as part of development
 - c. Incorporate the Bath River Line project into planning policy

- 3.11 The Council will prepare a SPD on **Biodiversity Net Gain** to enable early implementation of the new 10% requirement.

Housing Land supply

- 3.12 Proposed policy changes include;
- d. Allocate new sites to deliver c.1,100 new homes, primarily on brownfield sites and in Bath and Keynsham in line with the existing spatial strategy (see list of new sites below)
 - e. extend the requirement for new housing to meet accessibility standards
- 3.13 The new sites or sites with increased capacity are;

Brownfield	Greenfield
Bath Riverside (additional capacity)	Keynsham Safeguarded land
Twerton Park	Silver Street, Midsomer Norton
Weston Island	
RUH	
Sion Hill (Bath Spa Uni)	
St Martin's Hospital, Bath	
Fire Station site, Keynsham	
Treetops Nursing Home, Keynsham	
Paulton Printworks site	

The Green Recovery & employment land supply

- 3.14 Proposed policy changes include:
- a. Stronger protection for industrial sites across B&NES,
 - b. Increased protection for office uses within Bath by extending the policy which seeks to prevent change of use or redevelopment of offices to residential uses to also cover Purpose Built Student Accommodation and large HMOs
 - c. Designation of a site in the Locksbrook area as a creative industry hub – the policy will facilitate delivery with Bath Spa University of a mix of creative business space and some teaching space resulting in an economically productive use of the site
 - d. Relocation of the Bus Depot from Weston Island enables its allocation for employment uses to enable the redevelopment of other key sites in the city (eg Manvers St & at Lower Bristol Road) as well as including public facing uses such as creative, arts-based activities.
 - e. Allied to government changes in the use classes order, local policy will be amended to provide greater flexibility for a mix of town centre uses/active frontages in the Milsom Quarter to help address recent decline and enable creation of vibrant mixed use part of the city centre.
 - f. No longer allocate South Road Car Park site for retail development, but retain it primarily as a public car park, providing additional benefits potentially including solar energy generation or a minor element of residential development
 - g. Changes to the mix of uses and site boundary of the Somer Valley Enterprise Area (The Council is also preparing a Local Development Order alongside the LPPU) for this site.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

3.15 Proposed policy changes include:

- f. Increasing scope of existing Policy H2, to refer to new build HMOs, the change of use to HMO from other uses (e.g. commercial), and the intensification of small HMOs (C4) to large HMOs (sui generis).
- g. Introducing policy requirement that all new HMOs achieve an Energy Performance Certificate rating of 'C' or above.
- h. Introducing a policy requirement that all HMOs provide a good standard of accommodation (with further guidance set out in the updated HMO SPD)

3.16 These policy changes will be supplemented by a review of the **Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD**.

Development at the university campuses and student accommodation

3.17 Proposed policy changes include:

- a) Greater prioritisation of student accommodation on university campuses and not in the city and update the policy framework for the University of Bath Claverton Down Campus to facilitate new development meeting their needs whilst responding to and enhancing its environmental assets,
- b) Introduction of a nomination agreement between the developer and the educational establishment to demonstrate need.

Park & Rides sites

3.18 In order to realise the revised role of the Park & Rides sites as transport interchanges, the Council considers that there are exceptional circumstances to remove them from the Green Belt and allocate them as transport interchanges.

Green Belt villages

3.19 Housing Development Boundaries of villages in the Green Belt have been reviewed to become 'infill' boundaries and new infill boundaries defined at appropriate villages currently with no boundaries.

Transport policies

3.20 Proposed policy changes include;

- a) Amending transport policies to ensure that in considering the location and design of new development sustainable transport modes are considered first and are at the heart of decision making, as well as ensuring the principles of Liveable Neighbourhoods are better embedded
- b) Requiring development to enhance, rather than just maintain (as is currently the case) recreational or active travel routes
- c) Changing the parking standards (see SPD below)

3.21 The changes to the Local Plan will be supplemented by a new **Transport and Development SPD** which will be comprised of 4 sections as follows;

(a) Parking standards

- Remove the standards from the Local Plan and include them in the SPD
- Increase number of parking zones to better reflect differences in accessibility across B&NES.
- Residential Parking changed to Maximum Standards
- Achieve low car developments where conditions exist to do so, i.e. excellent accessibility, car clubs, Controlled Parking Zones
- Avoid over-provision in parking but ensure sufficient parking to limit risk of overspill.
- Destination parking (e.g. employment, leisure, retail) retained as Maximum Standards. Levels adjusted to reduce unnecessary car usage.
- Accessibility Analysis for each site to reflect local context.

(b) Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles

- Specifications for standards for connections and sockets.
- Suitable capacity in electricity network, may involve sub-stations.
- Avoid petrol/diesel cars using EV spaces.
- Ensure adequate access for all road and pavement users, e.g. Avoid trailing leads and trip hazards, minimise street clutter, design out conflict between vehicles and pedestrians

(c) Walking & Cycling Infrastructure Design

- SPD to set out what is required for walking, cycling and other micro-mobility modes, and signposts to Best Practice design standards to be applied. Scope to include accessibility, safety and security, comfort, legibility.

(d) Travel Plan Guidance

- Establishes types of TP (Full, Interim, Framework and Statement) and thresholds at which they are required.
- Sets expectations on content of a TP without being overly prescriptive, which can result in generic submissions.
- Establishes “Delivery Options.”
- Monitoring, remedial action, and enforcement.

3.22 At the forthcoming exam the LPPU will be tested to ensure it is legally compliant (i.e. that statutory processes have been followed) and is sound as required in NPPF para 35, ie in summary, the plan is;

- a) **Positively prepared** –it provides a strategy which seeks to meet the area’s objectively assessed needs;
- b) **Justified** – it is an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;

- c) **Effective** – it is deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters; and
- d) **Consistent with national policy** –it enables the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in this Framework.

4.0 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Planning Acts require that planning applications must be determined in accordance with Development Plan Documents or Neighbourhood Plans unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 4.2 In light of the UK plan-led planning system, Regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires that Local Planning Authorities must review local plans every five years, starting from the date of adoption of the local plan. This is echoed in the National Planning Policy Framework (para 33) which states that reviews “...should take into account changing circumstances affecting the area, or any relevant changes in national policy”.
- 4.3 The process for the preparation and review of local plans is governed by Statute (primarily the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by subsequent acts), Regulations (primarily the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012), national planning policy (the National Planning Policy Framework 2019) and national guidance (National Planning Practice Guidance). A number of other statutes are also relevant to the review of the Plan such as the Climate Change Act 2008.
- 4.4 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires all local planning authorities prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS sets out the programme, resources and arrangements for the production and review of statutory planning documents required by the Council.
- 4.5 Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which should explain how they will engage local communities and other interested parties in producing their Local Plan and determining planning applications. The LPPU has been prepared in accordance with the [B&NES SCI](#).
- 4.6 Under the 2012 Regulations, the LPPU has now reached the Regulation 19 stage. This requires that the Local Authority must take specified steps to publicise the submission documents for consultation. In addition, Regulation 8 (5) requires that where a local plan contains a policy that is intended to supersede another policy in the adopted development plan, it must state that fact and identify the superseded policy. These are included in the draft LPPU.
- 4.7 As this is a Partial Update, the Council will only be consulting on and submitting for examination the updated policies, not the extant parts of the Plan. Attachment 1 therefore entails a list of the new and updated policies. For ease of reference, a composite version of the Plan, showing the updated policies has also been prepared (see background paper).

- 4.8 This report's recommendation also requests delegated authority to submit the Plan, along with the necessary submission documents, for public examination under regulation 22 of the 2012 Regulations. Whilst provisional changes may be proposed during the examination process in response to objections and issues raised by the Inspector, any changes to the Plan will need to be made by Full Council.
- 4.9 Plan preparation must be informed by a Sustainability Appraisal and a Habitats Regulations Assessment. The sustainability appraisal report will be published as part of the proposed submission consultation.
- 4.10 Local planning authorities are under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. In order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic policymaking authorities should prepare and maintain one or more Statements of Common Ground (SoCG), documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these. The SoCGs listed in the background papers to this report illustrate that there are no strategic cross boundary issues that need to be addressed in the LPPU.
- 4.11 As the LPPU progresses, increased weight can be given to its policies in decision making but it can only be given full weight once adopted (see NPPF para 48). The LPPU milestones are;
- July 2021 - Council agrees draft LPPU (SPDs also to be agreed in July 2021)
 - September/October 2021 - Public consultation on the LPPU and SPDs
 - November/Dec 2021 - Submission to the Secretary of State for examination
 - Feb/March 2022 - Public Hearings
 - May/June 2022 – Inspector's Report
 - June 2022 - Adoption
- 4.12 Once the Plan has been submitted for examination, the timetable is in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate. As this is only a partial update, the process should not take as long as it would for a full Plan exam.

5.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 The Council's planning policy framework is critical to the delivery of the new Corporate Strategy. The formulation of planning policy will require extensive cross-service working to ensure a co-ordinated approach and an efficient use of resources.
- 5.2 The preparation of Planning Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents for the District is primarily funded by the Local Development Framework budget, Government grants and funding from WECA. The scope and progress of preparation of planning policy documents will depend on the available resources.
- 5.3 The planning framework in B&NES has been particularly successful in bringing substantial income into the Council such as CIL, S.106 agreements, New Homes Bonus, and HIF relative to its size. The New Homes Bonus achieved equates with larger cities like Birmingham and Bristol, and far exceeds other districts which contain a historic city like Oxford and York.

6.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance. Some of the main risks identified are;

- That the inspector may not find all of the policy changes at the independent examination sound,
- That the Inspectorate is not able to maintain the published timetable
- That there is a successful legal challenge to the plan post adoption

7.0 EQUALITIES

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the draft LPPU (Regulation 19 Draft Plan) to consider proposed new policies and amended policies (not including minor amendments), primarily to address the climate and nature emergency, replenish housing supply and support the Council's overarching strategic plan. A number of policies have been updated and new policies introduced within the Responding to Climate Change Chapter which support the Climate Emergency to benefit communities and provide opportunities to address fuel poverty issues. Similarly, Nature Conservation policies have been updated and new Biodiversity Net Gain policy introduced to support the Ecological Emergency to benefit communities. Green Infrastructure policies have been updated and support the health and well-being of all communities (and equality groups).

7.2 Housing in Multiple Occupation and Purpose-Built Student Accommodation policy provides the requirements to support housing to encourage and maintain balanced and mixed communities that support the need of all groups in society. Potential negative impacts of HMO policy may mean housing affordability issues for some equality groups particularly within the Bath area. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken in detail for the proposed draft Houses in Multiple Occupation in Bath Supplementary Planning Document which considers issues in detail and sets out proposed actions.

7.3 The LPPU includes updated policy setting out M4(2) and M4(3) accessible and adaptable housing requirements to provide suitable housing that meets the needs of different groups in the community, including disabled people, older people and families with young children.

7.4 Transport policies have been updated to include consideration of the needs of people of all abilities, including disabled people. Text to transport policies has been updated to include principles of inclusive design to support the health and well-being of all and reference to national design guidance supporting access for all, including disabled people has been included.

7.5 Site policies have been updated and new policies included for site allocations which set out proposed development requirements and design principles to create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible supporting health and well-being, community cohesion and resilience to benefit all equality groups. Some site allocation policies also include affordable housing requirements, increasing the provision of affordable housing across B&NES.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 The scope of the Partial Update responds to the three immediate priorities for action and speed of ambition needed to achieve the 2030 target as identified in the Climate Emergency Progress Report to Council in October 2019. In summary, these are;

- energy efficiency improvement of the majority of existing buildings and zero carbon new build;
- a major shift to mass transport, walking and cycling to reduce transport emissions; and
- A rapid and large-scale increase in local renewable energy generation

9.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 Whilst Local Authorities are required to review their Local Plans at least every 5 years and ensure that they are up-to-date, the update to the B&NES Local Plan could have been undertaken as part of a Full Review of Plan alongside the preparation of the WECA Spatial Development Strategy. However, this would have delayed updating key policies critical to the delivery of the Council's priorities and the Renewal Programme.

9.2 In preparing a Plan, one of the tests of soundness at exam is that the Council has considered the reasonable alternative policy options. The options considered by the Council are set out in the Consultation Document (Regulation 18) and assessed in the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

9.3 One option of particular note is whether the scope of the LPPU should have included amendments to the policies on Bath Recreation Ground. As part of the Reg 18 options consultation in January/February 2021, the Council put forward 3 options for review of the Local Plan policies that relate to the Bath Recreation Ground (Policies SB1 & 2) for the reasons set out in that document. The greatest number of comments (over 1,600) were received on Rec policy options which therefore warrants further explanation of the way forward. The 3 options were;

1. Option 1 - No change to the existing policy wording but review it in the Full Local Plan
2. Option 2 - Review the policy wording through the Local Plan Partial Update
3. Option 3 - Delete the policy/allocation through the Local Plan Partial Update and revisit it in the Full Local Plan

9.4 Many of the comments received advocated removal of the Rugby Club stadium from the Recreation Ground and relocating it elsewhere. Having considered the issues and the comments received, the Council's preferred approach is, however, to pursue Option 1. This is because Core Strategy Policy B1 is a strategic policy and integral to the district wide spatial strategy. For the reasons given in para 3.5 above, it is considered that any review of the spatial strategy, including whether the principle of a stadium on the Rec should be maintained or whether the stadium should be located on another site, can and should be undertaken as part of the preparation of the new Local Plan. This will allow the Council to consider the future of Bath Recreation Ground in a holistic and strategic way, having regard to the impact upon the whole city and wider area.

9.5 In the interim, the Council will continue to rely on the current policy which was found sound by independent inspectors at both the Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan examinations when this issue, and the wording of the policy, were specifically considered.

10.0 CONSULTATION

10.1 One of the Council Core Policies is giving people a bigger say. It therefore places great emphasis on involving local people, parish councils and others in its decision-making, and listening to its communities about the issues that affect their future.

10.2 The Consultation Statement documents the engagement and consultation undertaken so far. Significant opportunities for involvement in the preparation of the LPPU have been provided through;

- the Commencement document in April 2020 which particularly focused on the purpose and scope of the LPPU
- the Options consultation document in January/February 2021

10.3 It is only the changes in Attachment 1 to the report that comprise the Partial Update which will be published for public consultation, not the unchanged parts of the Local Plan or Policies Map.

10.4 The consultation on the proposed submission draft must meet statutory requirements set out in the 2012 Regulations and must be in line with the Bath and North East Somerset Neighbourhood Planning Protocol (NPP) which includes the Council's Statement Community Involvement (SCI). The Statement of the Representations procedure sets out when and how public representations must be made.

10.5 The opportunity to comment on the LPPU and SPDs will be widely publicised through a variety of means/media (e.g. press release, mail-outs, summary leaflet, website/social media etc). Residents and Stakeholders will be encouraged to comment through a user friendly, on-line portal, but hard copy comments will also be accepted. Webinars have proved to be a successful engagement/publicity tool, reaching a larger and wider audience than traditional physical drop-in events, and so these will be arranged during the consultation. Use will be made of the Community Forums as far as possible. The consultation on the LPPU will need to be co-ordinated with a number of other Council consultations being undertaken over the summer.

10.6 As this is a formal consultation, the public comments will be considered by the examination inspector at the forthcoming hearings.

Contact person	<i>Simon de Beer (Head of Planning) 01225 477616</i> <i>Richard Daone (Deputy Head of Planning (Policy)) 01225 477546</i>
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Background papers	<u>B&NES Core Strategy 2014</u> <u>B&NES Placemaking Plan 2017</u> <u>Local Plan Partial Update commencement document 2020</u> <u>Local Plan Options consultation document 2021</u> <u>Council progress report on climate emergency October 2019</u> <u>B&NES Statement of Community Involvement</u> <u>My neighbourhood - A neighbourhood planning protocol for B&NES</u> <u>Climate Emergency declaration March 2019</u> <u>B&NES Local Development Scheme 2021</u> <u>Bath & North East Somerset Local Plan Partial Review - Consultation Statement</u> <u>Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA)</u> <u>Local Plan Partial Update policy review 2020</u> <u>Local Plan Partial Update - Options Consultation supporting documents</u>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Attachment 1 - Proposed submission draft B&NES Local Plan Partial Update document including Policies Map changes

Local Plan Partial Update

Note: in the changes below additional text is underlined and deletions are shown as a ~~strike through~~. Please don't change the para numbers.

Volume 1 (District wide Development Management Policies)

Paragraph/Policy	Amendments
New unnumbered para at start of Plan	<u>In order to address a range of urgent issues in B&NES, including the climate and ecological emergency declarations, the Council is preparing a partial update of the Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan (which together comprise the Local Plan). The Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) is set out as a schedule of changes to the Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan combined document. Within the schedule of changes new text is shown as underlined and bold and deleted text is struck through. The schedule of changes below is published for consultation under Regulation 19. In addition to the schedule below the Council will also be publishing the composite plan showing the changes, in order that the reader can see the proposed changes in context. The composite plan is not available for comment and is published for information only. Every effort has been made to ensure the changes shown in both the schedule and composite plan are the same. However, should there be a difference the proposed change shown in the schedule takes precedence.</u>
After para 5	<u>5a. The Council is required to review the Local Plan every five years in order to determine whether it remains fit for purpose or whether all or part of it needs to be updated. A full review of the Local Plan will be undertaken alongside the West of England Combined Authority Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) which is scheduled for publication in 2023. Therefore, in the interim, B&NES is undertaking a Partial Update of the Local Plan to address a number of urgent issues.</u> <u>5b. In March 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency and pledged to enable carbon neutrality in the district by 2030. An ecological emergency has also been declared in response to the escalating threat to wildlife and ecosystems. The Council has also reviewed its corporate strategy. The Council's overriding purpose is to improve people's lives and its core policies are addressing the climate and nature emergency and giving people a bigger say. As this is a partial update to the existing Plan, and not a new Plan, the scope of the changes is confined to those areas that can be addressed without significantly changing the strategic policy framework of the adopted Plan i.e. the spatial priorities; the spatial strategy; or the strategic housing and job growth requirements in the Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan.</u> <u>5c. The scope of the partial update is therefore, confined to:</u> <u>Updating policies in order that they better address the climate and ecological emergencies</u> <u>Replenish housing supply in order that the Core Strategy housing requirement can be met and the necessary supply of housing land maintained</u> <u>Addressing a limited range of other urgent local issues e.g. related to the 'green recovery'</u> <u>Amending policies for clarity and to ensure they are aligned with up to date national policy</u>

Para 23	23. This will enable us to contribute to meeting the national, statutory carbon reduction target of 45% by 2020 78% by 2035 from 1990 levels <u>and to achieve net zero by 2050.</u> <u>23a.The Council has declared a climate emergency and has committed to providing the leadership for the District to be carbon neutral by 2030. This will contribute to the UK’s legally binding target of net zero carbon by 2050. There are three key priorities to achieve this which are;</u> • <u>Energy efficiency improvement of the majority of existing buildings (domestic and non-domestic) and zero carbon new build;</u> • <u>A major shift to mass transport, walking and cycling to reduce transport emissions;</u> • <u>A rapid and large-scale increase in local renewable energy generation.</u> <u>23b.The Council’s Climate Emergency Progress Report set out the scale of action needed to meet these priorities, including that “new homes and development need to be zero carbon or net positive carbon from now”. The Report was adopted in October 2019. As part of this work the council is seeking to update their adopted policies on climate change including a net zero carbon construction policy.</u> <u>24c. The Council also declared an Ecological Emergency in response to the escalating threat to wildlife and ecosystems. The declaration recognises the essential role nature plays in society and the economy and provides a statement of intent to protect our wildlife and habitats, enabling residents to benefit from a green, nature rich environment.</u>
After para 29	<u>29a.Paragraph 21 of NPPF19 states that “plans should make explicit which policies are strategic polices.” Where a single Local Plan is prepared, the non-strategic policies should be clearly distinguished from the strategic polices. Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy sets out a strategic planning framework to guide change and development in the District and Part 2: Placemaking Plan covers site allocations and detailed development management policies, and together they address B&NES council’s priorities for the development and use of land in its area. Therefore, it is considered that all policies in the Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan are ‘strategic’ policies.</u>
Para 50	---. However, infrastructure constraints and national Green Belt objectives limit the level of development that the Town can accommodate. Land is also removed from the Green Belt at East Keynsham and safeguarded for possible development in the future. Development of this land will be permitted only when allocated for development following a review of the plan. <u>The land removed from the Green Belt and safeguarded for development at East Keynsham is allocated for housing through the Local Plan Partial Update.</u> These changes do not undermine the Core Strategy objective to maintain the town's separate identity.

After para 56

56a. Paragraph 65 of the NPPF states that strategic policies should set out a housing requirement for designated neighbourhood areas which reflects the overall strategy for the pattern and scale of development and any relevant allocations. Set out below is a list of designated neighbourhood areas and their proposed housing requirement, comprising the total number of dwellings on site allocations (both within the adopted Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan and additional allocations proposed in the partial update) for the remainder of the plan period (2021 - 2029).

Table 1C – Designated Neighbourhood Areas Housing Requirement

<u>Designated Neighbourhood Area</u>	<u>Allocations in adopted Core Strategy/ Placemaking Plan</u>	<u>Proposed LPPU allocations</u>	<u>Housing requirement</u>
<u>Bathampton</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Batheaston</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Chew Valley</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Claverton</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Clutton</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Englishcombe</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Freshford and Limpley Stoke</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>High Littleton and Hallatrow</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Keynsham</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>336</u>	<u>624</u>
<u>Midsomer Norton</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>110</u>
<u>Paulton</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>153</u>
<u>Publow and</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Radstock</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Stanton Drew</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Stowey Sutton</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Timsbury</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Westfield</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>81</u>
<u>Whitchurch</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Policy DW1	Add 4. retaining the general extent of Bristol - Bath Green Belt within B&NES, other than removing land to meet the District's development needs at the following locations identified on the Key Diagram and allocated on the Policies Map: • Land adjoining Odd Down • Land adjoining East <u>(now incorporating allocation of land previously safeguarded for development)</u> • Land adjoining South West Keynsham • Land at Whitchurch --- The first review will be timed to co-ordinate with the review of the West of England Core Strategies in around 2016.
Table 2 Locational Policy Framework	Policy GB2 <u>Burnett, Chelwood</u>, Chew Magna, Chew Stoke, Claverton, Combe Hay, <u>Compton Dando</u>, Corston, <u>Dunkerton</u>, Englishcombe, Freshford, Hinton Charterhouse, Kelston, Marksbury, Monkton Combe, Newton St. Loe, <u>North Stoke, Norton Malreward</u>, Pensford, Priston, <u>Queen Charlton</u>, Shoscombe, South Stoke, Stanton Drew (including Upper Stanton Drew and Highfields), <u>Stanton Prior</u>, Tunley, Upper Swainswick and, <u>Wellow and Woolley</u>
Para 59	The villages identified in Table 2 are those with a Housing Development Boundary <u>or an infill boundary in the case of villages washed over by the Green Belt and subject to Policy GB2</u>. In addition to the villages identified above there is a range of smaller villages and hamlets in the District where a Housing Development Boundary <u>or an Infill Boundary</u> is not defined. These settlements are treated as open countryside with regard to the policy framework for residential development.
Para 61	For Keynsham, the policy approach for considering housing development proposals on non-allocated sites is made clear in the Core Strategy. Policy KE1(2b) in the Keynsham place-based section allows residential development if it is within the Housing Development Boundary (HDB) or forms an element of Policies KE2 (Town Centre/Somerdale Strategic Policy), KE3 (East Keynsham Strategic Site Allocation <u>and the previously safeguarded land</u>), or KE4 (South West Keynsham Strategic Site Allocation).
Para 64	Any proposals outside the HDBs <u>Infill Boundaries</u> would be considered inappropriate development in the Green Belt and Core Strategy Policy CP8 would apply.
Para 71	In villages washed over by the Green Belt with a housing development boundary <u>an Infill Boundary</u> as defined on the Policies Map proposals for residential and employment development will be determined in accordance with national policy set out in the NPPF.
64	Although the construction of new buildings is regarded as inappropriate development in Green Belt, limited infilling in villages is an exception to this policy. For settlements washed over by the Green Belt, Policy GB2 will apply as set out in the Green Belt Development Management Policies section. Any proposals outside the HDBs <u>Infill Boundaries</u> would be considered inappropriate development in the Green Belt and Core Strategy Policy CP8 would apply.
80-83	Paragraphs 80-83 on the Duty to Co-operate will be updated to reflect work on the WECA Spatial Development Strategy and associated Local Housing Needs Assessment.
88	The core and development management policies and the place <u>and site</u> specific policies are complementary so it is important that the policy framework is read as a whole. <u>For each of the sites allocated for development in order to meet the plan requirements a policy is set out which details specific requirements of development for that site. For the allocated sites the plan must also be read as a whole as the district-wide development management policies also</u>

	<u>apply, including (but not limited to) policies relating to sustainable construction, biodiversity net gain, affordable housing and sustainable transport.</u> The policies set out below do not replicate existing national policy.
	Responding to Climate Change
Paras 90-91	Delete paragraphs 90-91 and replace as follows; <u>Bath and North East Somerset has declared a climate emergency. The council intends for BANES to be carbon neutral by 2030. There are three key priorities to achieve this which are;</u> • <u>Energy efficiency improvement of the majority of existing buildings (domestic and non-domestic) and zero carbon new build;</u> • <u>A major shift to mass transport, walking and cycling to reduce transport emissions;</u> • <u>A rapid and large-scale increase in local renewable energy generation</u> <u>90a In July 2020 the Council also declared an Ecological Emergency in response to the escalating threat to wildlife and ecosystems. The declaration recognises the essential role nature plays in society and the economy and provides a statement of intent to protect our wildlife and habitats, enabling residents to benefit from a green, nature rich environment.</u>
93	Amend paragraph 93 as follows; The UK has agreed to make a <u>78% 80%</u> carbon emission reduction by 2050 2025 (based on 1990 levels) <u>and to achieve net zero by 2050.</u> As 41% of Bath & North East Somerset's carbon emissions come from domestic properties and 34% from commercial premises (DEFRA, 2007) improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings is a priority particularly for those vulnerable households in, or at risk of, fuel poverty.
Policy CP1	POLICY CP1 RETROFITTING EXISTING BUILDINGS Retrofitting measures to existing buildings to improve their energy efficiency and adaptability to climate change and the appropriate incorporation of micro-renewables will be encouraged. Priority will be given to facilitating carbon reduction through retrofitting at whole street or neighbourhood scales to reduce costs, improve viability and support coordinated programmes of improvement. Masterplanning and 'major development' (as defined in the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure (England) Order 2010) in the District should demonstrate that opportunities for the retention and retrofitting of existing buildings within the site have been included within the scheme. All schemes should consider retrofitting opportunities as part of their design brief and measures to support this will be introduced.

	Retrofitting Historic Buildings The Council will seek to encourage and enable the sensitive retrofitting of energy efficiency measures and the appropriate use of micro-renewables in historic buildings (including listed buildings and buildings of solid wall or traditional construction) and in conservation areas, whilst safeguarding the special characteristics of these heritage assets for the future. Proposals will be considered against national planning policy. The policy will be supported by the Council's <u>Energy Efficiency, Retrofitting and Sustainable Construction</u> Supplementary Planning Document. <u>Houses in Multiple Occupation</u> <u>In the case of a house in multiple occupation the property must achieve an Energy Performance Certificate “C” rating as required by policy H2.</u> Part 2 amend as follows; 2 This policy will provide a basis for Development Management and will be supported by the Sustainable Construction and Retrofitting Supplementary Planning Document <u>and sustainable construction checklist</u>. The Sustainable Construction Checklist will be updated to include a section on sustainable refurbishment to raise awareness of the measures recommended in retrofitting existing buildings Part 4 delete as follows 4 Signposting of retrofitting information including Government financial initiatives and schemes, public awareness and demonstration events will also be provided by the Council.
Para 96	Sustainable Construction <u>and Renewable Energy</u> The EU has set a target for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings by 2020 which member states must respond to.
Policy CP2	Superseded by new Policy SCR6 and SCR8 POLICY CP2 SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION Sustainable design and construction will be integral to new development in Bath & North East Somerset. All planning applications should include evidence that the standards below will be addressed: • Maximising energy efficiency and integrating the use of renewable and low carbon energy (i.e. in the form of an energy strategy with reference to Policy CP4 as necessary); • Minimisation of waste and maximising of recycling of any waste generated during construction and in operation; • Conserving water resources and minimising vulnerability to flooding; • Efficiency in materials use, including the type, life cycle and source of materials to be used;

	• Flexibility and adaptability, allowing future modification of use or layout, facilitating future refurbishment and retrofitting; • Consideration of climate change adaptation. Applications for all development will need to be accompanied by a B&NES Sustainable Construction Checklist. Delivery 1. This policy will provide a basis for Development Management. 2. The Sustainable Construction Checklist and Sustainability Statements will be used to assess the approach taken to sustainable construction in planning applications.
Para 98	98. In order to assist identifying the potential for supply and demand for renewable and low carbon energy and the impacts this might have on environmental and heritage assets in Bath and North East Somerset, the Council commissioned 'Renewable Energy Research and Planning' (June 2009) and a Research Update (Nov 2010). This Renewable Energy Research is available as a snapshot to assist in considering possible proposals and may be updated by the Council as technologies develop was used to inform the renewable energy target in the Core Strategy. 99. Policy CP3 of the Core Strategy seeks to achieve an increase in the level of renewable energy generation in the District. These will be monitored and adjusted as technologies and initiatives improve. Whilst these targets are challenging, recent national commitments such as expansion of permitted development rights and financial incentives such as 'Feed in Tariff' and 'the Green Deal', should accelerate energy provision from renewable low carbon sources. These standards may be revised and updated through the Core Strategy review as sustainability methodologies, technologies and initiatives develop. The Local Plan Partial Update provides the opportunity to review progress towards achieving the target and recognise changes in Government Policy and trends in technologies. <u>Add new paragraphs</u> <u>99a. National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure EN-3 notes the positive role that large-scale renewable projects play in the mitigation of climate change, the delivery of energy security and the urgency of meeting the national targets for renewable energy supply and emissions reductions. The latest monitoring in the district shows that only 21.7 MW electricity and 7.4 MW heat are available as of 2019. A significant increase in the development of renewable energy is needed to achieve the policy targets. Policy CP3 has therefore been reviewed and aims to set out a positive approach for determining applications and guiding development to the right locations.</u> <u>99b. In addition, since the adoption of the Placemaking Plan in 2017, the Council has declared a climate emergency and has committed to providing the leadership for the District to be carbon neutral by 2030. This will contribute to the UK's legally binding target of net zero carbon by 2050. Whilst it should be noted that Core Strategy targets cannot be reviewed through the Local Plan Partial Update, it should be noted that the targets for renewable energy and heat generation are not a cap and are the minimum level to achieve by 2029.</u> <u>Standalone renewable generation</u> <u>99c. The revised Policy CP3 sets out the criteria for all stand alone renewable energy projects as well as specific criteria for wind energy and ground mounted solar (previous shown in Policy SCR3). Where generation types are proposed in the Green Belt, reference will also need to be made to relevant Green Belt policies. The Council has previously prepared a Guidance Note on renewable energy in the Green Belt.</u>

New paragraphs	<u>Wind energy</u> <u>99d. For some time it has been Government policy for local planning authorities to have a positive strategy to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources including the identification of suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources.</u> <u>99e. Particularly for wind energy development Local Plans should identify suitable areas for wind energy development and make clear what criteria have determined their selection, including what size of development is considered suitable in these areas. The NPPF (Feb 2019) states that: ‘A proposed wind energy development involving one or more wind turbines should not be considered acceptable unless it is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in the development plan; and, following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by the affected local community have been fully addressed and the proposal has their backing.’</u> <u>99f. In 2020 onshore wind energy was recognised in a report by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy as being one of the cheapest forms of energy generation (including conventional generational sources). The Local Plan Partial Update presents an opportunity to reconsider the Council’s approach to wind energy development in light of the need from NPPF to identify suitable areas for development and the contribution that it can make to help meeting our targets.</u> <u>99g. An evidence base study has been undertaken to assess the Landscape Potential for wind energy of different scales of wind turbine within the district. The output of this study has been used to identify suitable areas for development, recognising that other considerations need to be addressed and are set out in the policy criteria below. The Landscape evidence also provides guidance for wind energy development in each of the landscape character types identified within the study, which can help applicants in designing or mitigating the landscape impact of their proposals.</u> <u>99h. In the NPPF, and outlined above, developments for wind energy need to be able to demonstrate that, through consultation, the planning impacts identified by the affected local community have been fully addressed and the proposal has their backing. It is recognised that any development may not be able to achieve 100% of the support from the community, particularly in relation to renewable energy development in rural areas, however examples of community support could be:</u> - <u>Community Renewable Energy Schemes (as set out in SCR4)</u> - <u>Support from representative organisations, such as Parish Councils</u> <u>99i. Neighbourhood Planning Groups can also identify suitable areas for wind energy development through their Neighbourhood Plan.</u>
New paragraphs	<u>Ground Mounted Solar Arrays</u> <u>99j. Ground mounted solar arrays (also known as solar farms/solar fields) can make a significant contribution to our renewable energy target in Core Policy CP3.</u> <u>99k. Given the rural nature of the district, and the opportunities for ground mounted solar arrays as part of the renewable energy mix, it is</u>

anticipated that Ground Mounted Solar Arrays to be sited on land of lower agricultural quality will continue to contribute significantly towards the district wide renewable energy target in CP3, and to facilitate Green Infrastructure and biodiversity gains this policy is considered necessary (e.g. provisions for wildlife and inclusion of permissive paths).

99l. In addition, ground-mounted solar arrays can provide benefits to biodiversity and soils by providing an undisturbed area that can host a rich variety of species and rest core soil nutrients. Solar arrays can also retain agricultural uses such as sheep grazing, and can support rural businesses and the rural economy.

99m. An evidence base study has been undertaken to assess the Landscape Potential for solar energy of different scales of solar farm within the district. The Council particularly encourages ground mounted Solar energy development proposals in the high, moderate-high and moderate potential areas set out in the Solar Assessment Report however proposals can be submitted in other landscape areas, provided that applicants clearly demonstrate that adverse impacts on the landscape can be satisfactorily mitigated and recognising that other considerations need to be addressed and as set out in the policy criteria below. The Landscape evidence also provides guidance for solar development in each of the landscape character types identified within the study, which can help applicants in designing or mitigating the landscape impact of their proposals.

99n. As the most common renewable energy sources are intermittent there is a greater need for power reserves that can “balance” the grid by releasing power onto the grid at times when demand exceeds supply. Balancing plant can be gas turbines or gas engines that can be turned on at short notice to meet temporary demand. Alternatively, energy storage plants can be used to balance the grid, most commonly battery packs although other technologies are emerging. These either store energy from the grid to release when supply is scarce or can be co-located with renewable energy infrastructure to release renewable power when renewable energy production is otherwise unable to meet demand.

99o. It is acknowledged that there is a need for flexibility and stability in the energy supply, and that grid balancing plant will be required to help enable transition to 100% renewable electricity. However, the burning of fossil fuels for energy generation, including by gas balancing plants, would increase the district's carbon dioxide emissions and is therefore not supported since it is inconsistent with the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration.

Policy CP3

POLICY CP3 RENEWABLE ENERGY

Development should contribute to achieving the following minimum level of Renewable Electricity and Heat generation by 2029.

	Capacity (Megawatt)
Electricity	110MWe (Megawatt Electricity)
Heat	165MWth (Megawatt Thermal)

~~Proposals for low carbon and renewable energy infrastructure, including large-scale freestanding installations, will be assessed under the national policies and against the following:~~

- ~~a: potential social and economic benefits including local job creation opportunities~~
- ~~b: contribution to significant community benefits~~

c: the need for secure and reliable energy generation capacity
 d: environmental impact (see Policy CP6)

1) Proposals for all renewable and low carbon energy-generating and distribution networks, will be supported in the context of sustainable development and climate change, where:

a) They balance the wider environmental, social and economic benefits of renewable electricity, heat and/or fuel production and distribution; and

b) They will not result in significant adverse impacts on the local environment that cannot be satisfactorily mitigated, including:

- impacts to biodiversity;
- landscape and visual impacts including cumulative effects;
- the special qualities of all nationally important landscapes; and

c) They are informed by an assessment of the impact the development might have on the significance of heritage assets and their settings, including the outstanding universal value of Bath World Heritage Site. Any harmful impact on the significance of a designated heritage asset requires a clear and convincing justification, detailing the benefits of the proposal and enabling them to be weighed against any harm that would be caused; and

d) They are supportive of land diversification and continued agricultural use; and

e) They provide at least 10% biodiversity net gain or multi-functional Green Infrastructure e.g. permissive paths and wildlife corridors; and

f) They provide for a community benefit in terms of either profit sharing or proportion of community ownership or deliver local social and community benefits. Commercial led energy schemes with a capacity over 5MW shall provide an option to communities to own at least 5% of the scheme; and

g) There are appropriate plans and a mechanism in place for the removal of the technology on cessation of generation, and restoration of the site to its original use or an acceptable alternative use;

Opportunities for co-location of energy producers with energy users will be supported.

Significant weight will be given to community led energy schemes where evidence of community support can be demonstrated, with administrative and financial structures in place to deliver/manage the project and any income from it.

In addition, the following criteria will be used to assess each of the following energy generation types:

Wind energy

2) Wind energy development proposals will be supported where they:

a) Lie within a landscape area identified as being potentially suitable for this type of development (high, moderate-high, moderate and low-moderate potential areas set out in the Wind Energy Assessment Report and shown on the Policies Map). There will be a presumption against wind energy development proposals in low potential landscape areas. Applicants would need to clearly demonstrate that adverse impacts on the landscape can be satisfactorily mitigated in these areas; and

b) Demonstrate that, following consultation, the planning impacts identified by the affected local community have been fully addressed by the proposal; and

c) Avoid or adequately mitigate shadow flicker, noise and adverse impact on air traffic operations, radar and air navigational installations; and

	<u>d) Flight paths and habitat corridors of protected mobile species such as birds and bats, and functionally linked habitat associated with protected sites (SACs; SPAs; SSSIs), are not adversely affected</u> <u>Ground Mounted Solar Energy</u> <u>3) The Council particularly encourages ground mounted solar energy development proposals in the high, moderate-high, moderate potential areas set out in the Solar Assessment Report and shown on the Policies Map (subject to the other criteria in this policy). Proposals will be acceptable in other areas (of lower potential) provided that applicants clearly demonstrate that adverse impacts on the landscape can be satisfactorily mitigated (as set out in 1b). (See SCR2 for roof mounted solar)</u> <u>In addition, ground mounted solar energy development proposals will be supported where they:</u> <u>a. Are not sited on the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2, and 3a) unless significant sustainability benefits are demonstrated to outweigh any loss</u> <u>b. Maintain grazing regimes within SAC bat sustenance zones</u> <u>c. Avoid the loss of hedgerow & woodland connectivity, and</u> <u>d. Avoid the loss and deterioration of UK priority habitats (as shown on the Policies Map)</u> <u>e. Meet current best practice guidelines and standards on protection and enhancement of biodiversity</u> <u>Energy balancing plants</u> <u>Energy installations to balance electricity demand and supply in order to assist the transition to 100% renewable electricity must be met by:</u> <u>1. Energy storage plant co-located with renewable energy generation plant; or</u> <u>2. Freestanding energy storage plant</u> <u>Balancing plant, or other freestanding energy generation plant, that increases the district's carbon emissions, for example those that burn fossil fuels directly, such as gas or fuels derived from oil, will be refused unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant that the proposal is required for the purposes of temporarily supporting energy needs for a specified and limited temporary period of time.</u> <u>Applications for energy plant utilising virgin plant feedstocks will need to robustly demonstrate that the feedstock will be sourced sustainably</u>
Para 100-102	110.Climate change and environmental sustainability objectives are enshrined in the highest level of local policy, as follows: -- • The Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy: Sets the target of a 45% reduction in the area's CO₂ emissions by 2026, in line with national climate change targets. • <u>The Climate emergency sets the target of being carbon neutral by 2030</u> 101.Within the <u>Local Plan Partial Update</u> Placemaking Plan there is an opportunity to build on the planning policies contained within the Core Strategy (including policies CP1 on Retrofitting, CP2 Sustainable Construction, CP3 Renewable Energy and CP4 District Heating) <u>and Placemaking Plan (Policies SCR1 On-site Renewable Energy Requirement, SCR3 Ground-mounted Solar Arrays)</u> to further support and promote sustainable construction and design and facilitate the delivery of renewable energy schemes in the district. The policy approach set out in the <u>Local Plan Partial Update</u> Placemaking Plan reflects evolving national

	policy. 102.B&NES Council has reviewed and combined the has an adopted Sustainable Construction & Retrofitting Supplementary Planning Document and an Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Guidance for Listed Buildings and Undesignated Historic Buildings, which provides detailed guidance – this guidance is aimed at householders and small scale developers. <u>The combined SPD will be entitled the ‘Energy Efficiency Retrofitting & Sustainable Construction SPD’.</u>
Para 107	The following <u>Local Plan</u> Placemaking Plan policies aim to add to existing policies, and to specifically: • Support community led renewable energy and low <u>zero</u> carbon development
Paras 108	Delete paragraphs 108 – 110
Policy SCR1 superseded by SCR6	<u>POLICY SCR1: ON-SITE RENEWABLE ENERGY REQUIREMENT</u> On-site renewable energy requirement Developers of major proposals above a threshold of 1,000 square metres or 10 dwellings, excluding Industrial B2 and B8 uses, will be required to provide sufficient renewable energy generation to reduce carbon emissions from anticipated (regulated) energy use in the building by at least 10%. Supplements Core Strategy policy CP3 Renewable Energy.
After para 107	<u>Sustainable Construction for Residential Buildings</u> <u>107a Through the Local Plan Partial Update there is an opportunity to revise the sustainable construction polices with an aim to achieve net zero construction. Therefore, policy CP2 of the Core Strategy and SCR1 of the Placemaking Plan will be replaced with a new sustainable construction policy.</u> <u>107b The government is proposing to update part L of the Building Regulations to achieve more energy efficient homes. The new Part L is called the Future Homes Standard. In January 2021 the government released their response to the Future Homes Standards Consultation. The results of the consultation have confirmed that local authorities will still be able to set their own standards. The government has stated their intention to bring in the Future Homes Standards in 2025 but the exact method of how carbon reduction will be enacted is still subject to future consultation. As an interim measure the government are now proposing an uplift of 31% above current Building Regulations requirements. This is due to be published in December 2021 and come into effect June 2022.</u> <u>107c Due to the uncertainty of the Future Homes Standard, the plan will continue to pursue a zero carbon construction standard but to change the metric from carbon reduction to energy use. The energy metric has two key advantages</u> <u>-firstly, it does not rely on Part L as a baseline, so won't have to be changed each time Part L changes.</u> <u>-secondly, energy metrics are more technically robust and designed to lead to better building outcomes – improved focus on fabric and ability to monitor performance.</u> <u>107d The revised energy metric will look at three things.</u>

	• <u>Space Heating - The energy used specifically for heating the building</u> • <u>Energy Use Intensity – the predicted total energy use</u> • <u>Provide enough renewable energy output to match the total energy use.</u> <u>107e The compliance tools for Building Regulations are not intended to accurately evaluate overheating, so large scale proposals are to use the more sophisticated CIBSE (Chartered Institute of Building Service Engineers) standards TM52 for non-residential development and TM59 for residential development . The CIBSE methodologies use the criteria below:</u> • <u>TM59 & TM52: “Hours of Exceedance”, a measure of how often the temperature exceeds a threshold comfort temperature during a typical warm season and sets a limit of 3% of occupied hours</u> • <u>TM52: “Daily Weighted Exceedance”; the severity of overheating within any one day. The limit is no more than 6 hours a day above the thermal comfort threshold.</u> • <u>TM52: “Upper Limit Temperature” which sets an absolute maximum temperature for a room beyond which the level of overheating is unacceptable.</u>
New Policy SCR6	<u>SCR6 Sustainable Construction Policy for New Build Residential Development</u> <u>New build residential development will be required to meet the standards set out below.</u> <u>New build residential development will aim to achieve zero operational emissions by reducing heat and power demand then supplying all energy demand through onsite renewables. Through the submission of a sustainable construction checklist, proposed new dwellings will demonstrate the following:</u> • <u>Space heating demand less than 30kWh/m2/annum;</u> • <u>Total energy use less than 40kWh/m2/annum; and</u> • <u>On site renewable energy generation to match the total energy use, with a preference for roof mounted solar PV</u> • <u>Connection to a district heating network where available</u> <u>Major residential development</u> <u>In the case of major developments where the use of onsite renewables to match total energy consumption is demonstrated to be not technically feasible (for example with apartments) or economically viable, renewable energy generation should be maximised and the residual carbon must be offset by a financial contribution</u> <u>Applications for 50 dwellings or more are required to demonstrate that the CIBSE TM59 overheating target has been met in the current climate, and a strategy submitted to show how overheating can be mitigated in the future climate.</u>

New Paras 107g – 107h	<u>Sustainable Construction Policy for New Build Non-Residential Buildings</u> <u>107f. The government is consulting on Buildings Regulations Part L for non-domestic buildings. This is called the Future Buildings Standard. The outcome of this consultation is not yet known. As it is currently uncertain what the new non-domestic Part L will be it is proposed to require non-residential buildings to demonstrate BREEAM excellent plus net zero carbon.</u> <u>108g. Applicants must adhere to the energy hierarchy of improving fabric first, then adding renewables and finally offsetting emissions that can't be mitigated onsite, but with no fixed targets at each stage due to the difficulty of setting targets when Part L (the baseline) is changing.</u> <u>109h. BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) is a tool for assessing the environmental sustainability of a development. The BREEAM standards will be applied to major non-residential developments</u>
New Policy SCR7	<u>SCR7 Sustainable Construction Policy for New Build Non-Residential Buildings</u> <u>New build non-residential major development will maximise carbon reduction through sustainable construction measures. Through the submission of a sustainable construction checklist all planning applications will provide evidence that the standards below are met.</u> <u>Major development is to achieve a 100% regulated operational carbon emissions reduction from Building Regulations Part L 2013 (or future equivalent legislation), following the hierarchy set out below.</u> • <u>Minimise energy use through the use of energy efficient fabric and services</u> • <u>Residual energy use should be met through connection to a heat network if available.</u> • <u>Maximise Opportunities for renewable energy to mitigate all regulated operational emissions.</u> • <u>Residual carbon emission that cannot be mitigated on site should be offset through a financial contribution to the council's carbon offset fund</u>
New para 107i.	<u>Embodied Carbon</u> <u>107i. Embodied carbon emissions are the carbon emissions resulting from the materials, production, demolition and disposal. An embodied carbon assessment provides details of a building's materials used in the substructure, superstructure and finishes. This provides a true picture of a buildings carbon impact on the environment.</u>
New Policy SCR8 <u>Embodied Carbon</u>	<u>SCR8</u> <u>Large scale new-build developments (a minimum of 50 dwellings or a minimum of 5000m² of commercial floor space) are required to submit an Embodied Carbon Assessment that demonstrates a score of less than 900kg/sqm of carbon can be achieved within the development for the substructure, superstructure and finishes.</u>

Para 112	112. Designing solar arrays as a complementary part of a building can enable the PV arrays to complement the aesthetic of a building or development and need not compromise the character of protected areas such as the World Heritage Site and Conservation Areas provided proposals are consistent with Policy HE1 . When designing building-mounted solar arrays, consideration should be aesthetics and character in design choices in line with the Policy SCR2.
Para 113 - 118	Delete paragraphs 113-118
Policy SCR3 Superseded by revised Policy CP3	Delete Policy SCR3-Ground-mounted Solar Arrays In addition to the policy considerations of CP3, planning applications for ground mounted solar arrays which follow best practice (e.g. BRE National Solar Centre guidance and the Solar Trade Association best practice commitments, or successor guidance), should achieve as many of the following factors as possible: - a Proposals are focused on nonagricultural land or land of lower agricultural quality - b Proposals are sensitive to nationally and locally protected landscapes and nature conservation areas, and take opportunities to enhance the ecological value of the land. To this end, the application should be supported by a Biodiversity Management Plan, which reflects the BRE National Solar Centre “Biodiversity Guidance for Solar Developments” (or successor guidance) - c Proposals seek to minimise visual impact where possible and maintain appropriate screening throughout the lifetime of the project (managed through a land management and/or ecology plan) - d Engagement at a pre-application stage with the community takes place - e Proposals are supportive of land diversification and continued agricultural use, biodiversity measures and supporting the provision of multi-functional Green Infrastructure e.g. permissive paths and wildlife corridors - f Proposals are used as an educational opportunity where appropriate - g Land is returned to its former use at the end of a project In all cases proposals will be expected to be consistent with the relevant design, heritage and landscape policies. Supplements Core Strategy policy CP3 Renewable Energy
Policy CP4 District heating	Policy CP4 --- Within the remaining 12 “district heating opportunity areas” shown on Diagram 19, (Radstock, Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Bath Spa University, Twerton, Kingsway, Bathwick, Moorfields, Odd Down, Lansdown, RUH, Keynsham High Street & Keynsham Somerdale), development will be encouraged to incorporate infrastructure for district heating, and will be expected to connect to any existing suitable systems (including systems that will be in place at the time of construction), unless it is demonstrated that this would render development unviable. ---
130	Para 130 Policy CP4 applies to allocated sites within the “Bath Central” and “Bath Riverside” and “Keynsham High Street”; the “district heating priority areas” as shown in Diagram 5 and in more detail in the OS base maps within <u>District Heating Opportunity Assessment Study- Part 5 (AECOM, 2010)</u>. The site allocations within Bath and Keynsham to which this policy applies include: <i>Keynsham:</i>

	● Town Centre ● Riverside & Fire Station Site
New paragraphs	<u>Electric vehicles</u> <u>132a.</u>In 2018 the government launched its Road to Zero strategy. The ambition being to see at least half of new cars to be ultra low emissions by 2030. As part of this the government aims to roll out infrastructure to support electric vehicles. Electric vehicle chargers can be installed under permitted development. Part 2, class C allows for the installation of a charging unit within a parking area, subject to certain conditions. On street chargers can be provided under Part 12, class A which allows for on street charging when installed by Local Authorities. <u>132b.</u>Electric Vehicle Infrastructure is best provided at the construction stage. This policy seeks to provide electric vehicle infrastructure within new residential and non-residential development where parking is provided. The policy will complement the aims set out in the councils On Street Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy. <u>132c.</u>From the Issues and Options consultation it is understood that electric vehicles and charging infrastructure are a rapidly evolving industry, where uptake in electric vehicles is currently low. The policy should be implemented alongside the existing transport policies. It will be read in conjunction with the parking and electric vehicle SPD that will detail parking standards for development. <u>132d.</u>Western Power Distribution maintain the grid and electricity supply for Bath and North East Somerset. As part of this they monitor housing development within the district to respond to any need for increased capacity. Western Power Distribution have an online network capacity map on their website which can be used to estimate potential grid capacity. Anyone wishing to install a new charger has to make an application to Western Power Distribution.
New Policy SCR9	<u>New Policy SCR9 Electric vehicles charging infrastructure</u> <u>New Build Residential Development:</u> <u>All dwellings with one or more dedicated parking space or garage must provide access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Further guidance will be set out in the Transport and Development Supplementary Planning Documents. Where off street parking is not provided and parking is provided on street within a development proposal, the design and layout of the development should incorporate infrastructure to enable the on-street charging of electric vehicles which does not compromise any special characteristics of the area, the public realm or the mobility of other users.</u> <u>New Build Non-residential development</u> <u>In all non-residential developments providing 1 or more car parking bays, access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure must be</u>

	<u>provided. Further guidance will be set out in the Transport and Development Supplementary Planning Document Grid Capacity</u> <u>Where the costs of providing the necessary capacity in the local electric grid infrastructure connections to support electric vehicle infrastructure are abnormally high the applicant must provide evidence to robustly demonstrate why they are not able to comply with the above policy.</u>
	Environmental quality
Policy D8	2 Development will be expected to reduce or at best maintain existing light levels to protect retain or improve the darkness of rivers, watercourse or other ecological corridors in particular to protect or provide a functional dark route for European protected species. New lighting facilities with light spill to these features must be dimmable. <u>Lighting must be designed to protect wildlife habitats following best practice as set out in current guidance including B&NES 2018 Waterspace Design Guidance and Bats and Lighting in the UK (ILP, 2018).</u>
208	208. Publications and websites providing further information, advice and guidance lighting specifications (not exhaustive): - Bats and Lighting in the UK, Bat Conservation Trust, 2008 http://www.bats.org.uk/data/files/bats_and_lighting_in_the_uk__final_version_version_3_may_09.pdf - Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light GN01:2011 (Institute of Lighting Professionals) ILP guidancenotes-light-pollution-2011.pdf - UK Road Lighting Standards: http://www.ukroads.org/ukroadlighting/scripts/standards.asp - Institute if Lighting Professionals (ILP) https://www.theilp.org.uk/resources/freeresources/ - Society of Light and Lighting http://www.cibse.org/society-of-light-and-lighting-sll/lighting-publications - Bath Lighting Strategy (part of the Pattern Book) - Bath waterside development – guidance on the protection of bats https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/policy-and-documents-library/bath-waterside-development-guidance-protection-bats - Bats and artificial lighting in the UK https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/ - Dark skies in the AONB Position Statement https://www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Dark-Skies-in-the-Mendip-Hills-AONB_statement-Final-Dec-2020.pdf - Cotswolds Conservation Board Position Statement Dark Skies and Artificial Light https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Cotswolds-Dark-Skies-Artificial-Light-Position-Statement.pdf
After Para 249	<u>249a. The Cotswold and Mendip Hills AONB Management Plans set out the managing body’s policy for the management of the AONB and the carrying out of their functions in relation to it. The Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, Section 85 places a statutory duty on all relevant authorities to have regard to conserving and enhancing natural beauty when discharging any function in relation to, or affecting land within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.</u>

Policy NE2	POLICY NE2: CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE LANDSCAPE AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER Add <u>4 Great weight will be afforded to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty of designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), and with particular reference to their special qualities.</u>
267	267. Policy NE3 seeks to conserve and increase the abundance and diversity of Bath and North East Somerset's wildlife habitats and species and to minimise adverse effects where conflicts of interest are unavoidable. It covers internationally, nationally, and locally important sites, species and habitats, as well as seeking to protect a range of natural features which are valuable for wildlife, amenity, historic, recreational or visual reasons and act as routes for wildlife migration. The policy articulates what is required of developers when submitting a planning application which either directly or indirectly affects wildlife sites or habitats.
Policy NE3	POLICY NE3: Sites, Species and Habitats 1 Development that would adversely affect, directly or indirectly, internationally or nationally protected sites, National Network Sites (SPAS and SACS) or internationally protected species and/or their habitats will not be permitted <u>(such development needs to be approved by the Government/New Office for Environmental Protection).</u> 2 Development that would adversely affect, directly or indirectly, internationally important sites <u>nationally important sites or species (and/or their habitats)</u> will not be permitted except in exceptional circumstances where: a) there is no alternative solution; and, b) there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the development; and c) mitigation measures can be secured to prevent any significant adverse effect on the site, <u>including retention of existing habitat and vegetation in situ; replacement habitat creation and bespoke measures.</u> 3 Development which <u>that</u> would adversely affect, directly or indirectly other, species, habitats or features of biodiversity/ geodiversity importance or value will only be permitted in the following cases: a) for Sites of Special Scientific Interest, where the benefits of the development, at this site, clearly outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest <u>for irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodlands; veteran trees; ancient grasslands; or SAC bat habitat within juvenile substances zones) development will not be permitted unless there are wholly exceptional circumstances* and a suitable mitigation and compensation strategy is provided;</u> b) for Sites of Nature Conservation Importance; Local Nature Reserves, Regionally Important Geological/ Geomorphological Sites and other sites of equivalent nature conservation value, where material considerations are sufficient to outweigh the local biological geological / geomorphological and community/amenity value of the site; <u>where impacts have been minimised; and where there are opportunities to replace and/or offset the loss; and where the test of 'No Satisfactory Alternative' (including do nothing) have been met;</u> c) for UK Priority Species and UK Priority Habitats <u>(not covered by clause 3a),</u> where the importance of the development and its need for that particular location is sufficient to override the value of the species or habitat; <u>and where impacts have been minimised; and where it can be demonstrated that it is possible to replace and/or offset the loss to at least equivalent or greater ecological value; and where the test of No Satisfactory Alternative (including do nothing)</u>

	<u>have been met:</u> d) for locally important species and habitats, where the importance of the development and its need for that particular location is sufficient to override the value of the species or habitat; e) for features of the landscape such as trees, copses, woodlands, <u>woodland edge</u>, grasslands, batches, ponds, roadside verges, veteran trees, hedgerows, walls, orchards, and watercourses and their corridors if they are of amenity, wildlife, or landscape value, or if they contribute to a wider network of habitats, where such features are retained and enhanced unless the loss of such features is unavoidable and material considerations outweigh the need to retain the features. 4 In all cases: a) Firstly, any harm to the nature conservation value of the site is minimised; and b) secondly, compensatory provision of at least equal nature conservation value is made for any outstanding harm, and c) Thirdly, ecological enhancements are made <u>Biodiversity Net Gain will be delivered and managed in perpetuity (minimum of 30 years) through the appropriate means e.g. a legal agreement; and</u> d) Then, as appropriate: i Measures for the protection and recovery of priority species are made. ii Provision is made for the management of retained and created habitat features. iii Site lighting details are designed to avoid harm to nature conservation interests; including habitat connectivity and function as part of an ecological corridor. <u>*Note: wholly exceptional reasons mean, for example, infrastructure projects (including nationally significant infrastructure projects, orders under the Transport and Works Act and hybrid bills), where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat.”</u>
New Paras 267a-267f	<u>267a.The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019 sets out that ‘Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impact on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.’ ‘Enhancing biodiversity is integral to sustainable development, and BNG is an approach to embed and demonstrate biodiversity enhancement within development. It involves first avoiding and then minimising biodiversity loss as far as possible, and achieving measurable net gains that contribute towards local and strategic biodiversity priorities.’ (CIRIA, C776a).</u> <u>267b.Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is the achievement of measurable gains for biodiversity through new development and occurs when a development leaves biodiversity in a better state than before development. The Environment Bill proposes to introduce a 10% mandatory requirement for biodiversity net gain for certain development types, and will set out specific requirements, including use of different DEFRA metrics for major and minor schemes, and the requirement for long term habitat management plans for BNG habitats retained, created or enhanced.</u> <u>267c.Prior to the mandatory BNG requirements coming into effect the Council’s BNG policy will reflect the proposed mandatory measures, including use of the DEFRA metrics and emerging national guidance. The council will also seek use of the 10 BNG Good Practice Principles Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development (CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA, 2016)</u>

	<u>267d. Proposals for off-site BNG will be expected to demonstrate how they contribute to areas of significance for local nature recovery including enhancing, buffering or linking protected sites and/or contributions to the WENP Nature Recovery Network Policy NE5). Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect or damage to any of the habitats and species on a site before an application, their deteriorated condition will not be taken into consideration and the ecological potential and or previously recorded habitats of the site will be used to decide the acceptability of any development proposals.</u> <u>267e. Work is progressing on the B&NES Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) setting out local requirements for delivering biodiversity net gain and opportunities to deliver biodiversity net gain on householder and exempted brownfield sites.</u> <u>267f. It is proposed to take forward a requirement of 15% BNG within the full Local Plan Review.</u>
Insert after Policy NE3 New Policy NE3a Biodiversity Net Gain	<u>New Policy NE3a Biodiversity Net Gain</u> <u>Development will only be permitted for major developments where a Biodiversity Net Gain of at least 10% is demonstrated and secured in perpetuity (at least 30 years) subject to the following requirements:</u> <u>a The latest DEFRA metric or agreed equivalent is used to quantify the biodiversity value of the site pre-development, post-development after application of the mitigation hierarchy and for any off-site areas proposed for habitat creation or enhancement both pre- and post development.</u> <u>b That the assessment be undertaken by a suitably qualified and/or experience ecologist and is submitted together with baseline and proposed habitat mapping in a digital format with the application.</u> <u>c A management plan will be required, detailing how the post-development biodiversity values of the site and any supporting off-site provision will be secured, managed and monitored in perpetuity.</u> <u>d Any off-site habitats created or enhanced are well located to maximise opportunities for local nature recovery.</u> <u>For minor developments, development will only be permitted where no net loss and appropriate net gain of biodiversity is secured using the latest DEFRA Small Sites metric or agreed equivalent.</u> <u>Opportunities to secure Biodiversity Net Gain on householder developments and exempted brownfield sites will be supported.</u>
271	<u>Ecological Networks and Nature Recovery</u> 271. National planning policy requires that components of the local ecological networks are identified and mapped. This should include the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them. <u>Bath & North East Somerset is part of the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) which has mapped a series of Nature Recovery Networks, focussed on grasslands, woodlands and waterways. These include the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones. These are the B&NES's Ecological Networks.</u> Bath & North East Somerset's Ecological Networks comprises: – The Cotswolds Nature Improvement Area (NIA)

	- Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs) - Horseshoe Bat Foraging Corridor (Draft) - Protected Wildlife sites (Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Sites of Nature Conservation Interest, Local Nature Reserves) - UK Priority Habitats including conservation buffers/ restoration zones - Flood Zones 2 and 3 - Local BAP Habitat (Post Industrial Sites)
Policy NE5	POLICY NE5: Ecological <i>Networks</i> and Nature Recovery Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate whatthat a positive contribution will be made to ecological networks Nature Recovery Networks as shown on the Policies Map and for maintaining or creating local ecological networks through habitat creation, protection, enhancement, restoration and/or management.
Policy NE6	3 Development proposals directly or indirectly affecting ancient woodland or and ancient trees or veteran trees will not be permitted.
277	Supplementary Planning Documents and Guidance and other relevant guidance will be used to guide decisions-making on proposals for development. <u>The Government is currently formulating its England Tree Strategy and has published The England Tree Action Plan (May 2021) which sets out the Government's vision for the treescape it wants to see by 2050 and policy actions to achieve it. The Forest of Avon Plan: A Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England was launched in June 2021 and B&NES as a West of England Nature Partnership partner is committed to its part in delivering the vision, goals and actions proposed in the strategy including through a B&NES Tree and Woodland Delivery Plan currently in preparation.</u> Other relevant guidance This includes: - Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG) best practice guides including <u>Trees, Planning and Development: A guide for Delivery (2021)</u> and Trees in the Townscape, a Guide for Decision Makers (2012) - Green Infrastructure Strategy (March 2013) - Planning Obligations SPD - City of Bath World Heritage Site Setting SPD (August 2013) - Conservation Area Statements and Appraisals
Included all text to show context.	278. The concept of green infrastructure (GI) is now firmly embedded in national policy with the NPPF requiring local planning authorities to set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. It defines green infrastructure as a network of multifunctional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. 279. The wider benefits of GI for B&NES are set out in the Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy <u>currently being updated (see below)</u>. The B&NES Green Space Strategy (2015-2029) includes green spaces within Bath and North East Somerset and set out standards for quantity, quality, and access to green spaces. The

importance of GI is further highlighted in the B&NES Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2019, with priority 1 being to 'Create healthy and sustainable places', with a key measure under this priority being access to high quality open and green spaces. The NHS and Public Health England are committed to driving a 'whole person' approach to health and considers the wider determinants of health and wellbeing, in which the natural environment plays an imperative role.

279a. B&NES Council has adopted the West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020-2030 (JGIS). The creation, maintenance, and enhancement of a GI network at a variety of spatial scales is central to nature recovery and the Council's commitments in relation to the ecological emergency. The nature-based solutions which flow from this include the following as set out in the WoE JGIS:

- supporting health and well-being and improving health equity. This includes improving mental and physical health, greater community cohesion and reduced social isolation,**
- mitigating and adapting to climate change, for example through natural flood management, through carefully designed SUDs within new developments and through tree and woodland planting**
- protecting, managing, and enhancing landscape character**
- reducing air and noise pollution**
- increasing the sustainability of food production**
- promoting economic growth, employment and skills improvement**

280. A well-designed, managed and integrated network of GI provides a wide range of direct and indirect benefits to people, places and wildlife. Where this is linked with good public access and recreational opportunities it provides invaluable assets for developing and supporting healthy, happy and vibrant local communities. In harnessing, sustaining managing the natural environment it will deliver services that are essential to quality of life. It will provide local solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. GI can also help local responses to sustainable travel, wildlife habitats, local food production, water management including use of sustainable drainage and conserving or enhancing sense of place, landscape character, historical and cultural features. It can deliver economic benefits and opportunities, assisting ecotourism, business location and investment decisions.

281. B&NES already has a wealth of existing green assets including open green spaces, street trees and woodland, other natural habitats, recreational routes, historic landscape, allotments and waterways such as the Kennet and Avon canal. However, the concept of GI looks beyond existing designations, seeking opportunities to enhance the physical and functional connectivity of assets, and to extend the benefits for the community and make them much more accessible to people and wildlife.

282. B&NES Strategic GI network diagram (see Diagram 6) is illustrative and shows a strategic overview of existing GI assets and some of the key opportunities. In the rural areas the network is based around the key recreational routes, river corridors, existing networks of wildlife sites and Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs). SNAs represent the most important areas for the conservation, expansion and restoration of important habitats. The Strategic GI corridors indicate functioning networks for recreation and biodiversity. GI networks and areas exist at a variety of spatial scales from the regional, West of England, to B&NES-wide, to local neighbourhoods and areas. GI does not distinguish between rural and urban but permeates everywhere.

283. In urban areas the network is influenced by the existing urban form and function, but and GI links through and within urban areas are an integral part of creating **healthy and** sustainable communities. **The introduction of GI in urban areas has multiple economic, health and environmental benefits. Urban street planting provides shade and shelter and reduces the risk of heat island effects. Urban trees can play a significant part in removing particulate matter from the air and even having an indirect interaction with nature, such as viewing trees or the countryside through windows, has been associated**

with lower blood pressure. Existing GI assets and networks (including the nature recovery network, hydrological network and sustainable movement network) need to be protected and enhanced to achieve their full value at local and ~~District~~ **and regional** levels. The River corridor through Bath and beyond is a key GI asset that requires a "whole river" approach to realise its full potential as a multifunctional green corridor. The Placemaking Plan will set out how new developments can contribute effectively to green infrastructure.

Strategic GI projects within B&NES include:

283a.Bath River Line: The River corridor through Bath and beyond is a key GI asset that requires a "whole river" approach to realise its full potential as a multifunctional green corridor. The Bath River Line will provide a high-quality walking and cycling route between Newbridge and Batheaston connecting adjacent communities. It will protect and enhance the natural environment, resorting habitats and biodiversity. Bath River Line will provide spaces for all to enjoy whilst invigorating the local economy and providing new opportunities for tourism. It will celebrate the unique built heritage and landscape character of the city, providing a strong sense of place and enhancing the setting of the World Heritage Site.

283b.Bathscape: The Bathscape Scheme aims to restore and enhance the complex landscape of Bathscape (essentially its woodlands and calcareous grasslands), make it more accessible and help ensure it is appreciated and actively enjoyed by more people in Bath, both residents and visitors alike. The programme is helping to develop Bath and the Bathscape as a Landscape City – developing understanding of the landscape as both fundamental to the WHS designation and to every aspect of life and work in the City.

283c.Somer Valley Rediscovered: This partnership project aims to improve biodiversity and, by increasing people's connections to nature, improve their health and wellbeing. Projects include providing better access to greenspace, habitat restoration, setting up volunteer networks to manage sites and a programme of events to intrigue and inspire people to enjoy and value their local natural spaces. The project area includes Radstock, Midsomer Norton and Westfield, the large villages of Paulton and Peasedown St John and surrounding countryside and smaller villages. It is an area that has been profoundly influenced by the former coal mining industry.

283d.WaterSpace Connected – from Dundas to Avonmouth: This is partnership project covering the Local Authority areas of B&NES and Bristol. It is in development, and expands on the successful B&NES WaterSpace study and project area. The Bath River Line is a flagship B&NES Waterspace project. Waterspace focusses on the themes of water quality & environmental enhancement; recreation and leisure; assets and asset Management; mooring strategy and navigation; regeneration & development

283e.River Chew Reconnected: A partnership project covering the River Chew sub-catchment between the Mendip Hills and Keynsham. It is currently in development and will focus on nature recovery, natural flood management, and health & wellbeing through sustainable movement networks.

283f.AONB Link: This is a partnership project in development to connect the National Landscapes of the Cotswolds and Mendip Hills and linking with Bathscape.

284. The Council's adopted Green Infrastructure Strategy was developed within the subregional context **now covered by the WoE JGIS**, to ensure that crossboundary GI issues are addressed. As well as identifying the existing network, assets and opportunities for the improvement and creation of new GI, the Green Infrastructure Strategy will ensure that GI is delivered, maintained and managed sustainably and creatively well into the future. **Core GI B&NES-wide principles are set out in Policy CP7.**

Policy CP7	POLICY CP7: Green infrastructure The integrity, multi-functionality, quality and connectivity of the strategic Green Infrastructure (GI) network will be protected, enhanced and managed. Opportunities will be taken to connect with, improve and extend the network. Existing and new GI must be planned, delivered and managed as <u>a key delivery mechanism for nature recovery and</u> an integral part of creating <u>healthy and</u> sustainable communities. Delivery The Council has a central role in the provision, delivery and planning of GI through its role as local planning authority and direct provider of significant areas of open spaces. It will also work in partnership with key public and private bodies, local communities and the voluntary sector to protect and enhance the GI network and ensure a strategic approach is taken. <u>The Bath River Line is a strategic green infrastructure project which will provide a high-quality walking and cycling route between Newbridge to Batheaston. It will protect and enhance the natural environment and will provide spaces for all as part of a wider network of green infrastructure. Development proposals must where possible take the opportunity to connect into and enhance the Bath River Line walking and cycling route safeguarded under Policy ST2A. The Bath River Line is subject to a number of policies within the Local Plan including NE1, NE3 and B1.</u> The impact of new development on GI will be assessed through the Development Management process. The <u>WoE JGIS and B&NES</u> Council's adopted GI Strategy sets out further guidance as to how GI principles should be applied to development proposals including provision of major infrastructure improvements. Deliver will also be through the planning process by integrating green infrastructure principles into the Placemaking Plan and other Local Plan documents.
287 and 288	
Policy NE1	POLICY NE1: Development and Green Infrastructure 1 Within the context of Policy CP7-dDevelopment will be permitted provided: a) it can be demonstrated that <u>the proposed development design will maximise opportunities for effective and functional</u> have been maximised to design Green Infrastructure (GI), <u>focussing on the use of nature based solutions to deliver community benefits</u> into the proposed development; b) it does not adversely affect the integrity and value of strategic GI corridors; c) the scheme makes a positive contribution to the GI network through the creation, enhancement and management of new, and existing GI assets, <u>linking to active travel routes where feasible to improve accessibility and where possible creating or enhancing linkages with existing or in-development strategic GI projects</u>; and 2 Proposals for major developments should also be accompanied by: a) a plan of the existing green infrastructure assets within and around the development site; and b) a GI "proposal" demonstrating how GI has been incorporated into the scheme in order to increase function and improve connectivity of GI assets, <u>demonstrate the delivery of a range of nature-based solutions and</u> including links to existing the local and strategic networks <u>and providing new connections between existing and/or new linear wildlife habitats.</u> 3 Developers will be required to address GI in any submitted site Masterplan which as a minimum fulfils the requirements of clauses 1) and 2) above.

Para 301	delete paragraph and replace with: <u>There are a number of settlements in the District that are washed over by the Green Belt. The following that have been identified to be a village and have a defined infill boundary are:</u> Burnett, Chewlwood, Chew Magna, Chew Stoke, Claverton, Combe Hay, Compton Dando, Corston, Dunkerton, Englishcombe, Freshford, Hinton Charterhouse, Kelston, Marksbury, Monkton Combe, Newton St. Loe, North Stoke, Norton Malreward, Pensford, Priston, Queen Charlton, Shoscombe, South Stoke, Stanton Drew (including Upper Stanton Drew and Highfields), Stanton Prior, Tunley, Upper Swainswick, Wellow and Woolley.
Para 302	The NPPF confirms that although the construction of new buildings is regarded as inappropriate development in Green Belt, limited infilling in villages is considered an exception to this policy. The Core Strategy defines 'infilling' in relation to housing as the filling of small gaps within existing development e.g. the building of one or two houses on a small vacant plot in an otherwise extensively built up frontage, the plot generally being surrounded on at least three sides by developed sites or roads.
New para after 302 and delete 303	Delete paragraph and replace with: <u>302a. As the NPPF confirms that infilling in villages within the Green Belt is not regarded as inappropriate development, infill boundaries were defined in consultation with parish councils for all villages washed over by the Green Belt. Infill boundaries have been defined so as to encompass all parts of the village where there are opportunities for infill development and to exclude those areas where development would not be infill. As such the infill boundaries define the areas where infill development that meets the definition in the Core Strategy would be acceptable in principle to help to avoid dispute over whether particular sites are covered by infill policies and provide certainty as to where new buildings would be acceptable in Green Belt settlements, subject to other material considerations.</u> 303. There is no longer any specific reference to the need to define 'infill boundaries' or distinction made between residential and other developments in this context. Nevertheless, Housing Development Boundaries continue to be defined for those washed over Green Belt villages in which infilling for housing development would be acceptable and to help avoid dispute over whether particular sites are covered by infill policies and provide certainty as to where residential development would be acceptable in Green Belt settlements.
Policy GB2	POLICY GB2 DEVELOPMENT IN GREEN BELT VILLAGES Development New buildings in villages in the Green Belt will not be permitted unless it is limited to infilling and <u>the proposal is located within the defined Infill Boundary.</u> in the case of residential development the proposal is within the defined Housing Development Boundary.
Policy GB3	POLICY GB3: EXTENSIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO BUILDINGS IN THE GREEN BELT Proposals to extend <u>or alter</u> a building in the Green Belt will only be permitted provided they would not represent a disproportionate addition over and above the size of the original building
POLICY PCS5:	POLICY PCS5: CONTAMINATION

CONTAMINATION	Development will only be permitted on land either known to be or strongly suspected of being contaminated, or where development may result in <u>the contamination of land or</u> the release of contaminants from adjoining land, provided: 1) the proposal would not cause significant harm or risk of significant harm to health or the environment or cause pollution of any watercourse, water body or aquifer
	Building strong & vibrant communities
New para 349a	<u>349a. On 24th May 2021, Government published a Written Ministerial Statement setting out First Homes requirements and published First Homes Planning Practice Guidance, with changes coming into effect from 28 June 2021. First Homes are a specific kind of discounted market sale housing and should be considered to meet the definition of ‘affordable housing’ for planning purposes. The Council will publish a First Homes Position Statement.</u>
Policy H2	POLICY H2: HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION District-wide a change of use from residential (C3) to a large HMO (Sui Generis use class) will require planning permission. In Bath, a change of use from residential to a small HMO (C4) will also require planning permission as there is a City-wide Article 4 Direction in place. The following criteria will be considered when determining these applications: <u>Proposals for:</u> <u>- A change of use from residential (C3) to small HMO (C4) in Bath;</u> <u>- A change of use from residential (C3) to large HMO (Sui Generis) district-wide;</u> <u>- Provision of new build HMO district-wide;</u> <u>- A change of use from other uses to HMO district-wide; and</u> <u>- Intensification of small HMO (C4) to large HMO (Sui Generis) district-wide</u> <u>will be refused if:</u> i. If the site is within Bath, and within an area with a high concentration of existing HMOs (as defined in the Houses in Multiple Occupation in Bath Supplementary Planning Document, or successor document), further changes of use to HMO use will not be supported as they will be contrary to supporting a balanced community; ii. The HMO use is incompatible with the character and amenity of established adjacent uses; iii. The HMO use significantly harms the amenity of adjoining residents through a loss of privacy, visual and noise intrusion;

	iv. The HMO use creates a severe transport impact; <u>v. The HMO does not provide a good standard of accommodation for occupiers;</u> <u>vi. The HMO property does not achieve an Energy Performance Certificate “C” rating</u> <u>vii.</u> The HMO use results in the unacceptable loss of accommodation in a locality, in terms of mix, size and type; <u>viii.</u> The development prejudices the continued commercial use of ground/lower floors. <u>Where a new build HMO is proposed, development should be consistent with other relevant Local Plan policies and guidance relating to new build residential accommodation.</u> <u>A condition restricting the number of occupants may be attached to permissions where deemed necessary to ensure that no further harmful intensification will occur.</u>
New policy and supporting text	Insert after policy H2 <u>Purpose Built Student Accommodation</u> <u>370a. Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) is accommodation built, or converted, with the specific intention of being occupied by students. Such accommodation is usually provided in the form of cluster flats with shared facilities, individual en-suite units, or studios, and relates to buildings which are not classified by planning use class, or licensing, as HMOs.</u> <u>370b. The Council’s policy framework seeks to address student accommodation needs arising from educational establishments, whilst not prejudicing other economic, environmental and social objectives from being achieved across the district.</u> <u>370c. Policies B5 and H2A set out that as a first priority PBSA should be developed on-campus, and that it will only be allowed on other sites where a need can be demonstrated. Policy H2A sets out the policy requirements for all new, extensions to and conversions to PBSA on sites not allocated for student accommodation, including the demonstration of need in the form of a formal agreement between a developer and an education provider, confirming the number of bed-spaces and accommodation type required.</u>
New Policy H2A for Purpose Built Student Accommodation	<u>POLICY H2A: PURPOSE BUILT STUDENT ACCOMMODATION</u> <u>Purpose built student accommodation of an appropriate scale and design will be permitted:</u> <u>a) On allocated sites where student accommodation use is specifically identified within the Development Principles; or</u> <u>b) Elsewhere in the district (except for areas restricted by policy B5), only where it can be demonstrated that there is a need for additional</u>

	<u>student accommodation.</u> <u>All proposals for new, extensions to, or conversions to, Purpose-Built Student Accommodation on sites not allocated for student accommodation, will be required to demonstrate that:</u> i. <u>There is a need for additional student accommodation of the type and in the location proposed, evidenced by a formal agreement between the developer and a relevant education provider, for the supply of bed spaces created by the development;</u> ii. <u>The proposal will not result in a significant negative impact on retail, employment, leisure, tourism, housing or the council's wider strategic objectives;</u> iii. <u>The site is in a location accessible by sustainable transport methods, including to the educational establishment to which it is associated;</u> iv. <u>The use of the site for student accommodation is appropriate in relation to neighbouring uses;</u> v. <u>The development will not have an unacceptable impact on the amenity of surrounding residents. A management plan will be provided prior to occupation of the development, to ensure adequate management arrangements have been incorporated;</u> vi. <u>The internal design, layout and size of accommodation and facilities are of an appropriate standard;</u> vii. <u>The proposal provides an appropriate level of car parking having regard to relevant standards, and provides adequate provision for servicing, pick up and drop off;</u> viii. <u>The proposal provides adequate storage for recycling/refuse and bicycles, in line with relevant standards;</u> ix. <u>The development has been designed in such a way that it is capable of being re-configured through internal alterations to meet general housing needs in the future if necessary; and</u> x. <u>The proposal accords with other relevant Local Plan policies relating to, but not limited to, impact on the historic environment, high quality design, landscape, transport and access, flood risk and drainage, nature conservation, pollution and contamination, and responding to climate change.</u>
Policy H3	POLICY H3: RESIDENTIAL USES IN EXISTING BUILDINGS The sub-division of existing buildings <u>including outbuildings</u> will be permitted, unless: i. The residential use creates a severe transport impact, (in a way that the existing use would not); ii. The development prejudices the continued commercial use of ground/lower floors.

	iii. It would lead to a form of sub-division that would harm the significance of a listed building. The re-use of existing empty homes in continuing residential use will be strongly supported.
Policy H5 Retention of Existing Housing Stock	POLICY H5: RETENTION OF EXISTING HOUSING STOCK Development which would result in the net loss of existing residential accommodation <u>units</u> will not be permitted unless, there are benefits that outweigh any harm, such as: i. demonstrable and substantial conservation benefits ii. demonstrable and substantial economic, social or environmental benefits iii. benefits in terms of providing visitor accommodation
387 and 388	Accessibility Standards 387. Local Authorities have the opportunity to apply optional technical accessibility standards in relation to wheelchair accessibility and level access/adaptability of buildings, where they can demonstrate evidence of need and accommodate viability impacts. The standards are applied through Building Regulations but are introduced via local planning policies. Where there are existing local standards in place a “passport” approach is applied and the national optional technical standards can be applied as an equivalent. As B&NES already applied a local standard via its Planning Obligations SPD for Affordable Housing – which includes a requirement for 10% wheelchair accessible dwellings and a requirement for ground floor accessed residential properties to have access thresholds of a minimum gradient – the national standard will be applied in these circumstances. 388. The current evidence in the housing Accessibility Standards Needs Assessment shows that during the Plan period the newly arising demand for housing meeting enhanced accessibility standards equates to around 19% of all new market housing to be provided. A guidance note to support the operation of Policy H7 has been prepared. <u>387. The B&NES Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 overriding purpose is to improve people’s lives with principles focusing on prevention and preparing for the future. As set out in Planning Practice Guidance, ‘Accessible and adaptable housing enables people to live more independently, while also saving on health and social costs in the future. It is better to build accessible housing from the outset rather than have to make adaptations at a later stage – both in terms of cost and with regard to people being able to remain safe and independent in their homes.’ (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 63-008-20190626)</u> <u>387a. Paragraph 127 within the NPPF sets out that ‘Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments... create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users...’ Footnote 46 clarifies this paragraph setting out that ‘Planning policies for housing should make use of the Government’s optional technical standards for accessible and adaptable housing, where this would address an identified need for such properties.’</u> <u>387b. The Bath Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) Volume II (March 2019) sets out the evidence base to housing accessibility requirements within Bath and North East Somerset. The Bath and North East Somerset: Local Plan Partial Update Viability Study undertaken by BNP Paribas Real</u>

	<u>Estate on behalf of B&NES Council, tested the housing accessibility standards as set out in the SHMA and concluded that the policy requirement could 'be absorbed with little impact on residual land values'.</u> <u>387c. Whilst planning policy sets out the requirements for accessibility standards through the Local Plan, requirements are implemented under Building Regulations - The Building Regulations 2010 Access to and use of buildings Approved Document M Volume 1: Dwellings. Standards include:</u> <u>M4(1) Category 1: Visitable dwellings</u> <u>M4(2) Category 2: Accessible and adaptable dwellings</u> <u>M4(3) Category 3: Wheelchair user dwellings</u> <u>Within the M4(3) standard there are two sub-categories:</u> <u>M4(3)(2a): wheelchair adaptable (meaning that they meet spatial and layout requirements but may not have been fully fitted and finished to accommodate immediate use by a wheelchair user)</u> <u>M4(3)(2b): wheelchair accessible (meaning that the dwelling is fully ready for occupation by a wheelchair user household)</u> <u>387d. If it is agreed at the planning stage that a specific development warrants flexibility in the application of the accessible housing standards M4(2) and M4(3), affected dwellings would be required to satisfy the mandatory building regulations requirements of M4(1) under Building Regulations.</u> <u>387e. For the purposes of this policy, residential development includes student accommodation, co-living, build to rent, specialist housing and older person housing.</u> <u>387f. M4(2) and M4(3) dwellings should be secured via planning condition to allow the Building Control body to check compliance of a development against the optional Building Regulation standards.</u>
Policy H7	POLICY H7: Housing Accessibility Accessibility standards for Affordable Housing will be applied in accordance with the Council's Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document, or successor guidance. For market housing, dwellings should have enhanced accessibility standards and should meet the optional technical standard 4(2) in the Building Regulations Approved Document M. <u>To provide suitable housing that meets the needs of different groups in the community, including disabled people, older people and families with young children, new residential development must ensure that:</u> <u>For affordable housing, 7.8% of dwellings be built to meet Building Regulation M4(3)(2b) standard (wheelchair accessible housing) and the remainder to M4(2) accessible and adaptable dwellings standard within houses, ground floor flats and upper floor flats where a lift is installed, and age restricted homes.</u>

	<u>For market housing, 5.6% of dwellings to be built to Building Regulation M4(3)(2a) standard (wheelchair adaptable housing) and 48% of the remainder to M4(2) accessible and adaptable dwellings standard.</u> <u>In exceptional circumstances, factors such as vulnerability to flooding, site topography and where the provision of a lift to dwelling entrances may not be achievable, may determine a reduced requirement in terms of Building Regulation M4(2) and M4(3) accessibility standards.</u>
430	Add new paragraph after 430 <u>430a Within the region there is an insufficient supply of youth play space, parks and recreational grounds across all area profiles. Difficulties maintaining natural turf and a shortage of available space has amplified the growth in artificial alternatives. Since the late 1970s when artificial alternatives gained popularity, technologies have advanced and third generation (3G) pitches are being employed with the backing of Sport England and the Football Association among other sporting bodies. Artificial pitches are useful mainly due to their ability to withstand inclement weather and provide significant benefits supporting active lifestyle and well-being by allowing people to play and exercise longer especially in winter.</u> <u>430b.3G pitches are constructed using longer pile artificial grass with a rubber crumb infill. These crumb granules are typically styrene butadiene rubber (SBR) originating from shredded waste tyres. Even though the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 place additional duties on those designing artificial pitches to eliminate or reduce hazards and risks during design, there are some concerns regarding impact on people's health resulting from exposure to contaminated granular material and through the contamination of soil and water. Investigations are ongoing by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to determine whether crumb infill poses a risk to the health of those using third generation sports pitches. Users are advised to follow the safety recommendations made by the ECHA.</u> <u>430c. The NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should aim to avoid new and existing developments contributing to land contamination, soil degradation and water pollution. Policy PCS1 embodies the 'precautionary principle' toward the healthy functioning of environmental systems. Development will only be permitted provided a management plan is submitted in accordance with policy LCR6. This principle also applies to public safety and the health risks associated with exposure from playing on these surfaces. Users should follow the safety recommendations made by the European Chemical Agency (ECHA).</u>
LCR6	Amend 3 as below: In all cases: a) the proposal would not give rise to significant adverse environmental conditions including the impact of air, noise, water, <u>soil</u> quality and light pollution and be detrimental to public safety and the amenities of local residents; and b) vehicle access and on-site vehicle parking would be provided to an appropriate standard; and c) adequate access to and between the facilities would be provided for people with disabilities. Add <u>A management plan should be submitted with an application for a new artificial grass pitch. The management plan should outline the materials used and should consider potential sources of pollution from the installation phase through to end of life, including disposal. This includes both chemical and solid wastes including microplastics. Adequate remediation measures must be implemented and reported to ensure any identified potential harm</u>

	<u>can be suitably mitigated.</u>
	Building a prosperous economy
Sub-heading	Proposals involving Office and Industrial Land and Floorspace (B1, B2, B8)
Sub-heading	Office Development (B1a uses classes)
Sub-heading	Change of use & redevelopment of B1(a) office to residential use C2 (residential institutions), C3 (dwelling houses), and C4 (HMOs) and Sui Generis
Paras 479-408	479. Paragraph 51 of the NPPF (March 2012) states that “local planning authorities should normally approve planning applications for change to residential use and any associated development from commercial buildings (currently in the B use classes) where there is an identified need for additional housing in that area, provided that there are not strong economic reasons why such development would be inappropriate” <u>The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development etc.)(England)(Amendment) Order 2021 introduced a new Class MA – commercial, business and service uses to dwellinghouses subject to a prior approval process covering various impacts such as of the character or sustainability of the conservation area, noise, flooding, highways and transport issues and contamination. The Order sets out various limitations and exclusions including listed and buildings within a World Heritage Site.</u> 408. The term ‘change to’ encompasses both a change of use and redevelopment as ultimately both result in a ‘change to’ the use of land. Residential <u>in terms of Policy ED1B</u> is defined as development in the C2, C3 and C4 and use classes. Residential also encompasses sui generis residential uses such as large Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) (i.e. blocks of student accommodation with shared flats hosting more than 6 persons) <u>and Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA).</u>
Paras 482-483 (delete)	482 In May 2013, Government amended the GPDO to introduce permitted development rights to enable premises in B1(a) office use (subject to some exclusions including but not limited to listed buildings and space built since May 2013) to change to C3 dwelling houses (though not C2, C4 or sui generis residential uses) without the need for a planning application, and subject to a prior approval process covering noise, flooding, highways and transport issues and contamination. 483 The most commonly occurring exclusion in B&NES relates to a listed buildings. If the building is listed or within the curtilage of a listed building (which is often the case in the centre of Bath), permitted development is not applicable and a planning application is needed. However, the Council considers that the purpose of such an application is to deal with (in addition to the prior approval matters listed above) any risk to the significance of heritage assets and not ‘in principle’ issues. The permitted development rights initially lasted until May 2016, in April 2016, legislation came in to force to make this change permanent.
Paras 484 - 486	484. The utilisation of permitted development rights has had a meaningful negative impact on the supply of office space in Bath city centre, including on good quality occupied space. This means that more new office space will be needed than previously proposed when the Core Strategy was adopted. Whilst an expectation of losses was built into the Plan based on trends, permitted development rights have meant that those expectations have already been exceeded. The gross amount of new office space to be planned for has thus been increased as set out in Core Strategy Policy B1 in order to achieve the necessary net outcome. <u>The Article 4 Direction to remove permitted development rights was introduced on 24th May 2019 and it operates until the implementation of the new Class MA on 31st July 2021.</u> the rights permanent further risks undermining the spatial strategy for the city as a whole and therefore the Council will consider

	making an Article 4 Direction to remove the rights in specific parts of the District. In 2013 it applied to Government for parts of the District to be exempted as Article 2(5) land but was not successful. 485. The current permitted development rights only apply to a literal 'change of use' (not redevelopment). Currently, proposals for the 'redevelopment' of office space to C3 residential use still require a planning application, which can test in-principle matters. (albeit against the background of the NPPF:51). However, in October 2015 Government announced that it intended to extend permitted development rights to redevelopment. The extended rights will enable the demolition of offices and new build as residential use but will be subject to as yet unknown limitations and prior approval tests by the local planning authority. Further, the Council will consider making an Article 4 Direction to remove change of use and redevelopment rights in specific parts of the District. The policies below are written to be sound in the current national planning context and to be flexible enough to be able to respond to changes at a national or local level, without requiring a review of the policy. 486. Proposals for the redevelopment of offices to a C2, C4 or sui generis residential uses do not benefit from permitted development rights and will, in the case of non-student C2 & C4 uses, be judged against policy ED1B. Where a proposal is for student accommodation, Policy B5 of the Core Strategy will be used in decision-taking
Policy ED1B	POLICY ED1B: CHANGE OF USE & REDEVELOPMENT OF B1(A) OFFICE TO RESIDENTIAL USE 1. Change of use (i.e. conversion) The conversion of office space (B1a) to residential C3 is normally permitted development, subject to the exceptions set out in the <u>GPDO</u> GDPO. (which includes listed). The principle of change of use through conversion of listed buildings in office use to C3 residential use is also accepted, <u>provided there is no adverse impact on the significance of the listed building.</u> 2. <u>Change of use and Redevelopment</u> (i.e. demolition and construction of a new building) The <u>Change of use and</u> redevelopment of office space (B1a) to non-student C2, C3 or C4, <u>or Sui Generis (large HMO and PBSA)</u> residential will be permitted unless there are strong economic reasons for refusal, as set out below. 3. Strong economic reasons Strong economic reasons will exist if: a the site is within the Bath Central Area, the Bath City Riverside Enterprise Zone, Somerdale, or a town centre listed in Policy CP12, or on a site that has been granted permission since 2011; and b the loss of the space would be a significant loss to strategically important office accommodation in B&NES and significantly harm the Council's ability to plan positively for economic development. In assessing whether strong economic reasons exist, consideration will be given to: • the quality of the office space (existing or permitted) to be lost or not implemented compared to alternative, available premises in the locality, and whether these are suitable for any displaced existing occupiers;

	• the need to retain the space in the context of the achievement of strategic Core Strategy targets set out in B1, KE1 and SV1; • current market signals and forecasts (to ensure the long-term targets of Core Strategy policies B1, KE1 and SV1 remain justified throughout the plan period); • in the case of a mixed-use residential- led site granted permission since 2011, whether the premises are critical to the sustainability of the permission and whether implementation remains viable, and realistic in light of market signals. 4. In the event that permitted development rules referred to in this policy no longer apply (whether due to the introduction of a direction under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning Acts or through changes to national legislation or policy): a If the permitted development rules relating to change of use (conversion) from office to residential are removed, all such applications, including for listed buildings <u>and buildings within the World Heritage Site</u>, will be assessed using the criteria set out in paragraphs 2-3, above. For the avoidance of doubt, in these circumstances the principle of change of use through the conversion of listed buildings in <u>Use Class E former</u> B1a use to C3 use will no longer be automatically considered acceptable. b If the permitted development rules relating to change of use (conversion) from office to residential are widened to include redevelopment, consideration of strong economic reasons, as set out in paragraphs 2-3 above, will no longer be required. This would not apply to listed buildings <u>and buildings within the World Heritage Site</u>.
Heading	Change of use and redevelopment of B1 (a) office use to other town centre uses
Paras 487-488	487. In May 2013, Government introduced permitted development rights that enabled B1 uses (up to 150 sq.m and excluding listed buildings) to change use to shops and other retail premises (A1, A2, A3 uses) for a single period of up to two years. After two years the use must revert back to B1. These rights ended in May 2015 (although a change of use implemented in April 2015 would be valid until 2017). 488. The LPA has monitored the take up and impact of these rights. There were no adverse impacts to suggest that the Development Plan needs to be restrictive once the rights are extinguished. Retail uses normally require a ground floor premises and a permissive stance is therefore unlikely to cause a significant reduction to the stock of office space in the District, which usually occupies the space above shops. Accordingly, in designated city, town, district and local centres, and elsewhere there will be a permissive approach to applications to change use from B1 (a) offices to shops. If this approach results in significant unintended negative effects on the office market, the Council will undertake a partial review of the Plan via the fast track route set out in the NPPG.
New Para 488a	<u>488a</u> <u>In September 2020 the Government implemented changes to the Planning Use Class Order to combine a number of different town centre type uses including offices (former B1 use class), shops (former A1), restaurants (former A3), banks and estate agents (former A2), gyms (former D2), health facilities (former D1) into a single Class E “Commercial, Business and Service” use. Uses can change within this use class without the need to apply for planning permission thereby allowing an office for example to be converted to a shop, restaurant, health facility or gym, or vice versa.</u>
489	<u>The use classes for hotels (Class C1) residential uses and industry (B2) and warehousing (B8) are retained, and there are new use classes for Learning and Non Residential Institutions (Class F1) and Local Community uses (Class F2)</u> Permitted development rights do not exist for the change of use of office space to <u>hotel use (use class C1) and Sui Generis uses</u> D1 and D2 uses aside from in relation to a state-funded school (subject to exemptions and via a prior approval process). Where the control of <u>change of</u> use is possible the Council will prioritise the retention of office space over C1, D1 and D2 <u>hotel and other</u>

	uses not with Class E . It is necessary to do this due to the erosion of planning control in relation to changes of use (and potentially redevelopment) from office to C3. In practice this is most likely to be of use in protecting office space from hotel conversion/redevelopment in circumstances where this would be detrimental to the operation of the office market. In some cases this may not be detrimental.
Policy ED1C	POLICY ED1C: CHANGE OF USE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF B1(A) OFFICE USE TO OTHER TOWN CENTRE USE (not within Use Class E) 1. The change of use of office space to A1, A2 and A3 uses will be permitted unless clauses 3a and 3b of Policy ED1B apply 2. The change of use or redevelopment of office space to other town centre uses (not within Use Class E) will not normally be permitted, unless the space is of particularly poor quality in relation to the total stock of the city, or, if this is not common ground between the applicant and LPA, the space has been marketed for 12 months, on reasonable terms, at a time when the UK economy is growing and no serious occupier interest has been forthcoming. Even where these criteria are not met the economic and social benefits of the alternative proposed town centre use (in terms of employment, GVA and contribution to the centre and any townscape improvements resulting from change) will be material considerations, that could, in exceptional cases, outweigh ED1C (2)
Sub Heading	Light Industrial E(g)(iii) (B1e) , Heavy Industrial (B2) and Warehousing (B8) Uses
490	Paragraph 20 of NPPF expects LPAs to plan proactively to meet development needs of business, including industrial type activity. Planning positively for industrial development in B&NES means protecting the best of what the District has to offer in terms of supply, whilst adding to the stock of available land where needed. Permitted development rights enable both extensions to and losses of industrial space in certain circumstances and in some cases are subject to a prior approval process. Paragraph 80 of NPPF expects that 'Planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development. The approach taken should allow each area to build on its strengths, counter any weaknesses and address the challenges of the future.'
491	Historically, Policy ET.3 of the B&NES Local Plan (2007) identified 'Core Business Areas' for B1c (now E(g)(iii)), B2 and B8 uses. These areas were afforded a high level of protection from alternative (higher value) uses. The Core Employment Areas have been reviewed to assess whether they should be specifically identified for protection in the current Local Plan as Strategic Industrial Estates or Other Primary Industrial Estates. In reviewing land the Council has had regard to: ... 5) Paragraph 22 of the NPPF (2012), which advises that there must be a reasonable prospect of a site being used for the allocated employment use. This applies equally to land currently or last used for employment purposes and new greenfield allocations.
New paras 494a-494d	<u>494a The monitoring evidence shows that since the start of the Local Plan period in 2011 losses of industrial sites across the District have exceeded the levels set out in the Plan, and the necessary new employment development has not been realised. Additionally, evidence shows that demand for industrial space has increased and is greater than was envisaged at the time of preparing the current Local Plan. There are also limited opportunities</u>

	<u>to provide new industrial land, especially in Bath. Therefore, Policies ED2A and ED2B have been amended through the Partial Update.</u> <u>494b Placemaking Plan Policy ED2B was adopted in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012. The NPPF 2012 set out a presumption that employment land and premises should be redeveloped for housing, unless there are 'strong economic reasons' as to why this would be inappropriate. The revised NPPF published in 2018 continues to encourage the use of previously developed land for housing, and that using currently unallocated retail and employment land for homes should be supported but only where it does not undermine key economic sectors and would be compatible with other policies in the Framework (including those relating to supporting economic growth and productivity).</u> <u>494c Due to the chronic shortage of industrial space within the Bath City area, all existing industrial sites including small sites play an important role to Bath remaining a fully functioning economy. It is also important in ensuring that climate emergency goals are fulfilled - both in terms of employment and last mile delivery. Furthermore, industrial space is required to help facilitate green recovery with evidence of demand for such space shown by enquiries registered with the Council. The ongoing presence of industrial space within the city is essential to a functional employment ecosystem.</u> <u>494d Reflecting the latest national policy (NPPF 2019) and the significant losses of industrial land that have occurred since 2011; and the increased demand for industrial accommodation Policy ED2B has been strengthened to provide greater policy protection of non-strategic or other industrial sites.</u>
495-499	Delete paras 495-500
Policy ED2A	POLICY ED2A: STRATEGIC (*) AND OTHER PRIMARY INDUSTRIAL ESTATES 1. Proposals for light industrial, heavy industrial, warehousing (classes <u>E(g)(iii) B4e</u>, B2, B8), builders merchants will be acceptable in principle within the following Industrial Estates identified on the Policies Map. Proposals for car showrooms will also be acceptable on undeveloped land in these areas and where this would not replace <u>E(g)(iii) B4e</u> and B2 land and premises. 2. The identification of these areas as Strategic and Other Primary Industrial Sites means that there is a presumption in favour of retaining them for the aforementioned <u>E(g)(iii) B4e</u>, B2 & B8 uses. ... <u>4) A Locksbrook Creative Industry Hub has been designated within the Newbridge Riverside area focusing on business development in the creative industry. Clauses above do not apply to this area and Policy X sets out the specific development requirements.</u>
Policy ED2B	POLICY ED2B: NON-STRATEGIC INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

	1. Proposals for the uses listed in ED2A will be acceptable in-principle at sites already occupied by smaller clusters and stand-alone industrial premises provided that this would not cause unacceptable environmental, residential amenity or highways problems. 2. Non-strategic sites are not afforded the same level of protection for industrial and warehousing (E(g)(iii) B4e, B2 & B8) uses as those listed in ED2A. Applications for residential development or others uses will normally be approved unless there is a strong economic reason why this would be inappropriate. Evidence of unsuccessful marketing on reasonable terms for 12 months prior to an application and during a sustained period of UK economic growth will be taken as evidence that there is not a strong economic reason for refusal. <u>However, there are strong economic reasons why other uses on these sites would be inappropriate because of the significant loss and lack of supply of industrial land. Applicants seeking to challenge this presumption should provide compelling evidence that circumstances have changed to the extent that there is no reasonable prospect of land or premises being used for industrial and warehousing uses, by reference to:</u> <u>a) whether the existing premises are being used productively, or if not, the viability of reusing vacant premises or developing allocated land for industrial use,</u> <u>b) the level of interest in the existing premises following a marketing period of 12 months, on reasonable terms, during a sustained period of UK economic growth.</u> <u>c) general market signals of demand across the District and in relation to the locality i.e. the relevant settlement(s)</u> <u>d) the availability and quality of alternative premises</u> <u>e) whether any other evidence casts critical doubt on the validity of Policy B1, KE1 and SV1 insofar as they relate to the required supply of industrial space</u> <u>3. Applicants will also need to demonstrate that non-industrial uses would not be in conflict with the industrial premises that remained around the site.</u>
Policy RE1	POLICY RE1: EMPLOYMENT USES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE Proposals for employment uses in the countryside outside the scope of Core Strategy Policies RA1 and RA2 will be permitted providing they are consistent with all other relevant policies, and involves: i) replacement of existing buildings; ii) the limited expansion, intensification or redevelopment of existing premises <u>or previously developed land</u>; and iii) they would not lead to dispersal of activity that prejudices town and village vitality and viability.
541	Active ground floor uses referred to in Policy CP12 are generally those falling within use Classes A1 to A5 but can also include other town centre uses which are visited by large numbers of people.
542	NPPF paragraph 23 (2012) requires Local Plans to allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail development needed in town centres. It is important that, as appropriate, this need is met in full and is not compromised by limited site availability. The Council is required in NPPF paragraph 161 (2012) to assess the quantitative and qualitative needs for land or floorspace for retail development over the plan period.
548	The site allocations sections of the Plan identify where new retail floorspace within town centres is intended to be met. However, other retail proposals outside of

	the centres may still come forward. The sequential test guides main town centre uses towards town centre locations first, then, if no town centre locations are available <u>(or expected to become available within a reasonable period)</u> , to edge of centre locations, and, if neither town centre locations nor edge of centre locations are available <u>(or expected to become available within a reasonable period)</u> , to out of town centre locations, with preference for accessible sites which are well connected to the town centre.
551	In line with paragraph 27 of the NPPF, where a proposal fails to satisfy the sequential test, it should be refused.
Policy CR1	Where there are no suitable and viable sites available <u>(or expected to become available within a reasonable period)</u> to meet the needs for such uses within centres, edge of centre locations may be appropriate. Sites should be in a location readily accessible on foot, by cycle and by public transport, with preference given to sites that are well connected to the town centre. Out of centre development of main town centre uses will only be acceptable where: i. No suitable or viable centre or edge of centre sites are available <u>(or expected to become available within a reasonable period)</u> and the proposal would be in a location readily accessible on foot, by cycle and by public transport, with preference given to sites that are well connected to the town centre; or
Paras 554 -555	554.Paragraph 26 89 of the NPPF (2019) states that when assessing applications for retail; and and leisure and office development outside of town centres, which are not in accordance with a Local Plan, Local Planning Authorities should require an impact assessment if the development is over a proportionate, locally set floorspace threshold. 555.The purpose of the test, as defined in the NPPG, is to ensure that the impact over time of the proposal on existing town centres is not significantly adverse. The test relates to retail,office and commercial leisure development only. The impact must be assessed in relation to all town centres that may be affected.
Policy CR2	POLICY CR2: IMPACT ASSESSMENTS Outside the scope of Policy CR4, retail,office and commercial leisure development outside of centres will not be permitted if: i. It would be liable to have a significant adverse impact on the vitality, viability and diversity of existing centres; or ii. It would have a significant adverse impact on existing, committed or planned investment in a centre or centres in the catchment area of the proposal. Within Bath, an Impact Assessment will be required for Use Class A1-5 retail proposals over 500sqm (gross) that are located outside of the designated town centres and not in accordance with the Local Plan. For the rest of the District, an Impact Assessment will be required for Use Class A1-5retail proposals over 280sqm (gross) that are located outside of the designated town centres and not in accordance with the Local Plan. For commercial leisure proposals anywhere in the District, an Impact Assessment will be required for schemes over 1,000sqm (gross) that are located outside of a designated town centre and not in accordance with the Local Plan. For office proposals anywhere in the District, an Impact Assessment will be required for schemes over 2,500sqm (gross) that are located outside of a designated

	town centre and not in accordance with the Local Plan. The application of the impact test should be proportionate and appropriate for the given proposal.
Paras 562 - 566	562.Primary Shopping Frontages are defined where there will be are a high proportion of Use Class A1 retail uses. A Primary Shopping Area is a defined area where Class A1-A5 retail development is concentrated. 563.The previous Local Plan was very restrictive about the uses permitted within Primary Shopping Frontages (the loss of an A1 shop use from the ground floor was not permitted). This has been very successful in maintaining the Primary Shopping Frontages as predominantly A1 retail areas. Conversely, it has also had the effect of restricting other uses such as cafes and restaurants to areas outside of the frontages, and concentrating them within certain areas of the city centre. 564.Consultation feedback suggested that in some areas, these uses had become over concentrated and that there was a negative impact on resident's amenity, resulting from noise and anti-social behaviour. Other feedback suggested that some non-A1 uses, such as banks and cafes can have a positive effect on footfall within centres. 565.Policy CR3 therefore introduces a more provides a flexible approach in relation to Primary Shopping Frontages, acknowledging that retail can benefit from having diverse, non-A1 retail neighbours, creating a richer mix of footfall. It allows the Local Planning Authority to maintain a primary shopping function in the defined frontages whilst allowing other Class A uses which can also add to the attractiveness of, and vitality within, a town centre. However, it is imperative that a balance is maintained and the focus of the centres remains retail (A1) based. 565a. <u>While the NPPF refers to Primary Shopping Areas, the Government has introduced changes to the planning system that enable flexibility between town centre type uses. The Government has amended the Use Classes Order to combine a number of former different town centre type use classes including shops (former A1 use class), restaurants (former A3), banks and estate agents (former A2), gyms (former D2), health facilities (former D1) and offices (former B1),into a single Use Class E “Commercial, Business and Service” use. Uses can change within the use class without the need to apply for planning permission thereby allowing a shop for example to be converted to a restaurant, office or gym, or vice versa. Planning permission will still be required for what is termed sui generis uses, including drinking establishments, hot food take away outlets, betting shops and pay day loan shops, cinemas and nightclubs.</u> 565B. <u>There is also greater protection for local shops “Shops (mostly) selling essential goods, including food, where the shop’s premises do not exceed 280 square metres and there is no other such facility within 1000 metres)” which are in a new use class F2(a). This is reflective of the trends in more home working and less travel that has lead to greater use of local shops and facilities during the Covid 19 pandemic.</u> 566.The main centres were subject to a Goad survey in 2014 which forms the basis of the definition of Primary Shopping Frontages and Primary Shopping Areas. A Frontage is considered to be the active parts of the shop, usually containing the shop entrance and/or large shop window. <u>Definitions of Active Frontage and Active Ground Floor uses are defined in the glossary to Placemaking Plan (see volume 6).</u>
Policy CR3 part	POLICY CR3: PRIMARY SHOPPING AREAS AND PRIMARY SHOPPING FRONTAGES

	Development within Primary Shopping Frontages Within Primary Shopping Frontages applications for change of use of shops (Use Class A1) to another use will not be permitted (subject to permitted development rights) unless the proposed use would: i. Make a positive contribution to the vitality, viability and diversity of the centre; and ii. Not fragment any part of the Primary Shopping Frontage by creating a significant break in the shopping frontage; and iii. Not result in a loss of retail floorspace of a scale harmful to the shopping function of the centre; and iv. Be compatible with a retail area in that it includes a shopfront with a display function and would be immediately accessible to the public from the street. Development outside Primary Shopping Frontages Outside the Primary Shopping Frontage but within Primary Shopping Areas and Town Centres, the loss of Use Class A1 retail floorspace will be permitted provided that a healthy balance and diversity of uses is retained and concentrations of uses other than Use Class A1 retail are avoided. ...
569 3 rd bullet	The number and distribution of other existing and committed non-A1 retail uses within the defined primary retail frontage (including any premises subject to current Permitted Development changes of use);
578 -580	Permitted Development Rights and Prior Approval affecting Centres and Retailing within B&NES 578. The Government has introduced new national permitted development rights in order to make it easier for businesses to make best use of their premises; deliver more homes; support high streets; simplify the change of use system; and support sustainability by promoting the reuse of buildings. They are a national grant of planning permission which allow certain building works and changes of use to be carried out without having to make a planning application. The Prior Approval procedure requires a developer to provide some basic information about a proposed extension and involves a process of consultation with immediate neighbours. These rights mostly sit within Part 3 of Schedule 2 to the General Permitted Development Order. 579. The GPDO may in some cases override the Development Plan. 580. Where the GPDO refers to 'key shopping areas', The Local Planning Authority interprets these as the designated centres identified in Core Strategy Policy CP12.
Para 581	<u>581. Our overarching approach to transport policy is to build on achievements to date and continue to</u> The approach of the Local Development Framework is to continue the longstanding theme of reduce ing car dependency and make working towards making walking, cycling and use of public transport, the more attractive and convenient options for travel. Across the West of England, Joint Local Transport Plans over ten years have seen the number of cycling trips more double, and bus passenger trips increase by more than one third, in the context of a national 1% fall. This approach is embodied in the strategic objectives of the Core Strategy, and the place based section in seeking to enhance the walking, cycling and public transport network from existing communities to jobs, local services, facilities and attractions. The Placemaking Plan (2017) established strong foundations for this approach. However, the declaration of the Climate and Ecological Emergency (2019) with a target of carbon neutrality by 2030, coupled with the adoption of JLTP4 (2020), identifies and supports the need for substantial transport improvements to deliver a step-change in enabling sustainable transport and movement. The Council has recognised that “business as usual is not an option and that the Council and

all our partners and contractors need to review all existing strategies and plans to re-align to the Climate Emergency. The Council will continue to work with neighbouring authorities and the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to **address impacts of car dependency and deliver a transformational rebalancing of our transport network to address the Climate Emergency, support sustainable travel and healthier lifestyle.** address these issues.

582. Notwithstanding achievements to date, the B&NES highway network remains heavily trafficked **with a high dependency on car travel,** highlighting the need to **fundamentally change the way we travel, with a strong focus on mode shift away from the private car usage. We will need to** undertake **transformational** transport and access improvements and major capital infrastructure projects to facilitate growth in housing numbers and jobs, to **work towards achieve carbon neutrality, to** minimise the adverse effect of traffic, and to enable environmental improvement to be made to existing centres. **The Council's approach to strategic transport issues and major schemes is to set out in the current adopted Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP), which has been developed with WECA partners. This includes a schedule of major schemes and adopted policy position on each. The purpose of the Development Plan is to set Council Policy relating to development and safeguarding land. it is not intended to duplicate or supersede the adopted JLTP, rather, both Plans are complementary. B&NES has also developed Transport Strategies for Bath and Keynsham, and are continually working on place-based solutions to transport issues within the District. Our Transport Strategies are intended to identify the key local-level issues, develop approaches to provide solutions, and form the basis for the development of specific schemes to come forward in line with the Strategy as a whole. The Place-based Strategies are important as they are bespoke to the locality and are a mechanism to translate overarching transport policy to local scheme delivery.** The Council remains concerned with the impact of through traffic, particularly HGVs, on the WHS. This is compounded by the incomplete nature of the Trunk Road Network to the east of the city. The Council will work with neighbouring authorities, including Wiltshire Council, to address the problem of through traffic in Bath, particularly traffic that currently uses the A36-A46 route through the city and continue to press Highways England and Transport Ministers to take steps for solutions to be identified and funded in the next Road Investment Strategy to be published in 2020. The Council will also review ~~the~~ **The A4 corridor is a key strategic corridor which carries high volumes of people but experiences significant traffic congestions and negative environmental effects such as poor air quality in places such as Saltford. The A4 corridor has been identified as a Mass Transit route between Bristol and Bath within the JLTP4. We will work with WECA to support the delivery of transformational Mass Transit proposals which will increase transport options, dramatically improve journey times and significantly decrease congestion. For Saltford, we will fully assess options to provide bus priority before a decision on a bypass is made. We will also explore the possibility of introducing Mass Transit in Bath to help provide clean, efficient transport for those living, working and visiting the city whilst also meeting the future growth and transport needs of the City.** and, in particular, consider how best to improve the environment within Saltford and improve journey times and reliability between Bristol and Bath. This will include the options for a bypass of the village.

583. This approach is in line with national objectives and the Council's **Corporate** Sustainable Community Strategy. The approach also follows on from the five key **objectives** goals of the Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP3), which are:

- **Take action against climate change and address poor air quality;** Reduce carbon emissions;
- Support **sustainable and inclusive** economic growth;
- **Enable equality and improve** promote accessibility;
- Contribute to better **health, wellbeing,** safety, **and** security and health;
- **Create better places** improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment.

	<u>583a. Our approach to transport within both the current adopted Joint Local Transport Plan and this Local Plan is both ambitious and realistic. However, we also need to achieve transformational change in the way we travel to meet our Climate Emergency obligations. The Council is fully committed to the target of Carbon Neutrality by 2030 and will keep progress towards this target and our approach to transport under review. If progress is not great enough, or fast enough, we are prepared to explore further interventions to reduce car usage, potentially including charging mechanisms such as a Workplace Parking Levy or Road User Charging.</u>
Paras 584- 587	Creating Better Places 584. This approach brings with it a wide range of benefits. The most significant, long term benefit to B&NES is that this approach creates more economically successful, more sociable, healthier, more <u>inclusive</u>, more accessible and more inviting places in which to live, work and visit. <u>Our Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy sets out the key principles of our transport approach to creating better places.</u> 585. Whilst good accessibility is of absolute importance for places to function effectively, better and more sociable places are created where people dominate, rather than vehicular traffic. Streets are not just for movement; they form the shared public space between buildings, where city, town or village life takes place. <u>Streets need to integrate and not segregate our communities and neighbourhoods, and promote an inclusive environment.</u> This is particularly the case in our historic settlements that have not been designed to accommodate the current levels of vehicular traffic that they often have to endure. There is a strong correlation between an enhanced public realm and better places; the experience of numerous cities around the world is testament to this approach. <u>Enhancing street environments can help stimulate local economic activity, reduce street crime and encourage a sense of local community. The Getting Around Bath Transport Strategy highlights the vision for the City. “Bath will enhance its unique status by adopting measures that promote sustainable transport and reduce the intrusion of vehicles, particularly in the historic core. This will enable more economic activity and growth, whilst enhancing its special character and environment and improving the quality of life for local people.”</u> 586. Measures that support the shift to more sustainable modes of transport and that improve levels of accessibility to and within Bath, Keynsham, Somer Valley and the Rural Areas will be supported and promoted. <u>We will support measures that enhance the liveability of our neighbourhoods by reducing traffic volumes and speeds, making walking and cycling the mode of choice for local trips, and offering a range of choices for longer distance trips.</u> 587. Other critical benefits to undertaking this approach include meeting our <u>carbon neutrality obligations</u> reduction in CO2 emission targets, addressing <u>health and impacts of air pollution, combatting</u> rising obesity levels and general health <u>risks issues</u> arising through a lack of physical activity, <u>improving residents’ wellbeing, reducing levels of inequality</u> and enabling improvements to be made to our historic environment and public realm. <u>Creating better places that people can live and spend time in, will also have a vast impact on other health and wellbeing aspects including social isolation and mental health.</u> <u>In creating better places, we must ensure that the principles of inclusive design (Manual for Streets, 2007) are followed. Inclusive design:</u> - <u>Places people at the heart of the design process;</u>

	- <u>Acknowledges diversity and difference;</u> - <u>Offers choice where a single solution cannot accommodate all users;</u> - <u>Provides for flexibility in use; and</u> - <u>Provides buildings and environments that are convenient and enjoyable to use for everyone.</u>
Paras 589 – 589f.	Climate Change and Air Quality 589. JLTP3 states 'In 2008, road transport represented 32% of West of England CO2 emissions. This amounts to some 2.16 tonnes per head of population, similar to the national average of 2.13 tonnes. In reducing road transport carbon emissions JLTP3 focuses on: • Promotion of lower carbon choices • Providing alternatives to the car • Influencing travel behaviour and managing travel demand • Workplace and school travel plans • Personalised travel planning • Improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure • Public transport enhancements • Integration of travel modes • Better information • Demand management and reducing the need to travel through technology and spatial planning • Introduction of an appraisal of the impact of scheme/programme/policy options to inform their selection or otherwise for inclusion in JLTP3 delivery plans • Robust understanding of the contribution to carbon reduction (or carbon increase) that each scheme, programme, policy is expected to deliver <u>589a.B&NES Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. Transport contributes 29% (216,110t/CO2e/yr) of all direct and indirect emissions (Scope 1 & 2) within B&NES, emphasising the degree to which decarbonising the transport sector can contribute to carbon neutrality. The Council has declared three priorities to achieve the carbon neutrality, including “a major shift to mass transit, walking and cycling to reduce transport emissions.” Our approach will play a vital role in addressing inequalities across B&NES, which we have seen exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.</u> <u>589b. Carbon neutrality cannot be achieved solely by gradual shift to Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV), we need a big change in how people choose to travel, with a major shift to public transport, walking and cycling. This is especially important in Bath, where 42% of all journeys under 3km are taken by the private car. Our 2030 targets are as follows:</u> - <u>25% reduction in car and van mileage per person</u> - <u>76% electric vehicles, 14% hybrid, 10% petrol/diesel, private vehicle fleet</u> - <u>76% electric, 24% hybrid bus fleet</u> - <u>Full electrification of passenger rail by 2030</u> <u>589c. The Council is committed to providing the leadership needed to enable this scale of ambition to be realised, and recognises that this requires a</u>

	<u>significant and fundamental cultural shift. To transform the way we travel, we will need to be flexible, agile and brave as technologies evolve and lifestyles and future strategic and local development planning change. There is a significant uncertainty as to the medium and long term effect of Covid-19 on our work and travel patterns, and how that could translate into car usage, and we need to ensure that we capitalise on opportunities, and proactively manage risks associated, to drive a sustainable future. We will continuously maximise every opportunity and work in partnership with WECA, sustainable transport organisation, Public Health bus and rail operators and other key stakeholders to enable people to switch from car usage and ownership to cycling, walking, public transport, and shared mobility options such as car clubs.</u> <u>589d. Whilst the Council is committed to addressing the Climate and Ecological Emergency, we must achieve this equitably and inclusively. Data on household emission by income (2011) shows that the wealthiest (top 10% of earnings) produces over seven times more CO₂ emissions from cars, and indeed three to four times more overall, than the least wealthy (bottom 10% of earnings). Likewise we also know that those in lower income brackets are disproportionately more likely to suffer from the adverse effects of car usage, including health impacts from poor air quality.</u> <u>589e. B&NES has five designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), where levels of Nitrogen Dioxide exceed the national annual average of 40 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³). The AQMAs are located in Bath, Keynsham, Saltford, Farrington Gurney and Temple Cloud. Air Quality Action Plans (AQAP) have been produced for these areas, outlining the actions required to reduce concentrations of air pollutants and exposure to air pollution.</u> <u>589f. Specifically, Bath's Clean Air Plan includes a Class C Clean Air Zone (CAZ), which came into effect in March 2021. The CAZ is required to help the city meet UK air quality legislation, as several places in Bath currently exceed the legal limits for Nitrogen Dioxide pollution, which is mainly caused by diesel and older petrol vehicles. The CAZ will charge all higher emissions vehicles, except private cars and motorcycles, to drive in Bath's City Centre. Its aim is to deter the majority of drivers of higher emissions vehicles from entering the inner city area. It is accompanied by traffic management in Queen's Square, to provide the necessary additional localised measure to reduce emissions to acceptable level without charging private vehicles.</u> 590. The reduction of the adverse effects of transport on climate change and air quality, particularly in Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Bath and Keynsham and in future AQMAs, will be proactively managed in accordance with the NPPF.
New Paras 590a – 591	<u>Health, Obesity, Health and Well Being</u> <u>590a. The intrinsic link between transport, particularly opportunities for active travel, and health and well-being outcomes is well established and multi-faceted. Active Travel has the potential to achieve major population-wide health benefits. It is one of the most cost-effective and easiest ways of embedding physical activity in people's lives, resulting in array of physical and mental health and wellbeing benefits. Walking and cycling offer enjoyment, independence and contact with outdoor environments and these benefits may be particularly important for disabled people whose participation in other activities may be more restricted. Therefore, it is imperative that the built environment in B&NES is designed, created and built to support and enable people to incorporate movement, particularly walking and cycling, into their daily lives.</u> <u>590b. Physical inactivity contributes to one in six deaths in the UK,</u>

	<u>Doing regular exercise, like walking and cycling, can help to prevent and manage over 20 chronic conditions and diseases, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. Active travel also has an impact on mental health, with just 20 minutes of exercise a day cutting the risk of developing depression by 31%.</u> <u>590c. Vulnerable road users continue to be more seriously affected by road traffic incidents, and concerns about safety and security are a significant barrier to active travel for large numbers of people. Parental concern about road traffic injury is a major contributor to physical inactivity in children, due to reluctance to allow children outside without supervision. Severance and noise caused by motorised traffic exacerbates this and deters the use of active modes. Consequently, these factors can increase vehicle trips and perpetuate the issue.</u> <u>590d. High car dependency, poor air quality and inactive lifestyles pose a major threat to public health, including obesity and associated conditions. Public Health England identifies that 1.2m lives are lost each year as a result of excess weight, and that air pollution causes 28,000 -36,000 deaths each year. As well as physical health, there are growing concerns about impacts on integration and viability of local communities, quality of life, and mental health and well-being.</u> <u>590e. Disadvantaged areas tend to have a high density of main roads, leading to poorer air quality, higher noise levels and higher collision rates, exacerbating health inequalities. Children in the 10% most deprived wards in the UK are four times more likely to be hit by a car than by those in the 10% least deprived.</u> 591. <u>Transport therefore offers a great opportunity to contribute to better health, well-being, safety and security, and to address health inequalities, for those who live, work and travel in B&NES.</u> Continuing with the shift to more active travel is a key way of helping to tackle the pressing issues associated with poor health, rising obesity and general well-being. <u>We need to achieve a step change in the number of healthy, low carbon, walking and cycling trips. Furthermore, we need to continue to reduce the number of road casualties and improve personal safety, including from crime, on our transport network, particularly for those most vulnerable.</u> It is estimated that by 2050 almost 60% of the UK population could be obese with the economic cost reaching £49.9 billion at today's prices (Government Office of Science, Foresight Tackling Obesity: Future Choices, 2007). Increased levels of walking and cycling in particular will help to achieve the strategic objective of promoting health and well-being, <u>and will need to be enabled through transport interventions.</u>
Para 592.	Historic Environment and Public Realm 592. Improvements to parts of the District's historic settlements will become possible by reducing the volume and speed of traffic using historic streets and spaces. The management of the highway network, particularly in local centres, residential areas, places of higher pedestrian footfall and/or areas of historic significance, to support the development of stronger communities and the creation of high quality public realm and better places is supported by the Local Development Framework. This approach is reflected in <u>a number of recent the Council's public realm schemes located across the district, including Saw Close, Milsom Street and Seven Dials in Bath, Market Place in Keynsham with further planned improvements for the High Street and Radstock town centre.</u> Public Realm and Movement Strategy for Bath City Centre.
Paras 593 - 599	Promoting sustainable travel 593. It is important that the need for new development is delivered sustainably, through the provision of low carbon transport options providing

sustainable transport choices, that deliver improved improving accessibility, balanced with whilst minimising traffic congestion and creating better places. Sustainability must be embedded into development schemes at conception, and be a fundamental factor in decisions on land use planning, composition of developments, and master planning. 35% of car trips within B&NES are less than 5km in length, which offers significant opportunity to reduce the number of car trips on our roads through designing sustainable alternatives and Liveable Neighbourhoods. Making places more accessible by sustainable modes of transport. This reflects the approach outlined in the Core Strategy and 'Getting Around Bath — A Transport Strategy for Bath' which place emphasis on the need to reduce car dependency and promote sustainable modes of transport. This is key in making places more accessible for all and healthier environments.

593a. There are substantial bodies of research and Best Practice that provide the evidence and tools needed to avoid creating car-dependent patterns of development which would significantly compromise the aims and objectives of this Local Plan. This includes the Transport for New Homes Checklist and Building for a Healthy Life, a design toolkit for neighbourhoods, streets, home and public spaces. The Council will draw upon guidance such as these documents in decision-making regarding the sustainability of development proposals.

593b. All developments will need to be planned and designed in line with Sustainable Transport Hierarchy. In the first instance, opportunities to reduce the need to travel should be maximised, including through the provision of ancillary facilities on site and through measures that enable people to work from home, such as high speed broadband. Development should be located, and intensified, in areas which are already well served by public transport and have access to a range of local facilities within walking and cycling distance. This is in line with the NPPF principle to 'actively manage patterns of growth to make fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable.'

593c. Masterplans must be designed to prioritise active travel and micro-mobility modes, including e-bikes and e-scooters, over private car usage. Gear Change sets out the UK Government's vision for cycling and walking to be the natural choice of many journeys, with half of all journeys in towns and cities being cycled or walked by 2030. LTN1/20 provides clear unequivocal guidance for Local Authorities, Developers and Highways Engineers on designing high quality cycle infrastructure to support the realisation of this bold vision. All new developments will be expected to be designed in line with current national guidance and best practice.

Masterplan layouts are expected to be designed to include direct and legible routes, with residential streets designed to a 20mph speed limit to enhance pedestrian and cycle safety and limit severance. Measures need to be included to limit through traffic in residential areas and keep traffic to main routes, potentially including modal filters or other techniques to create low traffic neighbourhoods. Bus permeability and associated facilities should be incorporated into development proposals where they support the public transport network as a whole, and suitable pedestrian facilities must be provided for people of all abilities to access bus services, either on or off-site. Shared mobility opportunities will need to be should be explored and accommodated, with the aim of reducing car ownership whilst also maintaining personal mobility.

593d. Developments will be required to connect into surrounding infrastructure and contribute to new and improved walking, cycling and public transport facilities. Sustainable transport facilities will be required to be put in place as early as possible to ensure that opportunities for sustainable transport are available to support early occupiers in establishing sustainable travel patterns. Formulation of transport strategies for developments will be expected to use the "Decide and Provide" methodology, identifying desirable sustainable travel patterns and providing the opportunities to enable them to be achieved. Sustainable transport measures will be promoted and prioritised ahead of increases to traffic capacity, which will only be accepted once sustainable transport opportunities have been exhausted or where there is a significant risk to safety.

593e. The rise in e-commerce has resulted in an increase in the movement of light goods vehicles to homes. National data shows that vehicle mileage for vans has increased by 106% between 1990 and 2018, and increased from 9% to 16% of transport emissions over the same time period. Locally, it is estimated that there will be over 40% growth in goods traffic in Bath between 2013 and 2036. Reducing or removing multiple door-to-door vehicle trips from our residential streets, in favour of consolidation, can significantly contribute to our transport objectives and decarbonise last mile delivery of goods. Developments will be expected to contribute towards this objective, for example through the establishment of consolidation hubs providing centralised points for deliveries. Collection could then be done personally on foot or by bike, or through a centrally administered low carbon service such as using e-cargo bikes. Ten new e-cargo bikes have been introduced in Bath (November 2020) to help businesses make sustainable pollution-free deliveries following a successful B&NES bid to the Energy Savings Trust. B&NES will continue to support the introduction of low carbon measures for goods transport across the District.

593f. B&NES has produced area-specific transport strategies across the district. These strategies are tailored to addressing local issues and capitalising on local opportunities. At their heart, they each aim to create better places by reducing the negative impacts of traffic and provide improved facilities and create better conditions for sustainable modes of transport. Development proposals coming forward in these areas will be expected to support, and avoid prejudicing, the delivery of the relevant transport strategy and be in line with overarching transport plans and policies relevant at the time of application, including the current adopted Joint Local Transport Plan.

594. ~~One of the core principles of the NPPF is to ‘actively manage patterns of growth to make fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable.’ This principle will underpin the sustainable transport policies in this Plan.~~

595. ~~‘Getting Around Bath – A Transport Strategy for Bath’ was adopted in November 2014. Its principal objectives are:~~

- ~~— Supporting and enabling economic growth, competitiveness and jobs;~~
- ~~— Improving air quality and health, reducing vehicle carbon emissions;~~
- ~~— Promoting sustainable mobility;~~
- ~~— Widening travel choice;~~
- ~~— Widening access to opportunities: jobs/learning/training;~~
- ~~— Safeguarding and enhancing the unique historic environment and World Heritage Site status; and~~
- ~~— Improving the quality of life in the city.~~

596. ~~To complement the Bath Transport Strategy, further transport strategies are being progressed for other areas within B&NES, initially Keynsham. Transport Strategies for Somer Valley and Chew Valley are in development. The ‘Getting Around Keynsham – Transport Strategy’ has the following objectives:~~

- ~~— Minimising the future increase in traffic congestion;~~

	— Supporting and enabling the local economy; — Promoting sustainable mobility; — Widening travel choice; — Improving connections, particularly to improved rail services and the town centre; — Widening access to opportunities: jobs, learning, training, leisure and other local facilities; — Improving air quality and reducing vehicle carbon emissions; — Improving the quality of life for residents; — Ensuring that all traffic management and pedestrian schemes are designed to take mobility needs in to account; and — Maximising safety for all transport users. Policy aims - <u>Enable and achieve transformational mode</u> Enable a shift to more sustainable modes of transport - <u>Ensure that sustainability is embedded into the location, design and planning of new developments</u> - Need to identify and safeguard routes crucial to widen transport choice and support major new development - Need to provide safe sustainable transport <u>facilities and</u> routes - Promote walking and cycling to promote improve health and wellbeing - Improve accessibility for people of all ages and mobility and sensory abilities - <u>Reduce transport impacts of goods delivery, particularly e-commerce, through enabling low carbon last mile delivery solutions.</u> 597. The NPPF recognises the key role transport policies have in facilitating low carbon sustainable development and contributing to wider <u>environmental sustainability</u> and health objectives by supporting and promoting sustainable transport modes, so that people <u>have a realistic choice over how they can choose how they travel.</u> It also acknowledges that different place specific policy solutions and measures may be required. 598. The vision for the Joint Local Transport Plan 4 3 (JLTP4 3) is <u>“Connecting people and places for a vibrant, inclusive and carbon neutral West of England.” Transport is crucial to supporting economic growth, but the choices that we make in how it is planned and delivered will determine whether that is achieved sustainably and inclusively, and whether it addresses or exacerbates climate change and poor air quality.</u> To seek an affordable, low carbon, accessible, integrated, efficient and reliable transport network to achieve a more competitive economy and better connected, more active and healthy communities by 2026. 599. Policy ST1 seeks to help achieve these aims and objectives by setting out the key principles which should be addressed when <u>locating, planning and designing a development. The application of the policy will be sensitive and appropriate to the context of the site location and type of development proposed.</u>
Policy ST1	POLICY ST1: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL <u>AND HEALTHY STREET</u> In order to ensure delivery of well-connected places accessible by sustainable means of transport, planning permission will be permitted provided the following principles are addressed, <u>appropriate to the context and type of development and within the requirements of the NPPF:</u>

	1) <u>Development is located where there are, or will be at the time of development, a range of realistic travel opportunities to provide genuine alternatives to private car usage and where opportunities to reduce travel distances exist;</u> 2) <u>The design of the development reduces car dependency and actively supports travel by sustainable modes, including providing attractive sustainable travel connections;</u> Reduce dependency on the private car; 3) Reduce The growth and the overall level of traffic and congestion <u>are reduced</u> by measures which encourage movement by public transport, bicycle and on foot, including traffic management and assisting the integration of all forms of transport; 4) <u>Mitigation for traffic impacts maximises opportunities to achieve mode shift towards sustainable transport modes before proposing traffic capacity enhancements;</u> 5) <u>Transport proposals align with relevant area-specific transport strategies, plans, policy documents, local guidance and the current adopted Joint Local Transport Plan;</u> 6) <u>Proposals</u> provide and enhance facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and the mobility impaired, <u>including disabled people,</u> including segregated provision that is fit for purpose and in line with the B&NES Walking and Cycling SPD; 7) <u>Proposals</u> safeguard, enhance and extend the network of public rights of way and cycle routes; 8) <u>Opportunities for low-carbon, last mile transport of goods and deliveries have been taken up which are appropriate to the location and scale of the development;</u> 9) <u>The development reduces the adverse impact of all forms of travel on the natural and built environment;</u> reduce the adverse impact of all forms of travel on the natural and built environment; 10) <u>Development does not prejudice the efficient functioning and acceptable development of the railway network;</u> ensure development does not prejudice the efficient functioning and acceptable development of the railway network; 11) <u>The use of car clubs and Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) electric cars are promoted;</u> promote the use of car clubs and Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) 12) <u>Ensure Access to high quality public transport facilities is achieved by improving existing and providing new public transport facilities which would increase the proportion of journeys made by public transport; and</u> 13) <u>Proposals</u> support and promote measures which reduce the levels of traffic pollution in the interests of improving health and quality of life and reducing harmful impacts on the built and natural environment. 14) schemes should safeguard affected heritage assets and the historic environment.
Paras 600 – 601.	<u>Safeguarded</u> Sustainable Transport Routes 600. B&NES Council and Sustrans have carried out a wide ranging review of cycle routes and developed a number of cycle proposals for Chew Valley, Keynsham, Midsomer Norton, Radstock and Bath. <u>B&NES Council has worked with the West of England Authorities, WECA and stakeholder groups to produce a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the West of England Region. This uses DfT methodology to identify and prioritise improvements which will bring about the greatest increases in walking and cycling. The LCWIP is a key element in our plans to achieve significant improvements in our active travel network to make cycling and walking the natural choice for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journey. It sets out specific priority locations where we are seeking to improve our active travel network. The LCWIP is the next step in the WoE's ambitious plans to improve the walking and cycling environment, making it accessible for all users, including those with mobility aids, kick-scooter and adapted cycles, whilst future proofing for new modes such as electric scooters and other forms of sustainable, individual transport modes.</u>

	<u>600a. Our plans and ambitions for walking and cycling are not limited to the WoE LCWIP. Through our place-based transport strategies, other transport planning workstreams and the development management process, we will seek to deliver rural routes, both short distance within villages and longer routes, as well as additional urban routes.</u> 601. There are sections of safeguarded former railway land not included in Sustrans' recommended cycle routes, and whilst further work needs to be undertaken in the context of the Sustrans review, the Council will continue to give policy protection to these. This will include the line of the sustainable transport link from the Newbridge area to Bath city centre serving the Bath City Riverside Enterprise Area. Land safeguarded for Sustainable Transport purposes is shown on the Policies Map. <u>This will include the line of the sustainable transport link from the Newbridge area to Bath city centre serving the Bath City Riverside Enterprise Zone. Land safeguarded for Sustainable Transport purposes is shown on the Policies Map.</u>
Policy ST2	POLICY ST2: SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT ROUTES Development which prejudices the use of <u>safeguarded land</u> including former railway land for sustainable transport purposes as shown on the Policies Map will not be permitted.
Paras 602-605a	<u>Active Travel Routes</u> <u>Recreational Routes</u> 602. National planning policy promotes the protection and enhancement of public rights of way (PROW) and access including making links to existing rights of way networks. Bath and North East Somerset has an extensive network of PROW including a number of long distance and circular routes which form an integral part of the overall leisure and recreational provision. <u>The Council recognises the importance of this network in terms of facilitating active lifestyles, providing access to the countryside, and supporting the health and wellbeing of our population. Given the contribution these routes make to our overall objectives, these routes should be seen as an integral part of our transport network, and not of secondary importance compared with traditional residential to employment routes. Opportunities to enhance this network in terms of quality, connectivity and functionality should be capitalised on.</u> 603. The Council aims to develop a safe, convenient, efficient transport infrastructure which encourages and facilitates walking and cycling, and which minimises reliance on, and discourages unnecessary use of, private cars, especially for local trips. This will help increase the role of walking and cycling as key transport modes and to assist in reducing the use of private cars, by raising the status of walking and cycling and promoting them as safe and healthy means of transport. 604. This accords with <u>the current adopted JLTP which will provide the means to enable active travel to be the preferred choice for shorter journeys, and 'Getting Around Bath – A Transport Strategy for Bath', which identifies that walking is the highest modal priority in the transport strategy.</u> 605. Policy ST2A seeks to ensure that any publicly accessible routes are not adversely affected by development proposals <u>and that opportunities to enhance the active travel route network are taken up.</u> Where an active travel recreational route follows the line of a former railway, its course is protected as a sustainable transport route. <u>605a. The Bath River line is a key green infrastructure project in Bath and will provide a high-quality walking and cycling route from Newbridge to</u>

	<u>Batheaston. The route is approximately 10km in length and will connect communities along the length of the river, enabling more people to explore the city in a healthy and sustainable way. The western section of the Bath River Line will run alongside the River Avon, following the same route as the existing towpath/ path, from Newbridge to Pulteney Bridge. The exact route of the Bath River Line in the east, from Pulteney Bridge to Batheaston, is still to be determined. Following the transfer of Bathampton Meadows to the National Trust, Bath and North East Somerset Council will work together with the National Trust and the community to develop a vision and route options for this section of the Bath River Line.</u>
Policy ST2A	POLICY ST2A: <u>Active Travel Routes</u> RECREATIONAL ROUTES 1. Development which adversely affects the recreational and amenity value of, or access to, public rights of way and other publicly accessible routes for walking, cycling and riding will not be permitted, unless any harm can be successfully mitigated. 2. A development proposal affecting a publicly accessible recreational <u>active travel</u> route will be expected to maintain and/or incorporate the route within the scheme, <u>provide appropriate enhancements to the route in line with guidance set out in the Walking and Cycling SPD</u>, and depending on the location, the Council will seek to negotiate the provision of <u>support</u> additional linkages between urban areas and the wider countryside, open spaces and the River or Canal. <u>Opportunities to make and enhance strategic connections between, and within, urban areas and other key origins/destinations, utilising these routes, should be investigated and implemented wherever feasible.</u> 3. Development that adversely impacts on the established cycle <u>active travel</u> routes shown on the Policies Map will not be permitted, unless any harm can be successfully mitigated.
Paras 606 – 611.	Transport infrastructure 606. The Core Strategy highlights the need to carry out transport and access improvements and to secure the necessary capital infrastructure projects to enable the increase in housing numbers and jobs to be delivered. Core Strategy Policy CP13 also required the new development is supported <u>by the timely delivery</u> of physical infrastructure necessary to support that development. <u>We require sustainable travel opportunities to be available for the first occupiers of new developments.</u> 607. The Council inherited a number of highway improvement schemes from the former Avon County Council. The only former scheme being pursued is the improvement of the Lower Bristol Road (A36) east of Fieldings Road to Churchill Bridge, which now includes the Pines Way gyratory as shown on the Policies Map. This route is safeguarded to provide for future improvements to bus priority, cycle and pedestrian facilities, and public realm enhancements. The principles listed in Policy ST3 will be expected to apply to the implementation of the scheme. <u>The Council is working with neighbouring authorities and WECA to develop a significant number of transport infrastructure schemes as set out in the current adopted JLTP, designed to achieve a step change in uptake of sustainable travel. Further, the place-based Transport Strategies provide mechanisms for bringing forward transport infrastructure and other measures to improve accessibility in those areas.</u> 608. The Council recognises the need for further studies to assess <u>and design a number of the schemes set out in the current adopted JLTP. Mass Transit proposals are being developed for the A4 Bath to Bristol corridor. At Saltford, we will fully assess options to provide bus priority before a decision on a bypass is made. We will also explore the possibility of introducing Mass Transit in Bath to help provide clean, efficient transport for those living, working and visiting the city whilst also meeting the future growth and transport needs of the City.</u> The A4 Saltford bypass, and

	an east of Bath link designed to remove through traffic. The Keynsham Transport Strategy recognised the need to provide an alternative route for traffic seeking to travel between the A4 and the A37. BANES will work with Bristol and South Gloucestershire to develop a solution to this issue. <u>608a. Transport infrastructure encompasses how we use and manage our existing infrastructure, including how we allocate space on our transport network. Interventions designed to amend our existing infrastructure to improve conditions for vulnerable road users and support active travel and public transport will be investigated and progressed. This will include both physical provision of improved infrastructure for these users, and measures which reduce traffic volumes and speeds in inappropriate areas to make our environment conducive to walking and cycling. Our Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy sets out how we create better place in this way.</u> Development of transport infrastructure 609. As with other development wWell planned solutions are paramount in the design of transport infrastructure proposals. Core Strategy Policy CP6(1) requires high quality and inclusive design of schemes, including transport infrastructure, which reinforces and contributes to its specific local context, creating attractive, inspiring and safe places. 610. The Council aims to give as much attention as possible to the details of both public and private proposals. There will also be a rigorous assessment of the need for the scheme, <u>the issues the scheme is designed to address, and the choices made in the type of scheme being proposed. Wherever possible, transport infrastructure will be designed to achieve mode shift away from private car usage, to address congestion by reducing traffic demand rather than increasing capacity as the default approach. Any traffic capacity schemes will need to incorporate commensurate improvements for sustainable modes and not prejudice the condition of highway safety, particularly for vulnerable road users.</u> 611. Policy ST3 seeks to ensure that transport infrastructure is designed to the highest standards possible. 'Getting Around Bath – A Transport Strategy for Bath' highlights that consideration for the needs of <u>disabled</u> people with mobility impairments is regarded as a core element of the strategy. This is reflected in Policy ST3.
Policy ST3	POLICY ST3: TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE Within the context of Core Strategy Policy CP6(1) the development of transport infrastructure will only be permitted provided that the following requirements have been met: <u>1) The need for intervention has been robustly justified and decisions in relation to the planning and design of the scheme have been made in line with the sustainable transport hierarchy, promoting the use of sustainable modes;</u> <u>2) The needs of pedestrians, disabled people cyclists and horseriders are met;</u> - The quality, patronage and efficiency of public transport operations must not be compromised; <u>4) Schemes which propose increases in traffic capacity will need to demonstrate that all other can be justified in terms of whether opportunities to achieve mode shift as an alternative solution have been exhausted;</u> <u>5) Schemes which propose increases in traffic capacity will also be required to incorporate commensurate improvements to the sustainable transport network;</u> - The environmental benefits to be secured through implementation of the scheme and any additional traffic management or calming measures needed to maximise those benefits should be clearly articulated;

	7) There is no unacceptable impact on heritage and environmental assets and amenity including the World Heritage Site and its setting, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Natura 2000 sites (SACs/SPA); 8) The visual and functional impact of the scheme and any associated elements such as surface-treatment, street furniture, signing, road markings, roadside verges and lighting upon the character of the area is minimised; 9) The environmental impact of the scheme, such as from noise and other forms of pollution, on surrounding land uses from traffic likely to be generated by the proposal is minimised and of an acceptable level in accordance with relevant topic-specific environmental guidance and standards; 10) The need for provision in appropriate cases of street furniture which aids security of premises without adversely affecting mobility pedestrian circulation; 11) The needs of pedestrians including those with impaired mobility, cyclists and horseriders are met; 12) The environmental benefits to be secured through implementation of the scheme and any additional traffic management or calming measures needed to maximise these benefits should be clearly articulated; 13) The quality, patronage and efficiency of public transport operations must not be compromised; 14) The response time of emergency services must not be compromised; and 15) The acceptable provision for the transportation of materials to and from the site or disposal of spoil during construction. All highway infrastructure will be required to comply with national guidance and standards set out in 'Manual for Streets', 'Manual for Streets 2 – wider application of the principles', LTN1/20, the 'Design Manual for Roads and Bridges' and any subsequent updates to these documents.
Paras 613- 616.	Rail Station at Saltford 613. The opportunity for re-opening a station at Saltford has arisen from work undertaken by the West of England on the MetroWest Project. <u>MetroWest is a significant rail infrastructure programme that will dramatically increase rail travel in the region, connect more people to the rail network and improve air quality.</u> This will provide an additional train service between Bath and Bristol each hour (in both directions) and the potential for an additional station as well. 614. A public consultation on the three potential options for the proposed station was completed in 2013 and the results considered by Cabinet in 2014 when it was agreed that, before deciding to progress to the next stage of Network Rail's Governance for Railway Investment Projects (GRIP) process, further work should be undertaken to see if there were a location for a station which would have additional parking and better access from the A4. In addition confirmation that the new rail timetable could accommodate the station at Saltford is still needed. <u>In October 2019, the Council declared its support for a new Station at Saltford. Saltford is included in JLTP4 as a potential new station for consideration due to the recognition of its potential role to play in tackling existing and future transport challenges, and would be delivered in the period 2030-2045. A key challenge in delivering a new Station at Saltford is the network capacity issues on the railway line between Bath and Bristol, and therefore the ability to identify capacity to stop trains at a new station. However, the Greater Bristol Area Rail Feasibility Study (GBARFS) found that the new infrastructure required to deliver enhanced MetroWest services on the Bristol to Bath Spa line could provide the additional capacity required to enable additional stops at Saltford.</u> 615. <u>In order to progress a station at Saltford, it will be necessary to work through Network Rail's Governance for Railway Investment Projects (GRIP) process, and undertake Strategic and Outline Business Cases.</u> No timescale has currently been <u>confirmed</u> set for the delivery of the project, <u>albeit it is likely that scheme development will be in the period 2020-2030, for delivery 2030-2045;</u> however progress is dependent on the successful completion of Phase 1 of the MetroWest project, <u>the Development Consent Order Examination for which is due to conclude in 2021.</u>

	which is due for completion in 2019. 616. The next step will be to consider and identify a preferred option/site for the new station, which will require an estimated 200 parking spaces in order to be viable. However, it may need to be addressed as part of any future Local Plan review.
Paras 617-617a	Traffic management proposals 617. The Core Strategy highlights that <i>'improvements to parts of the District's historic settlements will become possible by reducing the volume of traffic using historic streets and spaces.'</i> It supports the management of the highway network, particularly in local centres, residential areas, places of higher pedestrian footfall and/or areas of historic significance. This also helps with the creation of high quality public realm and better, <u>more inclusive, healthier</u> places, and is an approach reflected in the Council's Public Realm and Movement Strategy. <u>617a. Our Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy has been developed to breathe new life into residential areas by reducing the dominance of vehicles and rethinking how road space is used. The intention is to reduce overall traffic volumes, rather than displacing traffic onto alternative routes. Liveable neighbourhoods promote and prioritise walking, cycling and public realm movements without disadvantaging people with mobility restrictions. The focus is in enhancing community, health and wellbeing through the introduction of high quality, attractive, outdoor space, achieved by rebalancing space currently used for vehicles. Importantly, changes can be made on a trial basis to allow effective consultation on the effects of interventions.</u>
Policy ST5	POLICY ST5: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS With reference to the principles in Policy ST3, traffic management proposals for the centres of Bath, Keynsham , Midsomer Norton, Radstock, Westfield and Peasedown St John will be expected to: 1 discourage reduce through traffic and other unnecessary motorised vehicle <u>journeys</u> from the main shopping streets; - enhance vitality and viability; - secure improvements for pedestrians, cyclists <u>and disabled people</u> - facilitate the improvement of public transport integration; - ensure the needs of all road users are taken into account and the servicing needs of commercial, cultural, recreational and residential activities are met; - improve air quality; and be designed to respect local distinctiveness and not detract from the quality of the historic, environmental and cultural assets Traffic Management schemes in residential areas <u>will be expected</u> should aim to: 1) Reduce the speed of traffic and to remove reduce discourage through traffic from using unsuitable routes, <u>whilst maintaining</u> allowing access for only those who need it; 2) <u>Create attractive places to enhance the sense of community and improve health and wellbeing through re-balancing space towards people and away from vehicles;</u> 3) <u>Achieve mode shift through discouraging short car journeys and prioritising walking and cycling;</u> 4) <u>Support disabled people and others with restricted mobility;</u> 5) <u>Reduce on-street non-residential parking and provide opportunities for EV charging, car clubs, social spaces and improved walking and cycling routes;</u> and

	6) <u>Retain vehicular access for residents and businesses; and</u> The implementation of schemes on a trial basis will be supported as this can be a useful tool in enabling changes to be made in consultation with the council and community.
New paras 618a-618c. Paras 619-621	<u>Interchange Hubs Park & Ride</u> <u>618a. Our transport network facilitates people moving around the district, and many of these journeys are, or could be, made via a number of different types of transport. The ability for people to change between modes is integral to improve the efficiency of the system, and can be an important factor in reducing car usage for whole journeys where a viable, realistic sustainable alternative exists for part of the journey. The traditional form of “interchange” is the Park & Ride (P&R). Traditional P&R services which are serviced by a high frequency, direct dedicated bus service, have been used successfully to intercept car trips into the historic centre of Bath, and enable us to release road space in central areas for walking, cycling and public transport. P&R continues to play a key role in our transport system, but we need to broaden its scope to reflect modern transport ambitions.</u> <u>618b. There is a great potential for the function of our traditional “Park and Ride” services, at existing and new facilities, to be expanded to “Interchange Hubs.” Such sites would enable interchange between a range of modes and in a range of directions, rather than solely moving people from their car to the bus and the periphery to the city centre. Facilities could include safe and secure cycle parking, electric bike hire and charging, micro mobility such as e-scooters, walking infrastructure and wayfinding, electric vehicle charging, last mile freight consolidation, coach parking and interchange with a range of public transport services including the integration of local bus services. Complementary uses, such as renewable energy generation and community uses will be considered and supported, subject to impact assessment. The Council will also investigate opportunities for providing formalised off-street parking on key bus corridors, and Park and Share facilities, to support bus use and car sharing in order to reduce car trips into Bath whilst better managing impacts in local areas where these activities are known to occur.</u> <u>618c. Interchange does not need to be limited to large scale, edge of city expanses, but can also include smaller, more local, mobility hubs. Such hubs can be tailored to meet the need of the locality and include a mix of transport opportunities relevant to the travel demand of the place.</u> 619. The Council proposes to <u>build on the success</u> expand the provision of Park and Ride facilities serving Bath as part of a wider strategy promoting <u>sustainable</u> means of transport <u>across the district</u> and reducing the impact of vehicles in the city and in particular its historic core. <u>This includes seeking to increase opportunities to transfer car trips into urban centres onto sustainable alternatives, and to support multi-modal travel through facilitating interchange hubs.</u> Enhanced <u>interchange</u> Park & Ride provision will help <u>maintain existing public transport provision</u> to remove a variety of vehicular trips from the city arising from both existing pressures and those associated with growth generated by the Enterprise Zone. In addition to the Park & Ride improvements already implemented through the Bath Transport Package <u>we will seek to enhance</u> the existing Park & Ride sites at Newbridge, Odd Down and Lansdown <u>though expansion and increased interchange functionality</u> are likely to need further expansion and a new Park & Ride site to the East of Bath provided to improve access from that side of the city. <u>Data shows that many trips into Bath originate in the east and some motorists choose to use the facilities at Odd Down and Lansdown in the absence of a facility to the east. B&NES will continue to work towards identifying and developing innovative solutions to increase existing levels of sustainable transport options</u> intercept trips into Bath from the east. 620. An independent review of potential sites for a Park and Ride facility was carried out in 2013. The Council has also consulted with the public to help identify the most appropriate location. No final decision has been made on a preferred site. The general area under consideration is indicated on the Bath

	Spatial Strategy diagram for reference. In addition, the strategy diagram also indicates the locations for the future expansion of existing Park & Ride sites. 621. Policy ST6 will be used to assess future interchange hub Park & Ride schemes, including both extensions to existing Park & Ride sites, and potential new facilities to intercept traffic heading into our historic centres, and hubs supporting multi-modal travel a new facility to the East of Bath. All proposals for Interchange Hubs should be thoroughly evaluated to ensure that the most suitable and sustainable locations are selected. As with all development the need for and benefits of extending existing sites and/or developing a new facility facilities will need to be considered in the planning balance, including thorough assessment of environmental impact and other planning factors such as weighed against the harm to environmental assets and, where relevant, the Green Belt. It is proposed required that the criteria in Policy ST6 guide all development relating to Interchange Hubs, including existing Park & Ride site development to ensure a consistency of approach. In order to facilitate the provision of Interchange Hubs on the existing Bath Park & Ride sites it is proposed that they be removed from the Green Belt (subject to the demonstration of the necessary exceptional circumstances) and an allocation policy is set out in the Bath section (volume 2) of the Plan setting out site specific development requirements.
Policy ST6	POLICY ST6: <u>Transport Interchange</u> PARK AND RIDE Development of new or expansion of existing <u>Transport Interchange sites, including</u> Park and Ride, sites will be permitted provided: 1) <u>Opportunities to enhance the transport benefits of proposed schemes to incorporate wider interchange functionality have been fully assessed and incorporated into proposals;</u> 2) <u>Proposed site(s) have been thoroughly evaluated with a robust evidence base demonstrating that the most suitable and sustainable site has been selected;</u> 3) <u>Transport effects of the proposed development have been comprehensively and robustly identified through a Transport Assessment in line with current national guidance. This will include, but not be limited to:</u> a. <u>Benefits related to reductions in onward city centre car travel;</u> b. <u>Potential level of mode shift away from other transport modes, especially existing local bus and rail services;</u> c. <u>Changes to the overall modal share;</u> d. <u>Future viability of public transport services, including those that will experience loss of patronage as a result of the new facility; and</u> e. <u>Any mitigation measures required to address any negative impacts.</u> 4) Provision is made for the needs of those with impaired mobility disabled people and for the safety and security of all users; 5) <u>The development accords with all relevant planning and environmental policies, such as those relating to the WHS, AONB, European Sites, Green Belt and any other special designations and protections as may be affected by development proposals. It must be robustly demonstrated that potential impacts can be successfully mitigated and the degree of public benefit outweighs the level of harm to any such assets; and</u> 6) <u>The development does not result in unacceptable environmental impacts in line with relevant local, regional and national planning policies and regulations when weighed against the benefits of scheme proposals. In this regard it should be noted that the Odd Down site meets the criteria for SNCI designation and supports a colony of Small Blue butterflies. The key site development requirements are set out in the site allocation development requirements.</u>

	<u>Applicants will also be required to demonstrate that the scheme complies with all other relevant national and local planning policies that affect the site and its location.</u>
	Development management, transport, access and parking 625. Developers are required to submit sufficient information to enable the Council to assess these matters, and to demonstrate that any traffic reduction targets or initiatives aimed at promoting public transport, cycling and walking set out in <u>JLTP4 or any of the area-specific Transport Strategies</u> the Local Transport Plan will not be jeopardised by their proposals. <u>Development proposals will be expected to positively contribute towards the delivery of these plans or strategies.</u> 626. National planning policy requires that all developments that generate significant amounts of movement should be supported by a Transport Statement or Transport Assessment. Plans and decisions should take account of whether: — the opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure; — safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all people; and - improvements can be undertaken within the transport network that cost effectively limit the significant impacts of the development. - <u>Appropriate opportunities for sustainable transport modes can be- or have been-taken up, given the type of development and its location;</u> - <u>Safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users; and</u> - <u>Any significant impacts from the development. On the transport network (in terms of capacity or congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree.</u> Development should only be prevented or refused on transport grounds where the residual cumulative impacts of development are severe. 627. Developments should also make a positive contribution towards the achievement of the Council's <u>ambitious</u> traffic reduction targets. This can be achieved through, for example: - development being located and designed in such a way that it seeks to discourage car use and encourages travel by other modes. - occupier(s) of the development seeking to secure changes in the travel behaviour of employees, clients or other visitors by drawing up a workplace or school travel plan to be submitted to the Council for approval very often as a Planning Obligation. These Plans do not have to be associated with development and can be phased to take account of planned improvements in public transport for example. - Developers of <u>residential schemes providing proportionate measures to encourage occupants to travel sustainably, including</u> smaller scale residential schemes providing 'Welcome Packs' <u>setting out sustainable travel options</u> to encourage occupants to travel sustainably - Development <u>directly delivering measures and/or</u> making a financial contribution towards the implementation of the Council's transport strategies. Such contributions will be tailored as far as possible according to the nature and location of the development. <u>Where developments are assessed as having an unacceptable impact on the local highway network, including in terms of capacity, safety or amenity, developers will be</u>

	<u>expected to identify and assess appropriate mitigation, agree said mitigation and its delivery mechanism with the Highway Authority, and comply with relevant planning conditions and obligations relating to its delivery. Mitigation proposals will be expected to maximise opportunities to achieve mode shift away from the private car before proposing any traffic capacity enhancements.</u> 628. More detailed information on travel plans, transport assessments and statements in decision-taking can be found in the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. <u>Additionally, B&NES Council has developed a Travel Plan SPD. This sets out the requirement for development to provide robust Travel Plans and details the Council's expectations on the content of such plans. This will include development thresholds at which different level of Travel Plan are required, types of sustainable transport measures which will be expected, targets and monitoring and evaluation targets. Each Travel Plan will need to be tailored to the specific development and the location context in order to ensure that the optimal package of measures is provided to enable future users of the development to travel sustainably. The SPD is intended to support developers, site owners and operators in producing Travel Plans, and ensure that Travel Plans secured through the planning process are of a consistently high standard to help us achieve our ambitious traffic reduction targets.</u> 629. Policy ST7, <u>in conjunction with relevant SPDs including the Parking SPD and upcoming Travel Plan SPD</u> sets out the policy framework for considering the requirements and implications of development for the highway, transport systems and their users. This will ensure that the direct and indirect impacts of schemes are properly assessed.
	POLICY ST7 TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR MANAGING DEVELOPMENT 1) Development will be permitted providing the following provisions are met: a. <u>Users of the development benefit from genuine choice in their mode of travel through opportunities to travel by sustainable modes;</u> b. Highway safety is not prejudiced; c. Safe and convenient access to and within the site for pedestrians, cyclists and those with a mobility impairment is provided or enhanced. <u>Walking and cycling assessment and facilities are provided in line with the Walking and Cycling SPD, including safe, convenient and inclusive access to and within the site for pedestrians and cyclists;</u> d. Suitable Vehicular access <u>is both safe and suitable;</u> e. No introduction to traffic of excessive volume, size or weight onto an unsuitable road system or into an environmentally sensitive area; f. No traffic mitigation measures are required that would harm the historic or natural environment; g. Provision <u>is</u> made for any improvements to the transport system required to render the development proposal acceptable. <u>Improvement requirements will maximise opportunities to travel by sustainable modes;</u> h. <u>Necessary</u> no traffic <u>mitigation measures can be delivered without unacceptable harm to the</u> are required that would harm the <u>historic or natural environment;</u> and 2) In the case of new development proposals, facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles will be sought <u>in line with the Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle SPD.</u> 3) Transport assessments/statements & Travel Plans a. Planning applications for developments that generate significant levels of movement should be accompanied by a transport assessment or transport statement in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. Schemes will be expected to be

	tested through transport the Council's modelling, as necessary. b. Travel Plans will be expected to be provided in line with the Travel Planning SPD. 4) <u>Car and cycle parking provision and design must contribute to the aims of the Climate and Ecological Emergency, support creating better and healthier places, and be appropriate to the context of the development. Parking needs to be provided at a level appropriate to reduce the convenience of unnecessary car usage and make sustainable transport a more attractive choice. Parking provision must support good urban design and placemaking through minimising the proportion of space allocated to vehicle storage and usage, and reducing car dominance on our natural and built environment. Proposals must avoid contributing to haphazard, informal or inconsiderate parking behaviours and their associated effects, including through ensuring suitable parking controls and management, availability of alternative travel options including car clubs, and ensuring sufficient parking provision to meet residual demand. There should be no increase in on-street parking in the vicinity of the site which would affect highway safety and/or the operational function of the local highway network in terms of emergency access, refuse collection, goods delivery and accessibility. Detailed parking policy guidance and parking standards for all forms of development are set out in the Transport and Developments SPD.</u> Any reduction in minimum residential parking standards will require the completion of an accessibility assessment which will form the basis for any discount from the prescribed standard.
Para 630-632	630. Bath and North East Somerset's previous Local Plan (2007) set out the maximum car parking standards required for new development proposals reflecting previous national planning policy set out in PPG13 (Transport). The policy of restricting the level of parking provision particularly in new residential developments, has promoted less reliance on the motor vehicle and a move to more sustainable and healthy methods of travel, particularly for shorter journeys. 631. In January 2011, the Government announced the removal of national limits on residential parking. Local authorities are still able to set parking standards for their areas, but they should do so having regard to local circumstances and without trying to control car ownership. However the need to promote sustainable transport outcomes is not affected. 632. The NPPF <u>requires</u> reflects this approach to parking by referring to both residential and non-residential development, leaving it to local authorities to decide whether there is a need for parking standards, <u>for both residential and non-residential development</u> by advising: If setting local parking----
After para 633 New Paras	<u>633a.B&NES Council considers that clear and compelling justification exists to use parking standards as a policy tool to reduce the dominance of the motor vehicle on our built environment. Good parking policy can facilitate high quality and well-designed parking provision appropriate to the type and scale of development within the context and location. Parking restraint can encourage modal-shift to non-car alternatives. The 2017 Placemaking Plan included parking standards for cars, blue badge holders and cycles. B&NES Council has decided to review these parking standards in the light of the clear and compelling justification presented by the Climate Emergency and target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 to ensure that parking standards remain appropriate. As part of this review, parking standards are relocated from the PMP into a new Parking SPD. This provides the flexibility to allow B&NES Council to continually review and update the parking standards to ensure we are in line with current national policy and guidance and on target with regards the objectives of the authority's ies Climate Emergency.</u> <u>633b.The Council understands the variation on transport requirements and opportunities in different parts of the District and continues to ensure that the standards, and application of those standards, recognise these differences. Whilst reducing car usage overall remains the most important factor in</u>

	<u>achieving carbon neutrality, fleet transition towards ULEV and EV/hybrid vehicles is a key part of our decarbonisation strategy. The standards within the Parking SPD reflect this need to enable increased uptake of ULEV technology, without encouraging increased car use overall</u>
Pars 634-657	Parking Standards in Bath & North East Somerset Delete paras 634 – 657 and Diagrams 9 and 10
Para 658 - 659	Cycle Parking 658. Cycling is a key form of low carbon transport and is also part of a healthy lifestyle. The Council's policies and programmes facilitate the construction of cycle routes and cycling infrastructure throughout the area, <u>and this is required to be in accordance with LTN1/20 and the B&NES Walking and Cycling SPD.</u> However for cycling rates to increase, it is equally important that homes and workplaces have provision for people to easily and safely keep and store bicycles. 659. <u>Safe and accessible cycle parking at appropriate levels, that is prioritised over vehicle parking must</u> should be incorporated into the design of all developments <u>from the outset</u> (new, extensions or change of use). <u>Cycle parking standards for new development are included in the Parking SPD.</u> The numbers of stands required are expressed as minimum standards to reflect the sustainable nature of this mode of travel <u>and ensure that the quality and accessibility of cycle parking does not form a barrier to usage. Cycle policy within the Parking SPD also reflects the need to accommodate and encourage the use of adapted cycles, cargo bikes and e-bikes as these technologies enable cycling to be a viable mode choice for a greater range of trip types, routes and distances.</u> These are set out in Schedule 2— Parking Standards at the end of this volume.
	Residential Cycle Provision <u>Delete paras 660- 666</u>
Para 667 and new Para 667a.	Provision for people with disabilities 667. Many disabled people rely on cars for getting about. Whether they drive themselves or ride with someone else. The ease with which they can reach their destination is almost always determined by where the car can be parked. Parking standards for people with disabilities <u>are included in the Parking SPD</u> is provided in the Schedule 1 below. These standards conform with <u>relevant national</u> guidance including provided in the Department for Transport's Traffic Advisory Leaflet 05/95 'Parking for Disabled People', <u>'Inclusive Mobility' and BS 8300 'Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment'.</u> <u>667a.It should also be noted that many disabled people do not own a car, and inclusive mobility is embedded throughout Placemaking Plan Policy, not just in car parking policy. Some disabled people use adapted cycles for personal mobility, and the cycle parking standards in the Parking SPD reflect this and ensure that this mobility need is catered for. A transport network with reduced car dominance, where people feel safe and comfortable in public spaces, and with improved bus accessibility, all inherently support mobility for disabled people. Wider Policies designed to reduce car dominance of our public spaces aim to ensure inclusive mobility, whilst providing access for those who need a car due to disability.</u>

Schedule 1 and 2	Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 to be deleted.
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Local Plan Partial Update

Note: in the changes below additional text is underlined and deletions are shown as a ~~strike-through~~.

Volume 2 (Bath)

Para /Policy	Amendments
Policy B1	Amend housing figure to reflect updated supply from existing and additional allocations.
38	In enabling development the Placemaking Plan sets out a detailed planning and design framework for specific sites throughout the city. These will: • Set out a vision for the site. • Provide clear development and design principles as part of the policy framework for the determination of planning applications. • Resolve conflicting objectives in areas subject to development pressures • Protect environmental assets that are particularly sensitive to change • Help to stimulate development and enable the delivery of planned growth and economic potential • Act as a focus and a catalyst for key agencies and landowners to work together <u>For these allocated sites the plan must also be read as a whole as district-wide development management policies also apply to their development, including (but not limited to) policies relating to sustainable construction, biodiversity net gain, affordable housing and sustainable transport.</u>
106	The Core Strategy identifies strategic policy areas within the valley bottom of the River Avon. It sets out their roles, the scope and scale of change to be achieved and placemaking principles to shape change. The policy areas are: • The Central Area (comprising the City Centre, <u>Milsom Quarter</u>, South Quays and Western Riverside East) • Western Riverside, • Twerton and Newbridge Riverside • <u>Locksbrook Creative Industry Hub</u>
After 107	<u>107a The Milsom Quarter, within the Bath Central Area, (the area shown on the map/aerial photograph below) is a newly defined area. The area is in decline, shown by falling footfall and increasing vacancy rates, greater than other areas of the City Centre. Many upper floors are also currently underutilised or empty.</u> <u>107b The overarching ambition is to transform and re-imagine the future of Milsom Quarter, creating a more viable, vibrant & diverse part of the city with a greater balance in the mix of uses, activity and increased residential development, all combining to redefine the sense of community and increased local purpose. The Council wants to invest to improve the commercial offer, support increased footfall and usage of the Milsom Quarter area by both</u>

	<u>local people and visitors.</u> 107c <u>In the short-term the Council is focussing on a range of interventions which aim to stop the decline of Milsom Street, protect businesses and local jobs and give residents and visitors reasons to visit Milsom Street. Over the medium-term repurposing of retail space, increasing the mix and diversity of uses to include redevelopment of upper floors and meanwhile uses is planned. In the longer term there is a significant opportunity to transform Milsom Quarter with the Council already commencing a Commercial Estates Review.</u> 107d <u>In addition, the Council are also preparing an evidence-based Vision and Masterplan for Milsom Quarter to underpin the future redevelopment and regeneration of this area, working alongside the Top of the City Access and Movement Strategy. The masterplan considers the mix of uses and capacity that this area could support, creating a unique offer and a new identity for this quarter.</u>
Diagram 2	Add Locksbrook Industrial Hub
Policy B2	POLICY B2 CENTRAL AREA STRATEGIC POLICY 2. Placemaking Principles Risks to the Central Area Add the following <u>x: Parts of the Central Area in particular the Milsom Quarter, has underutilised space, falling footfall and increasing vacancy rates.</u> <u>3.key Development Opportunities</u> City Centre a: North of Pulteney Bridge <u>Milsom Quarter</u> (including Cornmarket, Cattlemarket, <u>Broad Street Car Park, King Edwards School</u>), Hilton Hotel, and The Podium). <u>4.Scope and Scale of Change</u> i: A cultural / performance / arts venue/ <u>museum</u>.
Para 114.	Located on a key route into and out of the city centre, the Cornmarket and the Cattlemarket site, and at some point in the future, the Hilton Hotel, provide significant opportunities to remodel the fabric of this area, providing a more engaging experience that seamlessly integrates the whole of Walcot Street into the city centre. river and street frontage and their key features are as follows: • Cornmarket: The two storey former Cornmarket Building is Grade II listed, and is a Building at Risk due to its poor structural condition. It is also vacant. See list description here. • Cattlemarket: This former cattle market has been used for decades as a surface level car park, and it continues to hold a market use on part of the site every

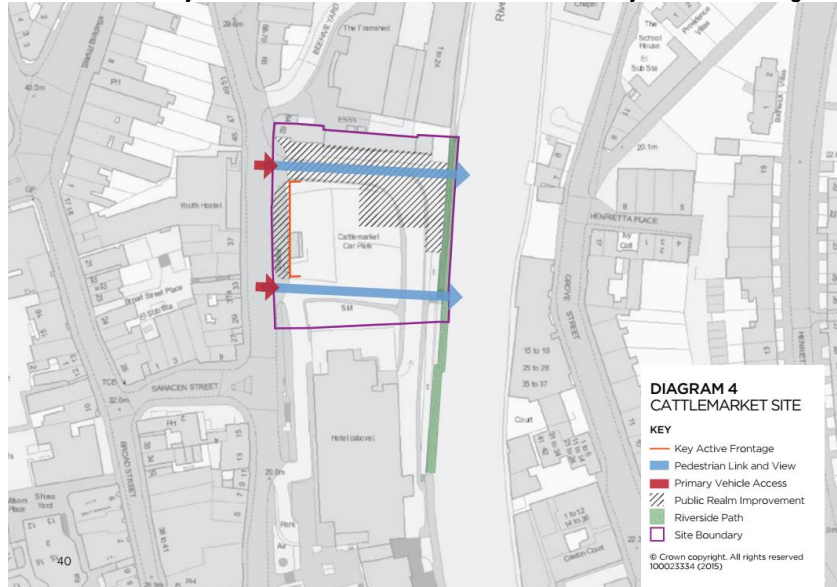
	Saturday. It is a complex and diverse site with river frontage, and historic vaults underneath a significant portion of the site which are used by bats, including species linked to the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bat SAC. The archaeology in this area is significant, and there are likely to be contamination and structural issues associated with redevelopment proposals. The site sits at a key ecological node, and is a key section of a dark habitat corridor. • Hilton Hotel: Despite being a very successful hotel, this is a building of poor aesthetic quality with a negative relationship to its context. Its redevelopment has been an aspiration for a considerable time, but its economic value as a successful hotel has worked against the viability of any proposed schemes. <u>Given its recent refurbishment it is very unlikely that it will be redeveloped in anything less than the longer term. Adjacent development proposals should not prejudice its eventual redevelopment.</u> The Council would support in principle a deliverable scheme that enables the redevelopment of the Hilton Hotel building and adjoining sites as this would have the potential to deliver increased retail and hotel floorspace, and replace the Hilton Hotel building. The Council's support is subject to an appropriate response to the character of the area, including as appropriate, the development requirements and design principles as set out below and compliance with other relevant development management policies.
Policy SB1	POLICY SB1: DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES Development across the whole site will be expected to: 1. Provide a fine-grained, mix of uses that reflect the diverse and varied nature of Walcot Street, containing units of varied size and tenure. This <u>should</u> is to comprise <u>a mixed of some of the following uses:</u> a. Retail space that reinforces the important character of Walcot Street; b. B1-workspace; c. A3 food and drink uses, including creating opportunities for outdoor tables and chairs; which may be particularly suited to the Cornmarket building and associated vault; d. A-residential <u>use</u> element, to include affordable housing; e. The retention of adequate and suitable space for use by a market, if viable; f. Other city centre uses that contribute to the rich mix of uses in the area; and/or g. <u>Public realm/open space.</u> It will not be acceptable for individual elements of the site to come forward where they may prejudice <u>the deliverability of the wider site.</u> this overall requirement for a mixed use development. <u>Given the history and complexity of the site, meanwhile and temporary uses will be strongly encouraged.</u> Purpose built student accommodation in this area is not acceptable as this would impede the delivery of other Council objectives. 2. Repair the broken street frontage of Walcot Street by re-establishing the historic building line. Behind the Walcot Street frontage, developers are invited to pProvide an engaging and varied architectural response that enhances the diverse built character and riverside setting of the area.

3. ~~Be designed so that the frontage building onto Walcot Street is flanked by two streets, one adjacent to the Cornmarket building, and the other adjacent to the Hilton Hotel. The latter should provide for revised~~ **Consider the potential for revised** egress from the Podium multi-storey car park, and if feasible, service access to and from Waitrose. ~~The streets will provide views of the river corridor and the hillsides beyond, and provide pedestrian access to the riverside walkway.~~
4. Undertake associated public realm works to Walcot Street and the public realm within the site in accordance with the Bath Pattern Book.
5. Respond to the important views related to the site and to the general character of the area. An analysis is therefore required to inform the height, massing and design of buildings.

The Bath Building Heights Strategy should be used as part of the evidence base and the starting point for this analysis. This identifies this site as being within zone 1 – the Georgian City, and recommends that for new development ‘the overall height should not be less than or exceed the overall prevailing height of nearby Georgian buildings.’ (Note that this is a recommendation for the general height only and is subject to modifiers). This Bath Building Heights Strategy will apply in particular to the frontage of this site, and the appropriate building heights elsewhere will be informed by the analysis described above.
6. Conserve and retain the whole of the Cornmarket Building, and provide a public space adjacent to it. This public space should relate to, and interact with the ground floor of the Cornmarket building and uses within, and have a positive but sensitive relationship with the vaults beneath part of the Cattlemarket Site, and with the river corridor.
7. Embrace the existing function of the vaults as a bat roost, and deliver imaginative and compatible re-use of the vaults.
8. ~~Demonstrably explore opportunities to facilitate the redevelopment or remodelling of the adjacent Hilton hotel building as well as adjoining sites, within a comprehensive redevelopment proposal. Should this be achieved then the retention of the existing number of hotel bedspaces as a minimum and additional retail floorspace within the wider site and as part of a mixed use scheme, will be required. The other Development Requirements and Design Principles here would also apply. Where there is evidence to robustly demonstrate that an appropriate form of mixed use redevelopment of the wider site (incorporating the Hilton Hotel and potentially the Podium) is deliverable Proposals that prejudice redevelopment of the wider site will be refused.~~
9. Restore and enhance the biodiversity value of the river and the river edge by retaining and enhancing the green edge to the riverside, and ensuring the provision of a dark corridor to the river to enhance conditions for bats.
10. Provide a riverside walkway that connects to the existing and adjacent riverside walkways. This will enable the provision of a continuous riverside walkway from Pulteney Bridge northwards. It will require sensitive and appropriate lighting solutions to retain the existing dark corridor.
11. Explore the potential of a new pedestrian and cycling bridge over the River Avon to provide additional choice of routes through the city which will be supported in principle.
12. Undertake a detailed historic environment assessment, and where necessary evaluation, in order to identify and implement appropriate mitigation.

Diagram 4

Cattlemarket site diagram to be updated to reflect policy changes above.
 *Remove Primary Vehicle Access, Pedestrian Link and Key Active Frontage.



Paras 153
 – 156

Western Riverside

Delete paragraphs 153 – 156, and replace with new supporting text as follows:

153. — The area formerly occupied by the Stothert and Pitt engineering company and adjoining land has been earmarked for a major programme of residential-led regeneration for a number of years. Western Riverside was first allocated for residential led development in Policy GDS.1/B1 of the Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan (October 2007). This policy was supported by a Master Plan Supplementary Document (March, 2008). This is a complex site that has, inter alia, required flood mitigation and remediation works to decommission and remove the Windsor Gas Holder Station. However, but significant planning development management and implementation progress has been made with the delivery of phase I commencing in December 2010. Much of the land is derelict or vacant but other parts are occupied. Not all areas within the Western Riverside zone may be regenerated during the Pan period e.g. part of the Lower Bristol Road frontage where there are car showrooms that are successfully trading and investing in their estate. However, should such land become available the strategy is to enable residential led redevelopment. The estimated housing potential of this area for the plan period is around 2,200. Bath Riverside, on land formally occupied by Stothert & Pitt — ‘Cranemakers to the World’ and various railway lines and associated infrastructure, has been transformed over the past ten years. The first phase of development on the main site has delivered over 800 new dwellings, provided new and refurbished bridges and enhanced public realm and open spaces. The second phase of development will offer a high-density urban form residential redevelopment to be delivered over the next ten-year period.

Extent of Western Riverside

154. — The Core Strategy Western Riverside policy area is a smaller area than that to which the 2007 Local Plan Policy (GDS.1/B1) and its accompanying SPD applies. It does not include the majority of the area referred to as Western Riverside East aside from the area to the north of the Homebase car park. Western Riverside East is now conceptualised as forming part of the Central Area because of the commercially led mixed use emphasis being sought for this area.

Western Riverside Policy Approach

155. — The spatial strategy retains the planning principles that have been established for this area within Policy GDS.1/B1 of the Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan (October 2007) and the 2008 Masterplan SPD. The principles of GDS.1/B1 are rolled forward into Placemaking Policy SB8. The 2008 Masterplan SPD will continue to give further guidance in respect of the implementation of this policy.

Context

156. — That part of the strategic policy area that has yet to be redeveloped is allocated for residential redevelopment and associated social infrastructure. Whilst much of the area benefits from outline or full planning permission (notably for majority of the land to the south of the river and the civic amenity site/ waster transfer station), the retention of a policy allocation will secure the strategy for this area. The extent of this area may change during the examination phase on Draft Plan and therefore need to evolve (contract) to reflect change on the ground. The estimated housing potential of the allocated area during the plan period is around 1,500 (after taking onto account what has been or is substantially under construction)

Context

152a. Bath Riverside, on land formally occupied by Stothert & Pitt – ‘Cranemakers to the World’ and various railway lines and associated infrastructure, has been transformed over the past ten years. The first phase of development on the main site has delivered over 800 new dwellings, provided new and refurbished bridges and enhanced public realm and open spaces.

The second phase of development will offer a high-density urban form residential redevelopment to be delivered over the next ten-year period, on various parcels of land making up the site allocation (see diagram 13).

152b. Western Riverside was first allocated for residential led development in Policy GDS.1/B1 of the Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan (October 2007). This policy was supported by a Master Plan Supplementary Document (March, 2008). The principles of GDS.1/B1 were rolled forward into Placemaking Policy SB8 in 2017, and the Master Plan Supplementary Planning Document continued to give further guidance in respect of the implementation of this policy. Adopted Site Allocation Policy SB8 has now been updated as part of the Local Plan Partial Update. The 2008 SPD continues to provide guidance on policy implementation.

Vision

152c. In addition to delivering the vision as set out in the adopted Bath Western Riverside Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), development will need

	<u>to deliver the Council's priorities with regards to the climate and ecological emergency. The adopted Site Allocation Policy SB8 has been updated to help to facilitate the appropriate development of the site, providing clarity and certainty on the development requirements and design expectations to help shape this next major phase of regeneration.</u> <u>152d. The second phase of the Bath Riverside development offers great potential to further deliver sustainable connections through the site and with the wider area to the benefit of the city. The route of the former railway line that runs through the site and westwards through the Newbridge Riverside Policy area to connect to the Bristol-Bath Railway Path (BBRP) is safeguarded as a Sustainable Transport Route. The delivery of this route through this site is a key requirement. It is also a requirement to provide a direct, well-aligned and high quality crossing over Windsor Bridge Road and to deliver an upgrade to the disused former railway bridge over the river to allow use by pedestrians and cyclists and to link the site with the BBRP.</u> <u>152e. The location of the site provides the opportunity to create a low-car environment. This must be supported by delivery of a wide range of high-quality sustainable transport choices, including alternatives to car ownership such as access to an Electric Car Club.</u>
SB8	Delete all development requirements for policy SB8 and replace with: <u>Development Requirements and Design Principles</u> <u>Development proposals will:</u> <u>1 Deliver residential development of around 1,750 dwellings across the whole site. Proposals for Purpose Built Student Accommodation shall not be permitted.</u> <u>2 Deliver a Primary School, an early years facility and a new community hub with communal facilities to promote healthy lifestyles and community cohesion.</u> <u>3 Development must provide a positive relationship with the adjacent public realm at ground floor level, and the number of main entrances into buildings must be maximised in order to create an active, human scale public realm. The provision of active building frontages, such as building entrances and commercial activity is required on the elevations fronting Lower Bristol Road, Upper Bristol Road, Windsor Bridge Road, the continuation of Stothert Avenue and to internal streets and spaces throughout the development area.</u> <u>4 New streets and spaces throughout the area are required to be implemented by the developer/s and are to be in accordance with the relevant typology as set out in the Bath Pattern Book.</u> <u>5 A comprehensive Transport Assessment will be required to assess the transport requirements of development proposals. This will need to include a traffic impact assessment modelling the effects of additional transport demand on the Upper Bristol Road and Lower Bristol Road corridors and additional locations to be agreed with the Local Highways Authority. Development is to provide comprehensive on and off site transport infrastructure including, but not limited to:</u>

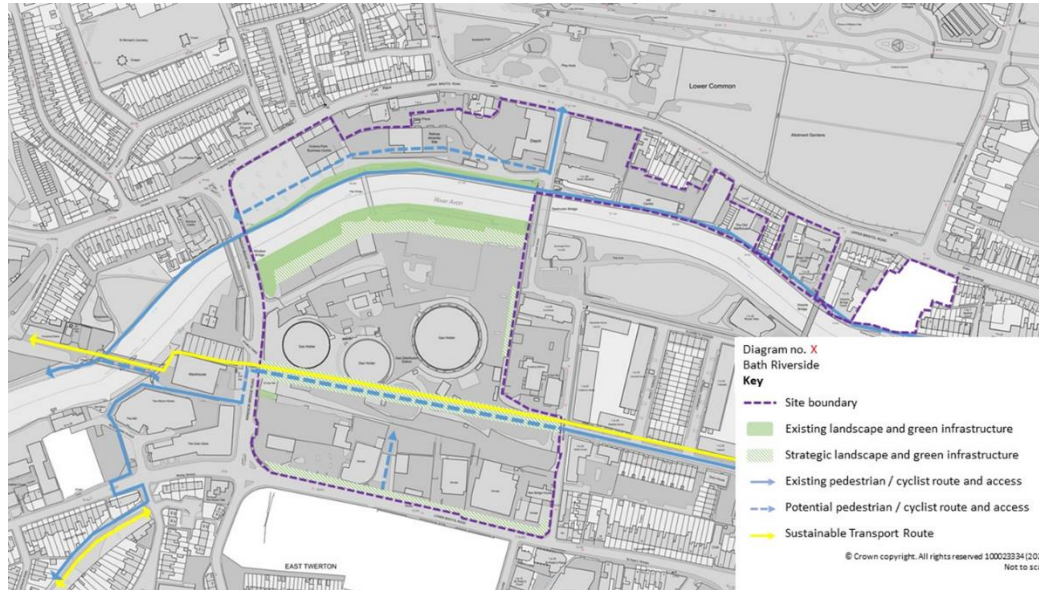
- a. A clear hierarchy of pedestrian and cycling routes throughout the site, providing good permeability across the site as a whole, and linking individual sites with the surrounding context.
- b. An integrated transport system and clear route network linking individual sites to each other and to the surrounding context.
- c. Low car development will be supported and must be accompanied by high quality sustainable transport alternatives to car usage and ownership, including providing access to electric car club vehicles.
- d. Provide a level of car parking consistent with the standards set out in the Council's Transport & Development SPD, with any departure from these standards robustly justified on the basis that proposals are an exemplar for sustainable travel.
- e. Deliver improvements to walking and cycling routes along and across Upper Bristol Road and Lower Bristol Road, connecting to existing infrastructure, and improving permeability through the development.
- f. Investigate and deliver opportunities to improve pedestrian and cycle facilities at the Windsor Bridge Road junctions with Upper Bristol Road and Lower Bristol Road
- g. Deliver the Sustainable Transport Route from east to west across the site. This is required to:
 - i. be designed to a high quality in accordance with Cycle Infrastructure Design Guidance LTN 1/20, with cycle routes segregated from pedestrians.
 - ii. integrate high quality green infrastructure, as part of the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.
 - iii. deliver a direct, well-aligned and high-quality pedestrian and cycle crossing over Windsor Bridge Road to connect to the former railway bridge over the river and to the Bath Riverside Site. Modelling will be required to demonstrate the effects of interaction between the crossing and adjacent junctions.
 - iv. deliver an upgrade to the disused former railway bridge over the river to allow use by pedestrians and cyclists. This is needed to link the site and the Bristol to Bath Railway Path (BBRP) further west of Windsor Bridge Road. Proposals will need to demonstrate pedestrian and cycle linkages between the bridge and the crossing over Windsor Bridge Road
 - v. Integrate with emerging Mass Transit proposals. Design of the route should support Mass Transit proposals as they emerge, which may involve direct usage of the route by the Mass Transit scheme.
 - vi. Accommodate bus services and be accompanied by a public transport routeing and service strategy which maximises available opportunities to provide bus priority and deliver attractive services for existing and future residents.
- 6 Retain and enhance green infrastructure and habitats along the riverside edge, providing a biodiversity led approach towards the treatment of this area. Built form shall be set back from the existing riverside habitat infrastructure by a buffer of at least 10 metres This buffer could be used for informal public open space but must retain a habitat function, a light shielding function, and improved access to the river for maintenance purposes. Built form must respond appropriately to this habitat buffer.
- 7 Deliver biodiversity net gain of at least 10% in accordance with Policy NE3a . Opportunities to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain within the site curtilage should be fully explored and tested before any off-site measures are proposed. If any off-site provision of biodiversity net gain is required, this should be provided along the Sustainable Transport Route, if practicable.
- 8 Provide a minimum of one nest or roost site per residential unit, in the form of integrated bird and bat boxes within new buildings, and/or as standalone

features within the public realm, such as bat walls and swift towers. Additional features such as log piles, insect hotels, bee bricks, hedgehog connectivity measures and green and brown roofs / walls are also required.

- 9 Where appropriate to the layout of development blocks, seek to retain and enhance existing hedgerows throughout the site, providing a 10m protective buffer of new grassland habitat for all retained hedgerows. Any deviation from this buffer allowance must be appropriately justified. Provision of additional hedgerows is encouraged, to create a link across the site, where appropriate in terms of proposed site layout. Any loss of hedgerows must be off set.
- 10 Ensure that lighting at this location is designed to safeguard the important ecological function of the river corridor, including the retention of a dark corridor for bats.
- 11 Provide high quality public realm, building on the requirements 5-9 and structural landscaping, designed to provide green infrastructure with a focus on nature recovery and nature-based solutions (visual amenity, health and well-being, green walking and cycling routes, air quality improvements and shading / cooling).
- 12 Be informed by a comprehensive understanding of the sensitive heritage and landscape context in which the area sits, including undertaking a detailed historic environment assessment to include assessment of the effects of development proposals on the wider City of Bath WHS, OUVs and Attributes and other heritage assets including the Georgian city, Bath CA, listed buildings, Royal Victoria Park, undesignated heritage assets and archaeology, and undertake detailed evaluation and assessment, in order to inform design and to identify and implement appropriate mitigation. Therefore a heritage-led and contextual approach is strongly encouraged. A strong tree infrastructure will be required throughout the site using large growing species to provide both GI nature-based solutions and structural landscaping to break up extensive massing of buildings
- 13 Development should not detract from important views over the site including, but not limited to, longer, sweeping views towards the Georgian City and views from historically important viewpoints as set out in the WHS Setting SPD; and should respond appropriately to the general characteristics of buildings heights within the city. An analysis is required to enable an appropriate response and to influence the height, massing and design of buildings. The Bath Building Heights Strategy (BBHS) should be used as part of the evidence base and the starting point for this analysis which must also include a detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The BBHS identifies this site as being within zone 3 – the Valley Floor and recommends that for new development ‘building shoulder height should be 4 storeys. One additional setback storey within the roofscape is likely to be acceptable’. Note that this is a recommendation for the general height only and is subject to modifiers.
- 14 Optimise sustainability innovations, including district heating infrastructure, on-site renewable energy generation, and demonstrate that all reasonable opportunities to reduce the embodied carbon emissions associated with development have been explored.

15 Optimise the solar energy potential of development by careful design and orientation.

16 Be informed by a site specific FRA, with site layouts designed using a sequential approach. As a minimum, floor levels must be raised at the appropriate level taking into account the vulnerability classification informed by the FRA.



Policy B3

POLICY B3: STRATEGIC POLICY FOR TWERTON AND NEWBRIDGE RIVERSIDES

1. Role of Newbridge and Twerton Riversides (including the Bath Press)

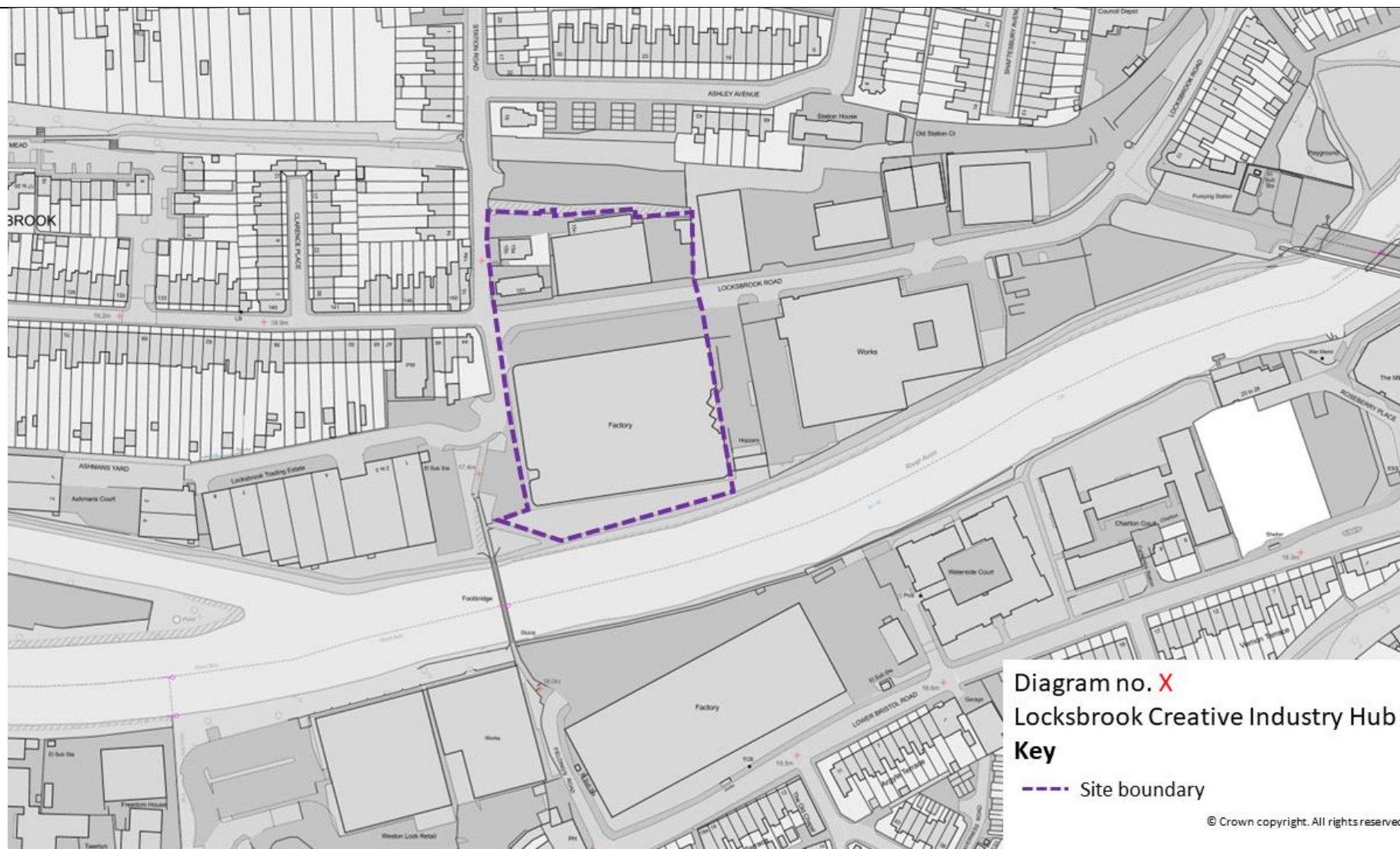
These locations form the western extent of the City of Ideas Enterprise Area

- Newbridge Riverside will function as Bath's primary location for industrial enterprise, providing about 12 ha of land at Locksbrook Road, Brassmill Lane and the Maltings for a range of activities including advanced manufacturing. There is therefore a presumption in favour of retaining land and premises in the **E(g)B4**, B2 and B8 use class where identified on the Policies Map as being within a Strategic Industrial Estate under policy ED.2A. Proposals for other uses will be subject to the application Policy ED.2B.
- Locksbrook Creative Industry Hub: Within Newbridge Riverside, an area is identified to facilitate a creative business hub, maximising the benefit of collaboration with Bath Spa University. (see Policy SB22)**
- Twerton Riverside has contracted as an industrial location in recent decades. This area is suitable for a broader range of uses and there is scope to redevelop the area to provide new business (B1a, b and c) premises and housing. The area presents an opportunity to host business that is displaced as a consequence of the residential led development of Western Riverside and the growth of the intensification of the Central Area into BWR East. Whilst Newbridge Riverside will remain the

	core industrial location, Twerton Riverside can provide additional flexibility. It will therefore be necessary to maintain an appropriate level of land in this area for B1c uses alongside office uses and housing. 2. Placemaking Principles Assets of Newbridge and Twerton Riverside Development proposals must be informed and shaped by the following characteristics Add g. <u>Bath Spa University Locksbrook Campus is located within the Newbridge Riverside. There are significant opportunities for new development increasing activity in creative industries and improving the retention of graduates.</u> 3. Key Development Opportunities Development proposals in this area that accord with the provisions of this and other relevant policies will be welcomed. Key regeneration opportunities in the Twerton Riverside area include: • The Bath Press • Roseberry Place • <u>The Locksbrook Creative Industry Hub</u> • <u>Weston Island</u>
158	Delete para 158 Weston Island is not included in this policy area but development (subject to the relevance of planning policy on flood risk) could provide an opportunity to significantly improve the image and identity for this part of the city; enhancing the ecological role of the island, improving pedestrian connections between north and south. However, given that an alternative site would need to be identified for a bus depot (notwithstanding any lease arrangements currently in operation), it is not likely that this site will come forward for development during the plan period.
New site allocation after Policy SB10 SB22 Locksbrook Industry	SB 22 Locksbrook Creative Industry Hub Context <u>167a.The NPPF (2019) encourages planning policies and decisions to help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt and significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development. The objectives of the B&NES Economic Strategy (2014-2030) includes:</u> • <u>maintaining an appropriate supply of land in Bath for industrial processes and services to ensure the city retains a mixed economy</u>

Hub	<u>• capitalising on innovation opportunities arising from higher education institutions, improving educational facilities to help provide the skills that support knowledge based sectors and retaining those skills and talents in the city and wider area</u> <u>167b.The Locksbrook Creative Industry Hub is located within the Bath Enterprise Zone which plays a leading role in delivering the economic priorities for the City and B&NES. The priorities include ‘addressing the need for new workspace’ and ‘expanding innovation and incubation provision’.</u> <u>It is also located within the Newbridge Riverside Strategic Industrial Estate where Policy ED2A encourages the provision of new industrial land and a strong presumption in favour of retaining industrial floorspace.</u> <u>167c.In Bath, monitoring shows that significant net loss of and limited supply of industrial spaces. Therefore maintaining land for industrial purposes in this location has strategic importance.</u> <u>Bath Spa University’s strategy</u> <u>167d.Bath Spa University (BSU) is a successful, modern university in the south-west of England with a particular focus on fostering creative industries and creating a synergy with Bath’s growing creative economy as well as teacher training for the wider south-west region.</u> <u>BSU has grown in recent years and currently occupies multiple sites across Bath (also satellite sites in Corsham and Bristol), however many are not purpose built and the University considers that they are inefficient and geographically dispersed. This is the major outstanding issue for the University in moving to net zero carbon in terms of transport.</u> <u>167e.The new University’s Estate Strategy focuses development into two campuses; Newton Park and a new campus area around Locksbrook Road with sustainable travel links between the two campuses. Consolidation of its creative facilities around the Locksbrook area will help to create ‘walkable’ campuses as it is close to purpose built student accommodation.</u> <u>The expansion of the Locksbrook Campus will enable opening the facilities for use beyond the academic timetable and enrolled students within a wider creative zone. This will provide a great opportunity and play an important role in helping the City recover from the pandemic and its effects on employment, skills and will encourage new businesses.</u> <u>167f.Therefore, the strategy is for the University to enable additional teaching space in the Locksbrook Creative Industry Hub. The teaching space would also be used as studio space with access to specialist equipment and facilities for start-up businesses and workspace for local people, academics and students. This would have a direct connection to the emerging creative and digital industry within B&NES supporting start-ups within this field. It would also maintain the industrial and creative legacy of the Locksbrook Area. This reflects the aim set out in the West of England Industrial Strategy and the West of England Business Plan, including improved partnerships with the University, encouraging research, development and innovation and increasing graduate retention.</u> <u>167g.The allocation land includes the building (north of the Locksbrook campus) which has an extant planning permission for mixed use development including 72 rooms in cluster flats. (Planning Reference 20/00023/FUL). Purpose built student accommodation is subject to Policy B5 and it is not considered acceptable within the Enterprise Zone where this would adversely affect the realisation of the other aspects of the vision and spatial strategy for the city. Taking into account that the site has an extant permission it is considered acceptable but the priority should be given to employment space therefore the scale of the student accommodation should not exceed the permitted level of accommodation.</u> <u>Vision</u>
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	<u>167h. This is the area allocated for a Creative Industry Hub where Bath Spa University and businesses will work together to increase local growth and innovation. The Hub aims to:</u> • <u>Encourage universities to strengthen their roles as strategic partners in local growth</u> • <u>Stimulate development of incubator or 'grow-on' space for small business in locations that encourage businesses to interact with universities and to innovate</u> • <u>Provide a focal point where universities and businesses work together in a business friendly environment</u> • <u>Implement Bath Spa University walkable campus approach reducing the carbon emissions and responding to the climate emergency</u>
SB22 New Policy for Locksbrook Creative Hub	<u>POLICY SB 22: DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES</u> <u>DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES</u> <u>1. Mixed use development comprised of employment space including incubator units and 'grow-on' space and teaching space.</u> <u>2. Teaching space will be supported subject to:</u> <u>a) providing flexible workspace that can be offered to small and medium enterprises</u> <u>b) demonstration of economic benefit to the city especially for industrial uses.</u> <u>3. Purpose Built Student Accommodation may be accommodated but no more than the extant planning permission allows (up to 72 bedspaces cluster flat equivalent).</u>



SB23 New
Policy for
Weston
Island

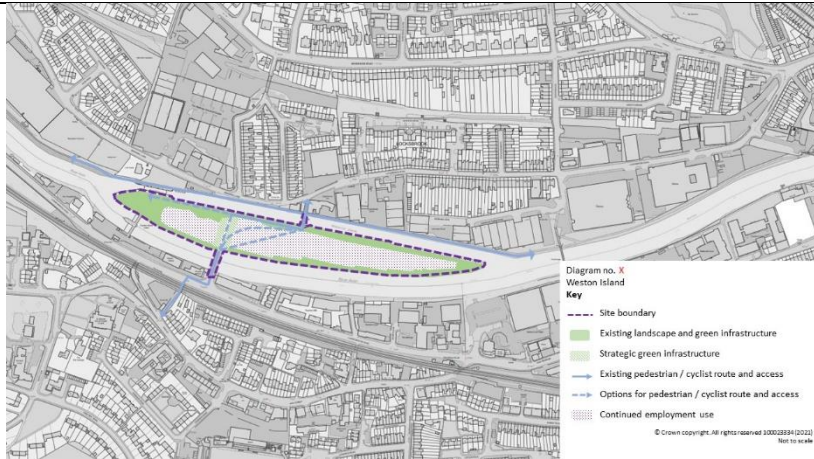
SB23 WESTON ISLAND

Context

167i. Subject to the relocation of the Bus Depot, there is an opportunity to relocate some existing employment uses that would enable the redevelopment of allocated sites elsewhere in the city. These include the Manvers Street site (site SB6) and South Bank on the Lower Bristol Road (site SB6). The relocation

Paras 167i-	<u>of these uses will help to unlock the delivery of complex sites which are allocated for higher density mixed use development and would contribute towards achieving strategic planning policy objectives such as the delivery of homes and jobs.</u> <u>167j. Subject to an assessment of the capacity of the site and in addition to those identified above, there are also opportunities for more public facing uses such as creative, arts-based activities. Such uses could help to animate and overlook a new pedestrian and cycle link that will form a key linkage for active travel between north west and south west Bath. The current link lacks overlooking, feels unsafe, and is of very poor quality.</u> <u>167k. Given the flood risk constraints and the requirement to allocate specific uses to enable other sites to be released for development, the site is not suitable for residential development. Purpose built student accommodation on this site is also not acceptable, as this use would impede the delivery of these Council objectives.</u> <u>167l. Given its biodiversity value, the retention and enhancement of the river edge for habitat and the provision of a dark vegetated river edge corridor is essential.</u> <u>Vision</u> <u>167m. Subject to the relocation of the Bus Depot, there is an opportunity to relocate some existing employment uses that would enable the redevelopment of allocated sites elsewhere in the city. These include the Manvers Street site (site SB6), and South Bank on the Lower Bristol Road (site SB6). The relocation of these uses will help to unlock the delivery of complex sites which are allocated for higher density mixed use development and would contribute towards achieving strategic planning policy objectives such as the delivery of homes and jobs.</u> <u>167n. Subject to an assessment of the capacity of the site and in addition to those identified above, there are also opportunities for more public facing uses such as creative, arts-based activities. Such uses could help to animate and overlook a new pedestrian and cycle link that will form a key linkage for active travel between north west and south west Bath. The current link lacks overlooking, feels unsafe, and is of very poor quality.</u> <u>167o. Given the flood risk constraints, the site is not considered suitable for residential development and therefore, no housing capacity is assumed on this site Purpose built student accommodation on this site is not acceptable, as this use would impede the delivery of other Council objectives.</u> <u>167p. Given its biodiversity value, the retention and enhancement of the river edge for habitat and the provision of a dark vegetated river edge corridor is essential.</u>
SB23 New policy	<u>SB23 Weston Island</u> <u>Development Requirements and Design Principles</u> <u>Development proposals will:</u> <u>1. Develop the site for builders' merchants or sui generis depot type uses within the existing hardstanding and built up area of the site. Residential and purpose built student accommodation in this area is not acceptable as this would impede the delivery of other Council objectives.</u>

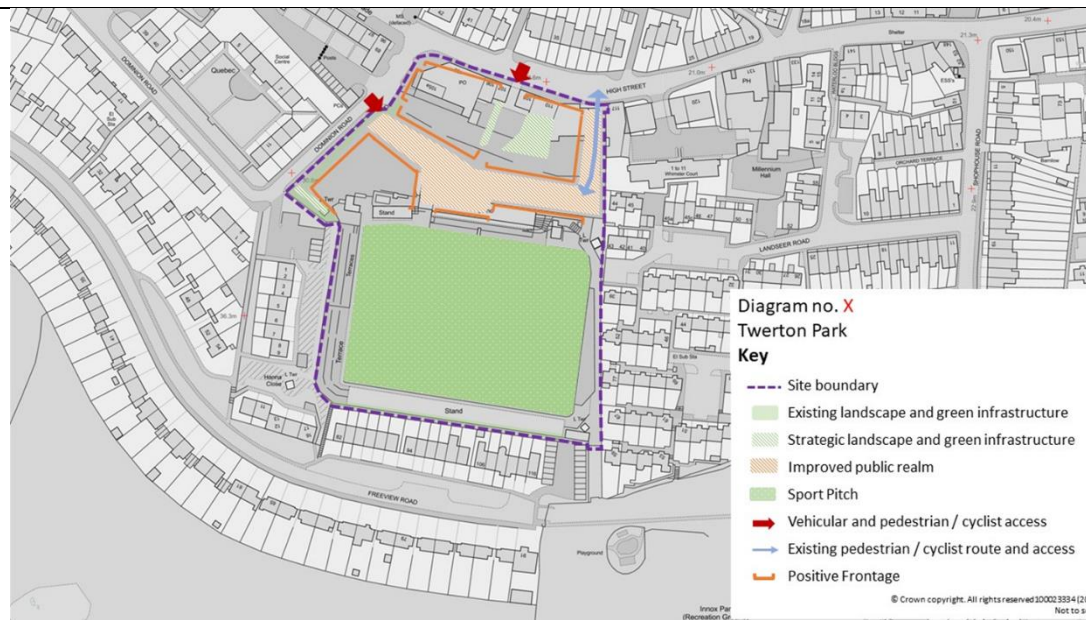
2. Implement measures that safeguard, restore and enhance the biodiversity value of the site, including the canal, river and river edges and which deliver biodiversity net gain in accordance with policy NE3a. Any proposal must provide significant tree planting to enhance the existing tree/woodland habitat on site and provide an appropriate buffer. Initiatives to deliver for wildlife must include an otter holt, kingfisher tunnel and sandmartin bank. Additional opportunities to provide should be provided including integrated nest boxes; water/ wetland features; public realm nest towers otter cover and bat walls are strongly encouraged.
3. Respond to the restrictions on lightspill from development set out in the the Waterspace Design Guidance (June 2018) “Protecting Bats in Waterside Development” https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/ba306_bath_bats_and_lighting_guide_10_june_2018.pdf
4. The layout must provide a welcoming, spacious and safe public sustainable transport link across Weston Island and its respective bridges and provide high quality public realm. There may also be opportunities for more public facing uses such as creative, arts-based activities. Such uses could help to animate and overlook this new link. The link should be framed by well-defined structural landscaping / green infrastructure to include large growing tree species forming an avenue and species-rich meadow or under-storey planting, designed to guide users through the site and provide an attractive green link.
5. The development must deliver high quality improvements, including safety improvements, for pedestrians and cyclists and other users to the bridge linking the Island to Lower Bristol Road. The Dolphin Bridge linking the site with the shared use river path will require conservation and upgrading to allow safe access all users.
6. Provision of a new crossing over Lower Bristol Road and improved pedestrian / cycle links between Lower Bristol Road and Twerton High Street.
7. The development must respond positively to short and long distance views from and to the Island, having regard to its location within the World Heritage Site and its Outstanding Universal Values including the green setting of the city, the Conservation Area, and respond to the surrounding Listed Buildings and structures.
8. The inspiration and approach should be informed by the immediate and surrounding industrial character.

	 Diagram no. X Twerton Island Key - Site boundary - Existing landscape and green infrastructure - Strategic green infrastructure - Existing pedestrian / cyclist route and access - Options for pedestrian / cyclist route and access - Continued employment use © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 300023384 (2022) Not to scale
199	<u>SB14 Twerton Park</u> Bath City Football Club, who own Twerton Park football stadium is in the middle of a Community Buyout process, the outcome of which will not be known until well into 2016. Previously it has stated that the site will be available for redevelopment during the Plan period that it intended to leave Twerton Park and sell it or facilitate a land swap elsewhere in B&NES on which it can build a new facility. In addition to the football club the adjacent car park is also used for the weekly Twerton Market. The site may therefore be available for redevelopment as part of a residential/mixed-use scheme during the Plan period. Any scheme should preferably benefit or at least not adversely affect the local centre at Twerton. There is considerable uncertainty and the Council does not currently 'budget' for any development occurring here. A site allocation is made so that there is no site specific gap should the site become available. <u>The site lies on the south side of the River Avon at the bottom of the steep 45-degree, north-facing river valley slope which descends along the adjacent Innox Park. The site is currently occupied by the Twerton Park Football Ground building with ground floor takeaway stands, merchandise shops, and other retail uses forming the north boundary around the building. The Football Ground building is poorly maintained and old-fashioned, clad with corrugated metal which is in disrepair. Immediately adjacent to the north edge of the site are shops which front onto Twerton High Street. The High Street has a mix of uses including a number of convenience stores, a pub, pharmacy, cafes, restaurants, takeaways, barbershops, a community centre and a church. To the north of the High Street is a rail route, Lower Bristol Road (A36), followed by the River Avon. To the south-east of the site is Innox Park, a public recreation ground with Bloomfield Road allotments. To the east and west of the site are residential streets comprised with both terraced and semi-detached housing.</u> <u>199a. The predominant building height of the established built form in the surrounding area, both modern and historic, is between two and three storeys. Mature tree planting to the west of the Dominion Road/High Street junction adds significantly to the character and appearance of the public realm and should be protected. Rose Cottage to the north, The Old Crown Public House and Numbers 22, 23, 132 and 133 High Street to the north-east, and Clyde House to the north-west of the site, are all Grade II Listed Buildings</u>
Para 200	Vision That the Club maintains its presence on its current site whilst being able to pursue the partial redevelopment of its land holdings. This could include the redevelopment

	of the stands to the north of the pitch, to include retail, commercial space and of housing, as well as facilities for the football club as required, or simply a partial development of part of the car parking area. <u>There has been a longstanding aspiration to enable a mixed use development on this site that supports the retention and regeneration of Bath City Football Club and its facilities, whilst providing uses that support the High Street and meet an identified community need, including housing.</u> <u>200a.To deliver a viable scheme that generates sufficient funds to enable the Football Club to implement their proposed enhancements, viability assessment suggests that residential accommodation that delivers small units and therefore, higher values is needed. As such the allocation policy therefore allows for a mix of residential accommodation, potentially including co-living (sui generis), but excluding purpose built student accommodation.</u>
SB14	<u>SB14 Twerton Park</u> <u>Development Requirements and Design Principles</u> <u>Development proposals will: Development proposals will:</u> 1. <u>Provide a mixed use development that supports the retention and regeneration of the Football Club and its facilities, and optimises opportunities to ensure the longevity of the football club in this location, further promoting its existing role as a community hub in Twerton. Development is to comprise:</u> a. <u>a mix of residential accommodation, excluding purpose built student accommodation.</u> b. <u>active 'Class E' uses on the ground floor fronting onto Twerton High Street</u> c. <u>the provision of a new community hub which offers communal facilities to promote healthy lifestyles, community cohesion and employment spaces, including co-working options.</u> 2. <u>Ensure that the character of this part of the Conservation Area is preserved or enhanced and that development responds sensitively to the topography of the site, taking cues from existing, locally distinct typologies and built form. This requires building heights to be generally limited to 3.5 storeys at the northern edge of the site along Twerton High Street, and to the south, building heights will generally be limited to 2-3 storeys, reflecting the changing gradient of this site. The height of the stadium must be the dominant feature in views towards and over the site, and new residential buildings associated with the site must be subservient in height, scale and massing.</u> 3. <u>Deliver biodiversity net gain of at least 10% in accordance with Policy NE3a. Opportunities to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain within the site curtilage should be fully explored and tested before any off-site measures are proposed.</u> 4. <u>Provide a minimum of one nest or roost site per residential unit, in the form of integrated bird and bat boxes within new buildings, and/or as</u>

standalone features within the public realm, such as bat walls and swift towers. Additional features such as log piles, insect hotels, bee bricks, hedgehog connectivity measures and green and brown roofs / walls are also required,

5. Reinforce and enhance the quality of existing tree planting along the north-west edge of the site along Dominion Road, incorporating these trees into a wider green-infrastructure strategy to create a joined-up corridor.
6. Undertake public realm improvements to Twerton High Street. This could include, but is not limited to, incorporating pedestrian improvements such as resurfaced and wider pavements, cycle improvements in line with the West of England Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the provision of appropriately selected and located street trees with appropriate space provided to allow mature canopy to develop and which would not impede street lighting.
7. Provide the main vehicular site access from Dominion Road close to the junction with Twerton High Street to include safe and suitable, inclusively designed, pedestrian and cycle links which appropriately respond to the changing gradients and without loss of trees unless it is demonstrated that there is no alternative design. The existing pedestrian access further east along the High Street will be maintained and enhanced.
8. Car and cycle parking must ensure appropriate provision for the existing football club and the proposed development, without prejudicing the condition of highway safety and level of amenity in the surrounding area. This should include delivery of measures to reduce parking demand for each land use and manage parking efficiently across the site as a whole.
9. The site must be designed to prioritise pedestrian and cycle movements over vehicles and minimise conflict between users, whilst accommodating vehicle movements necessary for the successful commercial operation of the football club and the proposed additional development. The masterplan for the site as a whole must maximise permeability for pedestrians and cyclists and connect well with the wider transport network.
10. Optimise renewable energy and biodiversity interventions within the development for example through the provision of green roof or solar photovoltaic panels, whilst being responsive to sensitive or important viewpoints.
11. Optimise the solar energy potential of development by careful design and orientation.
12. Be required to respond to environment and health related concerns and provide a completely recyclable 3G pitch and natural crumb if replacing the current grass football pitch.



Para 210

210. Located in Weston the Royal United Hospital is a major sub-regional healthcare facility serving **over** 500,000 people within B&NES, Wiltshire, Somerset and South Gloucestershire. It is managed by the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust, which acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) located in the centre of Bath, in February 2015. It is now managing all the services offered by this specialist provider **within the new RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre Therapies Centre at the RUH site. This has further expanded the catchment and portfolio of specialist treatment and rehabilitation activities, attracting patients from other areas of the UK and internationally, particularly for treatment of long term conditions. The Trust also treats people visiting the area, including tourists, students and overseas visitors.** As well as being the main provider of healthcare services the Trust is also the largest employer in Bath & North East Somerset with around **5,500** staff **and over 400 volunteers (predicted to rise to 1,000).**

211. Research and development continues to underpin the high quality, evidence-based care delivered both at the RNHRD and the RUH. The recent affiliation of both research teams has served to create a significant health research resource in the City of Bath, and one of the largest R&D portfolios in the country strengthened further by its links to other local research institutions such as the University of Bath **and other universities and colleges.** This supports the Trust's strategy to develop its R&D and be 'best in class' and provides additional income generating opportunities.

211a

The Trust is committed to being a sustainable organisation that is fit for the future, embedding this within the strategic goals of the Trust. The Trust as set out in their Strategic Plan (2018) is delivering actions to make a positive difference environmentally, socially and financially to create an organisation that supports the well-being of their patients, staff and their wider community. The Trusts Sustainable Development Management Plan (SDMP), and associated Action Plan, details the relevant approaches and projects to embed sustainability in everything the Trust does.

212. Future housing and population growth as planned within the sub-region and other demographic factors such as an ageing population places increased demands upon acute healthcare infrastructure and services. **Healthcare is a challenging environment. Financial and workforce pressures over time have coincided with increasing demand for healthcare services and service delivery. At the same time, new developments in medicine and technology have brought new challenges and opportunities.**
213. The Trust has carried out a comprehensive review of its estate and agreed a strategic plan (known as the Estate Strategy) **in 2014**. The purpose of this is to direct investment and estate renewal, to improve the quality and standard of accommodation, respond to changing service needs for patients and staff alike and to comply with the necessary legislative standards. **With the upcoming construction of the Dyson Cancer Centre the Trust is coming to the end of the existing Estate Strategy and is now starting to develop a new Estate Strategy.**
214. The Trust's **ongoing** priorities **in updating the Estate Strategy** are to provide fit for purpose accommodation **to meet the clinical and operational needs**, demolishing unsuitable and outdated buildings, improving the sustainability of the Estate, co-locating functions to cluster complimentary uses, delivering a parking strategy that will improve on-site parking, improving wayfinding throughout the site, reducing off-site parking impacts and encouraging the use of sustainable modes of travel.
215. Central to delivering the Trust's long term vision and objectives is an overarching car park strategy for the campus that improves the current parking, **site efficiency and circulation** arrangements across the site (numbers, rationalisation of car parks and sign posting) and supports the vision as set out in the **2014 Estate Strategy**. **Much has been achieved with the new visitor car park opening in 2016 and wider Trust initiatives including the Travel Plan encouraging changes to staff travel behaviour and modal shift. However, increases in staff, patient numbers, forecast population growth and associated healthcare service demands requires the site wide parking strategy, including the potential for decked car parking, to be reviewed as part of the Estate Strategy update. The Trust is continually assessing how best to improve access to site and implementing improvements, its ability to deliver significant modal shift is tied in significantly to the council strategy and approach. This is acknowledged by the council and a collaborative approach is to be taken.**
216. The Estate Strategy (2014) specifically sets out the proposed RUH North Redevelopment programme over the next five years supported by a phased masterplan. These phases, **all of which now have planning permission approval**, are as follows:-
- Phase 1:
- a) Proposed new replacement pharmacy with aseptic services **(completed)**
 - b) Provision of new visitor and patient car park located immediately adjacent to the front entrance (Gate 1) **(completed)**
- Phase 2: A new Integrated Rheumatology and Therapies Centre including hydro pool and gym **(completed)**
- Phase 3 A new Cancer Centre - a new state of the art facility set within an enhanced greenspace for the campus" **(demolition works commenced in 2020).**
- 216a**
- The Trust has also identified the opportunity to deliver additional staff accommodation on-site supporting the recruitment and retention of staff with flexibility for open market rental accommodation. The potential capacity could deliver new build or refurbished beds (circa 100 net additional units)**

predominantly within a cluster flat arrangement. The Council supports the provision (C3) flats of a range of sizes and types, for use by key workers associated with the RUH, along with new purpose built facilities on-site including the principle of providing such accommodation within the restored Grade II* Listed Manor House building. The benefits of such a scheme are recognised in terms of estate renewal, making the most efficient use of land and buildings, delivers new housing stock, reduces travel and congestion and reinvestment back into the RUH to support healthcare facilities.

217. The Council will support investment in the development of the hospital to meet the need for healthcare infrastructure, and endorses the approach adopted in the **existing** Estate Strategy **and it's review process**. Beyond the time period of the current Estate Strategy, the Council will safeguard land within the campus of the RUH for future healthcare infrastructure, unless it can be demonstrated that the RUH can successfully provide its services and operate its site from a smaller land area. **The Council supports the provision of additional housing on-site for occupation by key workers associated with the RUH.**

RUH Sustainability & Green Infrastructure Plan

218. The RUH has also produced a Green Infrastructure Plan **(2015)** that supports the Estate Strategy by setting out a high level vision or framework for the site. This vision is to create a high quality, accessible 'place' with Green Infrastructure as an intrinsic element, for the benefit of staff, patients and visitors. This recognises the well-established benefits to health and well-being provided by access to natural green space. The Green Infrastructure vision is based upon the existing Estate Strategy masterplan and establishes a set of principles to inform the design of each phase. The GI Plan identifies green infrastructure including:
- specific landscape
 - amenity and biodiversity opportunities
 - the types of places that can be created to improve the quality of environment and maximise the health and wellbeing benefits for staff, patients and visitors.
219. Specifically, the Trust identified a number of considerations including:
- 1) Providing enhanced green infrastructure to improve the quality of care and clinical performance
 - 2) Increasing biodiversity opportunities and habitats within the site linking into the wider surrounding green corridors
 - 3) Investigate potential sustainable urban drainage features within the site
 - 4) Creating a legible hierarchy of interesting, linked, usable, wildlife friendly and quality landscaped spaces opportunities for staff, patients and visitors alike
 - 5) Create accessible open spaces with a range of micro-climates i.e. shaded areas in hot weather.
 - 6) Encouraging exercise within the site and improving the connections between existing pedestrian and cycling routes through the site and to GI assets beyond the site.
 - 7) Maintain, improve and expand the existing external 'destination' spaces
 - 8) Identify opportunities to integrate The Trust's art strategy
 - 9) Consider the cost effectiveness of future Estate maintenance
220. This approach responds to the placemaking objectives of the Council, and its approved Green Infrastructure Strategy and is therefore broadly supported by the Council.

220a

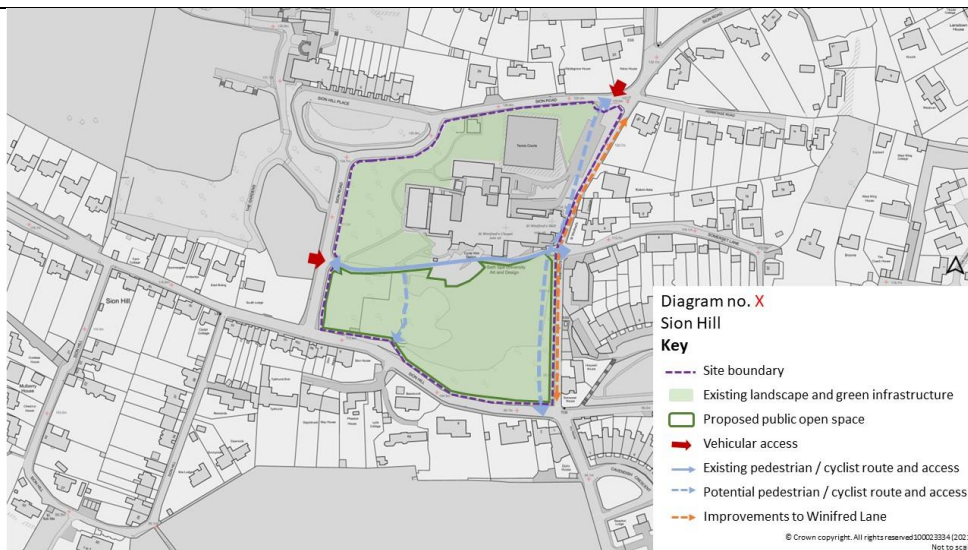
The proposed green heart is a central element of the new Dyson Cancer Centre based upon the principles of the RUH Green Infrastructure Plan. In

	<u>developing the detailed green heart landscape scheme the GI Plan will be reviewed with a number of existing greenspaces on site, the Trust seek to improve these spaces for flora, fauna and the health of their staff, patients and visitors.</u> <u>220b</u> <u>The work around Green Space & Biodiversity is one area of the Trusts Sustainable Development Management Plan (SDMP). When taken as a whole the SDMP ensures a holistic approach is taken to sustainability. Actions within the other areas of the SDMP will aid in supporting the Climate Emergency declared by the council.</u> <u>New Hospital Plan</u> <u>220c</u> <u>The most significant opportunity for the RUH is the announcement that the RUH has been selected for HIP2 funding under the Government's new 'Hospital Infrastructure Programme' (2019), a long-term, rolling five-year programme of investment in health infrastructure, including capital to build new hospitals, modernise the primary care estate, invest in new diagnostics and technology, and help eradicate critical safety issues in the NHS estate. The New Hospital Programme (NHP) actively works towards delivering the NHS Long Term Plan. Particular aspects of the emerging NHP that work towards the Long Term Plan include:</u> <u>• Digital (best use of technology)</u> <u>• Preventative care (new clinical models)</u> <u>• Healthcare integration (Integrated Care System)</u> <u>220d</u> <u>The Trust has been awarded seed funding to proceed to the next stage of developing their hospital plans. If successful the funding would be available in the period 2025-30. The Council recognises this a significant healthcare investment opportunity and therefore fully supports the Trust in developing their masterplan and business case.</u> <u>220e</u> <u>The Council supports the Trust in the development of the NHP opportunity to reconfigure / regenerate the hospital site and understand that while this is in the earliest stages of development early indications suggest that the following are considered priorities:</u> <u>• Alongside Midwifery Unit</u> <u>• Upgrade and/ or replace Emergency Department</u> <u>• Upgrade and/ or replace Woman's and Children's facilities</u> <u>• Upgrade and/ or replace Theatres and Recovery facilities</u>
SB18 RUH	<u>Policy SB18 for RUH</u> 1. The Council supports the improvement of this essential healthcare facility, including the principles and proposed building programme, and proposals for car parking, as set out in its Estate Strategy 2014. 2. Development proposals will be expected to respond to and to implement the Green Infrastructure Plan principles as highlighted above. 3. Proposals for non-healthcare uses on former RUH land should provide evidence that the land will not be required for healthcare provision or car parking during

	the Plan period. <u>Within this context the council supports the provision (C3) flats of a range of sizes and types, for use by key workers associated with the RUH</u> <u>Development proposals must:</u> 4. <u>Be informed by a detailed heritage assessment and heritage impact assessment (to include listed buildings, undesignated heritage assets, archaeology, and landscape), both in terms of the specific site and the wider area. The Grade II* Manor House and its setting will require an especially sensitive approach to ensure that its significance is taken into account and both enhanced and better revealed. A heritage-led and contextual approach is therefore required.</u> 5. <u>Deliver biodiversity net gain of at least 10% in accordance with Policy NE3a. Opportunities to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain within the site curtilage should be fully explored and tested before any off-site measures are proposed.</u> 6. <u>Provide a minimum of one nest or roost site per residential unit, in the form of integrated bird and bat boxes within new buildings, and/or as standalone features within the public realm, such as bat walls and swift towers. Additional features such as log piles, insect hotels, bee bricks, hedgehog connectivity measures and green and brown roofs / walls are also required.</u> 7. <u>Set out a sustainable transport masterplan for the whole of the RUH site.</u> 8. <u>Examine the pedestrian and cycle routes between the site and key local facilities, and make appropriate enhancements to ensure that the walking and cycling are the natural choices for local trips. Specific opportunities for investigation and delivery should include, but not be limited to, the following:</u> a. <u>Pedestrian improvements at the Weston Lane/Crown Road/High Street junction;</u> b. <u>Pedestrian crossing facilities at the Weston Lane/Combe Park junction;</u> c. <u>Cycle linkages with recently delivered LCWIP improvements through Weston Village; and</u> d. <u>Active travel linkages between the site and the Riverside Path to the south.</u> 9. <u>Provide parking for bicycles and cars in line with the parking standards in the Transport and Developments SPD, for both residential and clinical uses. Improved integrated parking solutions and car park management across the site should be investigated to maximise efficient use of land. Contributions to a Residents Parking Zone (RPZ) may be required as part of parking solutions for the site.</u>
New Policy	<u>SB 24 Sion Hill, Bath - Site Allocation Draft Policy Text</u> <u>Context</u> <u>220f. The site is currently in use by Bath Spa University for educational purposes. The University's strategy is to focus development into two campuses; Newton Park and a new campus area around Locksbrook Road, with sustainable travel links between the two, and promoting 'walkable' campuses. This approach shall release sites such as Sion Hill for residential use.</u> <u>220g. The site is located in a highly sensitive hillside location, within the World Heritage Site and Bath Conservation Area. The site has many layers of history prior to its development by Bath Spa University. There are known archaeological deposits in the area including Romano-British burials, an Iron Age site and the former site of St Winifred's Chapel and Well, the exact locations of which are not known. The site is the former ornamental landscaped garden of St Winifred's, a 19th century house built in 1803. There may be below ground remains of the property on site, and historic walls and railings survive in places around its perimeter. Various listed buildings are located in the immediate area surrounding the site, including Grade I listed buildings Somerset Place to the east, and Sion Hill Place to the north.</u>

	<u>220h. There are currently two small car parks serving the site, with access from Sion Road to the north and Sion Hill to the south. There is no vehicular route through the site, although the site is bounded by roads on all four sides. Winifred's Lane runs in a north-south alignment to the east of the site. It is a steep, narrow lane restricted to one-way northbound, and is known to be used as a through route to Lansdown Road. There is no footway on Winifred's Lane and it is an unattractive environment for pedestrians and cyclists due to lack of facilities and traffic flows. There is an infrequent bus service on Sion Hill linking the site with the city centre, with more regular services available on Lansdown Road c.450m from the main building.</u> <u>Vision</u> <u>220i. The site is anticipated to deliver around 100 new dwellings, set within the existing built footprint of the buildings at the site.</u> <u>220j. Any redevelopment proposal will ensure the protection and enhancement of the site's historic significance, sensitive landscape setting and ecological interests.</u> <u>220k. There is scope through any redevelopment to enhance the site's walking and cycling opportunities close to and throughout the site, and potentially to deliver biodiversity net gain requirements on site through a combination of habitat enhancements and limited habitat creation (eg small urban orchard; allotments or rain garden).</u>
New Policy SB 24	<u>Policy SB24 New allocation for Sion Hill</u> <u>Development Requirements and Design Principles</u> <u>Development proposals will:</u> <u>1. Deliver residential (C3 use class) development of around 100 apartments, 40% of which shall be affordable dwellings in line with policy CP9. The proposed market dwellings should provide 2+bed apartments. Affordable dwellings should provide a mix of 1 and 2 bed apartments.</u> <u>2. Deliver high quality, contemporary and sustainable built form and architectural design, informed by the opportunities presented by the site's sensitive historic and landscape context, and existing habitats. In seeking to preserve or enhance this part of the conservation areas it is anticipated that development will be within the footprint of the existing buildings at the site, with no encroachment into sensitive landscape areas, and lower in height than the existing buildings.</u> <u>3. Demonstrate that all reasonable opportunities to reduce the embodied carbon emissions associated with the development have been explored, including an assessment of the retention and conversion of the existing buildings, in whole or part. If conversion is not considered feasible, other significant opportunities to reduce embodied carbon emissions should be incorporated into development designs.</u>

4. Optimise the solar energy potential of development by careful design and orientation.
5. Ensure that the landscaped garden area located to the south of the site, as depicted on the concept plan, is designated as public open space.
6. Protect and enhance existing landscape infrastructure and habitats within the site, including trees, hedgerows, grassland habitats, planting and landscaped garden areas. Protect all habitats from increased light spill. Deliver biodiversity net gain of at least 10% in accordance with Policy NE3a. Opportunities to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain within the site curtilage should be fully explored and tested before any off-site measures are proposed.
7. Provide a minimum of one nest or roost site per residential unit, in the form of integrated bird and bat boxes within new buildings, and/or as standalone features within the public realm, such as bat walls and swift towers. Additional features such as log piles, insect hotels, bee bricks, hedgehog connectivity measures and green and brown roofs / walls are also required. All new garden boundaries should be permeable for hedgehogs.
8. Retain and enhance substantial boundary planting to protect both short and long views of the site from across Bath.
9. Provide a comprehensive network of walking and cycling public access routes through the landscaped gardens as broadly illustrated on the concept diagram. These will need to be designed to respect the landscape and historic sensitivity of the site. Vehicle and active travel access will need to be segregated. Development proposals will be expected to enhance the pedestrian and cycle environment for north-south movements, broadly along the alignment of Winifred's Lane at the eastern side of the site. This is likely to be through providing a route within the site, but options to reduce traffic flows and speeds along Winifred's Lane to make the route safe and suitable for pedestrians and cyclists should also be investigated. Routes through the site must include appropriate connections to the wider walking and cycling network, including safe crossings where necessary.
10. Development proposals must ensure safe and attractive walking routes to key destinations, including bus stops on Lansdown Road. A Transport Assessment for the site will be required to identify potential barriers for walking and cycling, and propose and deliver solutions as appropriate. Measures for investigation and delivery should include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Pedestrian crossing facilities over Lansdown Road in the vicinity of the junction with Sion Road;
 - b. Traffic speed reduction measures on Cavendish Road and/or Winifred's Lane; and
 - c. Improvements to cycle routes to the city centre, including options using alternatives to Lansdown Road.
11. Undertake a detailed historic environment assessment, and where necessary evaluation, in order to identify and implement appropriate mitigation.
12. Ensure continued access to public sewer running from north to south of the site.



SB25

SB25 St Martins Hospital

ST MARTIN'S HOSPITAL - Site Allocation Draft Policy Text**Context**

220l. The site is currently owned by NHS Property Services. Some areas of the site, namely the clinical buildings to the south-east, continue to play an important role in the NHS's clinical facilities requirement. However, some buildings within the site are expected to soon be declared surplus to the operational healthcare requirements of the NHS by local health commissioners, therefore releasing these areas for use as housing.

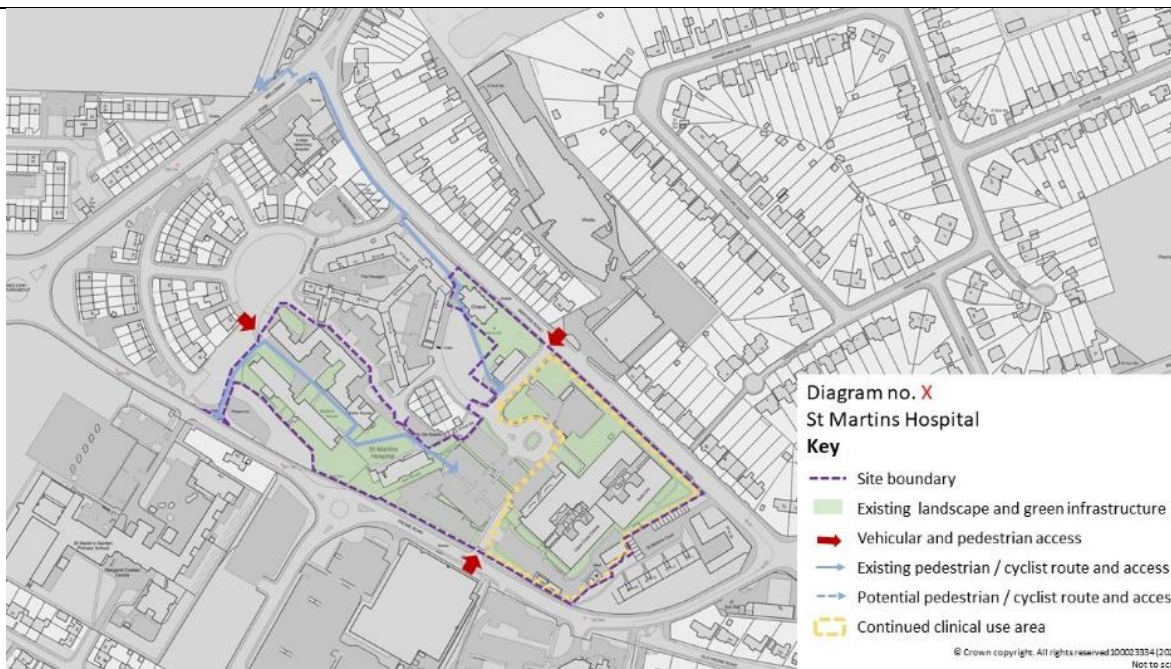
220m. The site is historically sensitive. It is located within the World Heritage Site and has many layers of history prior to its development by the NHS. Records show that it may have once been used as a military barracks, before becoming a workhouse, and then a hospital. The main building within the complex, a former workhouse building, which has now been converted to apartments, is Grade II listed, as is the Chapel of St Martin, located to the north of the site. A nineteenth century paupers burial ground is also located within the site, and there are known archaeological deposits in the surrounding area.

220n. The buildings within the site which are due to soon be declared surplus to requirement for clinical use comprise Kempthorne House, Midford House, Ash House and Frome House. The latter is a modern single storey flat roofed building, and a large portacabin. The other three buildings provide an important narrative as part of the site's history, with regards to their hierarchy and design.

220o. Attractive landscaped areas throughout the site are considered important both visually and potentially in terms of biodiversity. There are many trees throughout the site, which require retention and protection, some of which are located very close to the footprint of the buildings.

	<u>220p. The site is located c.2.5km from the centre of Bath, and there is a reasonable range of local facilities within walking distance, including education, food retail and healthcare. The A367 Wellsway is located c.250m to the west of the site and offers access to regular bus services to the city centre within walking distance. Thus, the site offers reasonable potential for journeys to be made sustainably.</u> Vision <u>220q. The site will deliver around 50 new dwellings, whilst continuing to provide important clinical health care provision within parts of the site.</u> <u>220r. Provision of new dwellings shall be achieved through conversion of Kempthorne House, Midford House and Ash House, and through the redevelopment of Frome House.</u> <u>Development proposals will ensure the protection and enhancement of the site's historic significance, and its valued landscaped areas.</u> <u>220s. The development will capitalise on the location's potential for day to day trips to be made locally and on foot or by bicycle, with public transport being an attractive option for trips to/from the city centre. There is scope to improve the permeability of the site for pedestrians and cyclists, through the improvement of routes throughout the site, particularly joining Midford Road with Frome Road.</u>
New allocation SB25	<u>SB25 St Martin's Hospital POLICY APPROACH</u> <u>Development Requirements and Design Principles</u> <u>Development proposals will:</u> <u>1. Ensure a comprehensive mix of uses across the site, comprising the delivery of around 50 residential dwellings, and the continued use of the south-eastern section of the site for clinical health services. Any application for the conversion or redevelopment of buildings within the site to non-clinical uses shall be supported by evidence to show that they have been formally declared as surplus to the operational healthcare requirements of the NHS by local health commissioners.</u> <u>2. Achieve the delivery of residential dwellings through the conversion of Kempthorne House, Midford House and Ash House, and the redevelopment of Frome House. Any scheme should be informed by a detailed, site-wide heritage assessment, which considers each of the individual buildings within the site, their context and relationship to each other, as well as other heritage assets, including the World Heritage Site, adjacent listed buildings, and undesignated heritage assets. The proposed subdivision and alteration of the buildings, and the design and layout of external areas shall be informed by this heritage assessment.</u> <u>3. Deliver high quality architectural design in relation to both conversion and redevelopment, informed by the site's sensitive historic surroundings.</u> <u>4. Retain and convert Kempthorne House, Midford House and Ash House, unless an objective and comprehensive heritage assessment is provided to justify demolition, with a clear evidence base to demonstrate that conversion is not feasible and / or viable.</u> <u>5. Ensure that any residential use is developed using a comprehensive, site-wide approach, ensuring the existing and future clinical operations within the site continue to function effectively, particularly in relation to access and car parking arrangements.</u>

6. Protect and enhance existing landscape infrastructure and habitats within the site, including trees, hedgerows, planting, and landscaped areas. Protect all retained connecting habitats from increased light spill. Any extension or redevelopment of existing buildings will be designed to ensure minimal to no encroachment into landscaped areas.
7. Deliver biodiversity net gain of at least 10% in accordance with Policy NE3a. Opportunities to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain within the site curtilage should be fully explored and tested before any off-site measures are proposed.
8. Provide a minimum of one nest or roost site per residential unit, in the form of integrated bird and bat boxes within new buildings, and/or as standalone features within the public realm, such as bat walls and swift towers. Additional features such as log piles, insect hotels, bee bricks, hedgehog connectivity measures and green and brown roofs / walls are also required. All new garden boundaries should be permeable for hedgehogs.
9. Retain and enhance the existing network of pedestrian footways throughout the site and deliver measures to improve permeability and legibility for pedestrians and cyclists, including publicly accessible routes joining Midford Road and Frome Road. Ensure that such improvements are designed to respect the landscape and habitat infrastructure or heritage of the site.
10. Undertake Transport Assessment for the development proposals to understand potential traffic impacts on the existing network, and scope of mitigation. This must focus on the delivery of sustainable transport measures to provide opportunities for mode shift.
11. Examine the pedestrian and cycle routes between the site and key local facilities and make appropriate enhancements to ensure that the walking and cycling are the natural choice for local trips. This should include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Improve access to Odd Down Sports Ground for pedestrians and cyclists through off-site contributions towards crossing improvements across Wellsway, and a new access to the Sports Ground;
 - b. Upgrade to crossing over Frome Road at the entrance to Fosseway Infant and Primary School to include widening to accommodate shared pedestrian/cycle use;
 - c. Midford Road cycle improvements between, and including, Clara Cross Lane and Path to Hansford Close; and
 - d. Enhancements to Midford Road/A367 junction to improve road safety and sustainable accessibility.
12. Parking for bicycles and cars will need to be provided in line with current parking standards, for both residential and clinical uses. Improved integrated parking solutions and car park management across the site should be investigated to maximise efficient use of land.
13. Evaluate the potential for archaeological remains across the development site and ensure appropriate mitigation where required.



Para 222	-----The proliferation of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in the Oldfield Park/Westmoreland area is the most visible consequence of the mismatch between the growth in students and on-campus development. <u>Therefore Article 4 Direction removing the permitted development from residential (use class C3) to HMO (use class C4) was introduced in 2013.</u>
Para 223	----The Information Paper on student numbers and accommodation considers the issues in more detail, provides a full assessment of the evidence that has led to the following policy approach and its likely impact. <u>In summary, it is expected that the future increase in student numbers should be accommodated on campuses and allocated sites.</u>
Paras 224 - 225-	224 It is anticipated that this policy will enable the delivery of new on-campus study bedrooms to 2020/21 at a rate which broadly matches the growth of the student population. Based on estimated forecasts of growth, it will enable a modest increase in the student population (compared to rates experienced since 1997), enable all first years to be offered a place in managed accommodation, and potentially lead to a small contraction of the student lettings market — subject to accommodation preferences. To achieve a more significant contraction in the student lettings market would require significant amounts of valuable land within the city to be developed for student accommodation. In order for the vision for Bath to be realised this land will be needed for 'normal' housing and other commercial uses. 225 It is envisaged that this approach could mean that 2012/13 levels of HMOs will represent the high watermark within the city. The Council has declared an Article-4 direction in relation to HMOs to manage the student lettings market in the south west part of the city and elsewhere. The Council cannot apply HMO powers

	retrospectively. 226 Growth beyond 2020 will require additional on and off campus capacity to be identified. No alterations to the Green Belt boundary beyond that previously made in the Local Plan are envisaged during the Core Strategy period. However, the nature of exceptional or very special circumstances is that they cannot be predicted and the Council will need to consider such circumstances, on their merits, at the time they are presented. 227 At the time of preparation of the <u>Local Plan Partial Update</u> Placemaking Plan, the Council received updated growth plans from both Universities. They are summarised in the separate Information Paper: Student Numbers and Accommodation requirements in Bath Update (May 2016 <u>July 2021</u>). New private educational institutions e.g. language schools have also signalled a desire to increase their presence in the city.
Policy B5	POLICY B5 - STRATEGIC POLICY FOR BATH'S UNIVERSITIES <u>OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT ACCOMMODATION AND TEACHING SPACE</u> With regards to the development and expansion of the University of Bath the strategy seeks, the development of about 2,000 study bedrooms and 45,000 sq.m. of academic space at the Claverton campus site allocations. Off-campus Student Accommodation and Teaching Space Proposals for off-campus student accommodation (whether in the form, C2, C4 or sui generis residential units) or teaching space (apart from at specific allocations) will be refused within the Central Area, the Enterprise Zone and on MoD land where this would adversely affect the realisation of other aspects of the vision and spatial strategy for the city in relation to delivering housing, and economic development (in respect of office, industrial, retail and hotel space).
Add new para 229a – 229c.	SB19 - THE UNIVERSITY OF BATH AT CLAVERTON DOWN (INCLUDING THE SULIS CLUB) Historical Context Add new para 229a 229a <u>The University of Bath now employs about 3,500 staff, making it the second largest employer in the District. It has great expertise in the STEMM subjects: science, technology, engineering, mathematics and management, which are a particular focus for the West of England Local Economic Partnership (LEP). The education the University provides improves individual life chances and opportunities, and delivers highly skilled industry-ready graduates to the workplace. The University's growing research portfolio generates significant opportunities for investment and employment and the University's successful business incubation role is renowned globally. Its research also makes a significant contribution to our society and day to day lives, notably in addressing the challenges of the declared Climate and Nature Emergencies.</u>

	<u>229b. The contributions the University of Bath makes socially and economically is strategically significant to the District and policy direction is to help secure the future of the institution and manage its growth in associated student accommodation in a way not detrimental to the normal private housing stock and existing communities. As set out in the 'Strategic Issues' (para 22), there is not enough land in the city to meet its assessed needs as identified by various evidence, therefore the Council has had to prioritise land uses to meet its general housing numbers and employment floorspace. Policy B1 7 facilitates provision of additional student accommodation and academic spaces on campus and Policy B5 does not allow student accommodation where this would adversely affect the realisation of other aspects of the vision and spatial strategy for the city in relation to delivering housing, and economic development (in respect of office, industrial, retail and hotel space).</u> <u>229c. Therefore understanding the development capacity on the main Claverton Campus and maximising the potentials responding to the environmental context of the whole campus is essential. Following the adoption of the Placemaking Plan in 2017, the University has revised its masterplan in consultation with the Council and it forms important evidence base for the revised policy for the Claverton Campus.</u>
Para 235-246	Delete para 235 and 237 The B&NES Local Plan (2007) was prepared and adopted at the same time that the University was preparing its 2009 masterplan. This looked at retrospective development needs (taking into account a deficit in the academic floorspace per student ratio that had emerged over time) and longer term requirements, into the 2020's (whereas the Development Plan itself now looks to 2029). It was concluded by the exam--- Delete para 239 Delete para 240-246
New paras	<u>Local Plan Partial Update and new Masterplanning</u> <u>246a. The original Placemaking Plan (adopted in 2017) provided a Development Framework (see superseded Framework) and an associated suite of design principles as well as clear criteria for consideration of specific development schemes within different parts of the campus. It also required a comprehensive study to explore how and whether any additional development could be taken forward responding to the environmental context of the whole campus, and how the enhancement of its environmental assets would be achieved. The Framework Plan provided a long term steer for change that can endure and within which there is flexibility.</u> <u>246b. Following the adoption of the Placemaking Plan (2017), the University has prepared a new Masterplan that provides a vision of the future for the Claverton Campus. The purpose of the Masterplan is to enable the delivery of the development and infrastructure required to address the needs and expectations of its students and staff and to facilitate the University's sustainable growth in a manner that also enhances the unique beauty and environmental quality of the campus.</u> <u>246c. The Masterplan is comprised of complementary building, movement, sport and green infrastructure strategies. In order to maximise the development opportunity within its environment it identifies:</u>

	<u>- opportunities for conversion, redevelopment and extensions to the built form in the campus core;</u> <u>- development opportunities and capacity on the existing main car parks, sports pitches and courts (outside of the Green Belt).</u> <u>- the re-provision of these essential facilities elsewhere within the estate.</u> <u>246d. The Masterplan reflects the parameters of the original Policy SB19 Development Framework Plan. It addresses the University's estate strategy and explains its capacity for further development, how its elements are linked and related infrastructure requirements. It was informed by the required evidence base including a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, Visual Assessment, Transport Statement and sports facility analysis.</u> <u>246e. It has been prepared in consultation with the Council, and forms part of the evidence base for the review of Policy B5 and Policy SB19 in the Local Plan Partial Update. Revised Policy SB19 provides more detailed requirements and parameters to facilitate sustainable growth on Claverton Campus.</u> <u>246f. All applications for major development would benefit from early engagement with the Council's Development Team pre- application process. The pro-active planning of the campus between the Council and the University will likely result in the most efficient and sustainable outcomes, not only for the campus itself, but for its setting and the city as a whole.</u> <u>Climate Action Framework</u> <u>246g. In May 2020 the University declared a climate emergency and adopted a Climate Action Framework that addresses the University's climate impact as an organisation, and how it can impact the agenda through its core mission; research, and teaching and learning. The University has an important role to play in conducting world leading climate emergency related research and in educating students to become future leaders and innovators with the skills and experience to respond to the climate crisis.</u> <u>246h. The University has committed to the targets of being net zero carbon in Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030, and Scope 3 emissions by 2040.</u> <u>Scope 1 covers direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources owned or controlled by the University.</u> <u>Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from electricity consumed by the University which it does not generate itself.</u> <u>Scope 3 covers the other indirect emissions that occur upstream and downstream, associated with the University's activities, including carbon emissions generated from commuting, business travel, procurement, waste, water and construction.</u> <u>246i. This will require significant increase in the pace and ambition of current actions to meet the challenge of transitioning to a net zero carbon campus, alongside supporting behavioural and cultural changes through engagement with its own community</u>
Policy SB19	The campus, policy area and policy zones boundaries are identified on the Policies Map. The policy approach that applies within each policy zone as defined on the Policies Map is as follows: Development Framework Plan

1 Purple Zones (with no hatching) — **The** areas of pre-existing development (**academic and residential**), including car parking, or fringe areas of the current central landscaped area, where redevelopment or new development for university related uses is supported in principle. University related uses include space for learning, research and allied business incubation and knowledge transfer, conferences, university administration and IT and sports, health, creative arts, social, recreational and catering purposes, academic related retailing (e.g. a bookstore) and additional student residential accommodation.

On-site convenience retailing of a proportionate scale to serve the needs of the academic and student community will also be considered as a university related use.

2. Purple Zones (hatched) — largely sport related development, pitches, tennis courts and a car park within the Cotswolds AONB where university related development is also acceptable in principle. In order to effectively manage development within the AONB and to ensure impact on the wider AONB is comprehensively considered, it will be necessary for the University to undertake a full and detailed assessment preceding planning applications that:

establish the acceptable form and quantity of development; and

sets out the effect on the AONB and SAC and how any negative impacts will be moderated; and describes how development will be integrated into the core of the campus, and its green infrastructure network.

The study is required to cover the whole of the Purple Zone (hatched), and its production should be guided by the latest version of the Cotswold AONB Management Plan. The study will need to demonstrably inform subsequent planning applications for development within this area.

3. Green Zone — the long term future extent of a precisely defined central landscaped area (the University Park), which has an important green infrastructure function and provides the setting to many developed parts of the campus, shall itself remain as an undeveloped yet enhanced open space as the remainder of the campus intensifies.

4. Yellow Zones — Outdoor Sport area — areas within which proposals for development will be judged against national planning policy within the NPPF on AONB and Green Belt, as relevant. For the Sulis Club this enables the redevelopment of previously developed land, within the parameters set by the NPPF.5.

Clear Zones — other undeveloped areas within the Claverton campus but outwith the University Park that shall remain free of development because of their multi-functional contribution to green infrastructure. This includes a 'hole' in the purple zone to the north of Wessex House. It will be necessary for clear zones to be established in respect of development affecting the purple hatched areas, guided by the general and area specific development principles, most notably in respect of the perimeter of the campus and the role this plays for protected species of bats. Linked to new development the clear zones should be invested in to maintain habitats and enhance their function.

Development Framework Plan

The strategy seeks the development of around 870 study bedrooms and 48,000 sq.m. of academic, research and support space at the Claverton Campus to address the potential long-term development needs of the University of Bath.

1.The areas of pre-existing development

Redevelopment or new development for university related uses in areas of pre-existing development including academic, research, support, residential, the sports training villages, car parking, service areas or fringe areas of the University Park is supported in principle subject to other policy considerations.

University related uses include space for learning, research and allied business incubation and knowledge transfer, conferences, university administration, IT, sports, health, creative arts, social, recreational and catering purposes, academic related retailing (e.g. a bookstore) and additional student residential accommodation.

On-site convenience retailing of a proportionate scale to serve the needs of the academic and student community will also be considered as a university related use.

2.The area for new academic, research and support buildings (Area 1: current East Car Park)

The surface car parking will be replaced by academic, research or support buildings set within the existing movement network that is required to maintain access to neighbouring uses.

The height of the buildings will respond to their immediate setting, with the western-most blocks to be up to 5 storeys (around 22.5m high including rooftop plant) and the eastern-most block to be up to 3 storeys (around 15m including rooftop plant).

The eastern block will be set back from the campus boundary to provide space for additional tree planning to bolster the existing perimeter vegetation. Careful design of the buildings will be required to ensure that the impact on the adjacent bat corridors (in terms of light spill) and on views from Bushey Norwood (through the careful design of facades and massing) is minimised.

3.The area for new student accommodation (Area 2: currently eastern playing fields)

The rationalisation of the sports pitches and car parking on the campus will allow the surface car parking and grass pitches in the eastern playing fields to be replaced by the development of student accommodation blocks.

The buildings will extend towards the new 3G sports pitch in the south east corner of the campus and will be limited to 4 storeys (around 13m high plus rooftop plant) to reduce the visual impact of the massing in views from Bushey Norwood.

Careful design of the buildings will be required to limit light spill on to the adjacent bat corridor and help assimilate the buildings into their surroundings.

The buildings will be set back by a minimum of 25m from the campus boundary and positioned perpendicular to the eastern campus boundary to reduce light spill and provide space for supplementary tree and hedge planting along this edge. This will include a tree belt of minimum width 10m running along the western side of the boundary footpath and extending the green corridor southwards to meet the existing small copse.

4.South Car Park (Area3)

A new multi storey car park will be constructed on the footprint of the existing surface car park to provide up to 1,000 parking spaces, accessed from the service road to the south.

It will have a split-level arrangement (into northern and southern sections) with 5 levels to the north and 4 levels to the south, with a half storey change between levels. The maximum height of the structure will be approximately 12m (as parts of the lower deck could be set below the existing ground levels). It will have a roof to reduce light spill.

The eastern extent of the existing car park will be returned to landscaped open space to widen the green link through this part of the campus.

The north facing façade will be carefully designed to provide a sympathetic backdrop to the central parkland area.

The southern edge of the multi storey car park should not adversely affect the residential amenity of properties to the south and special regard should be given to the design of the development in this area and the quality of views from The Parade and from outside the campus.

5.West Car Park and academic, research and support building (Area 4)

The existing surface car park and internal planting areas will be replaced by a multi-storey car park to provide up to 700 spaces accessed from Quarry Road to the north. The maximum height of the structure will be approximately 9m. It will have a roof to reduce light spill.

A tree belt approximately 15m wide will be provided on the western/north western side of the new decked car park to tie in with the existing mound and planting. This will provide additional screening of the buildings in views from the city to the west.

The car park will be flanked by an academic, research or support building on its eastern edge providing an active frontage to the adjacent open space and campus buildings. The building will be limited to 4 storeys (up to 19m including any rooftop plant) so that it sits alongside and below the existing campus buildings when viewed from the west.

The facades and rooftop plant of both the car park and building will be carefully designed so that they can be successfully assimilated into views from the west and ensure that light spill is minimised.

A new open space will be located between the building and the adjacent 10W building, providing a key focal point at the western end of the campus, close to the nearby drop-off area and Polden PBSA. Footpath links across this space will provide improved connections to the public footpath route

running along the south western edge of the campus and extending west towards the city.

6.Redevlopment of 2 South

The building height will be limited to 2 storeys (approximately 8-9m) to reflect the massing of the existing building and ensure that it does not harm the amenity of the residential properties to the south.

The south and west facades and fenestration will be carefully designed to limit light spill on to the adjacent bat corridors and help assimilate the buildings into their surroundings and to create a positive backdrop to a key pedestrian entrance into the campus.

7.Green Infrastructure and Landscape (the University Park, Green corridor and green open space)

The landscape and Green Infrastructure on the Campus comprises the University Park, informal open areas and woodland. It directly contributes to the environmental character and quality of the campus and is a key asset for the University. The University Park has an important landscape setting and green infrastructure function to the many developed parts of the campus. It should remain as an undeveloped yet enhanced open space as the remainder of the campus intensifies.

The park will be enhanced by improving the connectivity between its different parts, improving legibility and way-marking, and encouraging a more dispersed pattern of use. Enhanced access to the park will help to provide a connection with nature and bring mental and physical health/well-being benefits.

Biodiversity will also be improved through the strategies set out in the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan, including the introduction of a more varied grassland management regime, introduction of wildflower species, installation of invertebrate refuges and nest boxes, and exploring opportunities for introducing small wildlife ponds.

The landscaped buffer along the eastern boundary of the campus will be further enhanced with additional tree planting to mitigate the potential impact of the development proposals on Bushy Norwood and the wider AONB and to strengthen the existing bat corridor.

The green corridors around the perimeter of the campus will be retained as a continuous green ribbon around the campus which includes public rights of way and links to the wider network of public footpaths and bridleways.

8. Sports facilities

The grass pitch provision on St John's Field and Lime Kiln Field in the southern part of the campus will be retained and the lacrosse pitch to the west of 1S & 2S will also be retained in situ.

The provision of a 3G pitch will significantly increase the capacity of the pitch provision across the campus. Responding to environment and health

related concerns, a precautionary approach must be taken and a completely recyclable 3G pitch and natural crumb will be required.

The boundary habitats will be retained with an appropriate buffer and maintained as dark corridors to ensure continued use by horseshoe bats. Light spill levels onto sensitive habitats should not exceed lux level thresholds as defined in current best practice. That will be achieved by new floodlighting (potentially with the replacement of existing flood lighting) being designed to comply with the relevant standards and, if necessary, the provision of additional screening.

The 3G pitch is located in the AONB and the opportunity will be explored to use the required earthworks and additional planting to screen / filter views of the pitch and related infrastructure.

The Tennis Courts on Norwood Avenue will be retained in situ. The clay pitches will, however, need to be relocated to the car park area to the east of the running track in order to facilitate the student residences development.

9. Access and Movement

In accordance with the University's Climate Action Framework, future growth will be accommodated without increasing car trips, facilitating the use of sustainable modes of travel.

An improved Arrivals Area will provide an improved image and sense of arrival/departure around the bus terminus.

Improved footpath and cycle links and facilities will connect the existing pedestrian and cycle access off North Road and public footpath routes to the west to key destinations within the campus.

The use of the two existing vehicular access points to the campus will be maintained.

Sulis Club

Outdoor Sports area - Proposals for development will be judged against national planning policy within the NPPF, including that relating to AONBs and Green Belt, as well as the World Heritage Site and its setting and Outstanding Universal Values. For the Sulis Club this enables the appropriate redevelopment of previously developed land, within the parameters set by the NPPF.

General Development Principles

a Development on campus should contribute to the full spectrum of the University's needs, including academic space, all the accommodation space that is needed for the growth in the intake of first years from 2011 and a major share of the accommodation space that is needed for their subsequent years of study.

b In all circumstances, development should optimise the efficient use of developable land within the campus to maximise its floorspace within the constraints that are present, and whilst achieving good design. The siting, orientation, height, scale and massing of buildings, the landscaping response and the design of the spaces between buildings shall be determined having regard to the criteria in this policy and of other relevant policies in the Development Plan. The flexibility and adaptability of buildings will also be assessed in determining the overall quality of design.

c In all circumstances development will be assessed to determine the degree to which it affects the significance of the Bath World Heritage Site (by reference to the Bath

World Heritage Setting SPD), the Bath Conservation Area, the Claverton Conservation Area, the Claverton Manor Historic Garden and the Bathampton Down Scheduled Ancient Monument (including by affecting their settings) and great weight will be given to their conservation and enhancement.

d In all circumstances where development would be visible to views from within the Cotswolds AONB (at Bushey Norwood, Bathampton Down, and Claverton Down, or from within the Limpley Stoke Valley at places such as Warleigh and Conkwell), it should respond to this context and its visual impact must be moderated with a suitable design response including suitable (immediate and longer term) mitigation measures, including any opportunities to enhance the AONB. Impacts on the AONB will need to be evidenced in an LVIA, the scope of which should be set out in consultation with the LPA, Natural England and the Cotswold Conservation Board.

e If under the terms of the NPPF in respect of Green Belt and AONB, development were to be evidenced as being acceptable in principle within the Green Belt or AONB through the demonstration of very special circumstances at St Johns Field, Lime Kiln Field or at the Sulis Club ~~(the yellow zone)~~, all general design principles will continue to apply in order to achieve good design and mitigate harm. ~~Zonal approach 2 would also become highly applicable.~~

f In all circumstances the design response should be evidenced as contributing positively to a campus wide strategy for green infrastructure, landscape and ecology (particularly in respect of protected species of Bats) **such as the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan**. These matters should be intrinsic to development, which should enable the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks affecting the campus. If it is necessary to cause harm to a network, this should be minimised and suitable compensatory measures must be made within the campus.

Provide a minimum of a swift brick per 6 m2 of wall, mounted near the roof, in clusters of three or more,, within new buildings, and/or as standalone features within the public realm, such as bat walls and swift towers. Additional features such as log piles, insect hotels, bee bricks, hedgehog connectivity measures and green and brown roofs / walls are also required

~~g As part of a campus wide strategy and to implement its Travel Plan~~ ~~a~~ All development proposals should enable **and encourage** sustainable transport choices to be made travelling to, and from and within the campus. **This should be delivered as part of a campus-wide approach to sustainable travel including the active implementation of an up to date Travel Plan.** This includes retaining ~~but not increasing an~~ **or reducing the current** operational level of car parking **(about 2,200 spaces)** ~~of not more than 2,200 spaces~~ so as not to harm the patronage of sustainable transport modes, their viability, or cause additional car trips to and from the campus.

h Decked parking as part of any reorganisation of parking supply and/or optimising development capacity should meet the design related criteria of this and other policies, **including the B&NES Sustainable Transport SPD. Proposals to provide decked car parking will need to be accompanied by robust justification of the level of parking proposed, including Blue Badge, cycle and ULEV, including demonstration of suitable measures aimed at reducing the demand for campus parking.**

i **Apart from the Area 2 (current Eastern field playing field) which is identified for redevelopment following the rationalisation of the playing pitches.** ~~T~~the loss of publicly accessible playing pitch capacity to other types of development will only be permitted if that capacity is replaced elsewhere within the city or its immediate environs. Any reduction in non-publicly accessible capacity is a matter for the University as it weighs this resource against its overall institutional and campus priorities.

j In all circumstances lighting shall be designed to minimise the amount of dusk to dawn illumination on the campus and light spill from the campus to moderate the impact of development on the AONB, the significance of the World Heritage Site and protected species (bats).

Area Specific Development Principles

~~K Buildings sited between the Chemistry Building, Quarry Road and the West Car Park, or on it, shall be sited and designed to address this area's elevated location on the edge of the escarpment. Further, the design response should not adversely affect the residential amenity of properties to the south on North Road and should positively address the proximity of the Bath skyline walk, by retaining an attractive visual edge to the campus. This is currently an extensive, tranquil, green and pleasant corner of the campus and thus special regard should be had to general principle (f) and the maintenance of GI links between it, the central landscaped area and Sham Castle Field.~~

~~L Whilst the green bank opposite the Sports Institute is not unattractive, it contributes to a weak and confined sense of arrival. The Development Framework shows that the northern part of this bank, leading into the eastern end of the core structure of the bus terminus and the east car park has development potential. The potential of this whole area should be optimised and an improved image and sense of arrival/departure created around the optimum location of the bus terminus. In association, to the south of this area (beyond the purple zone) the southern part of the green bank opposite the Sports Institute should be opened up to create views to the University buildings across the central landscaped area to the main structure beyond.~~

~~m Between the Chancellor's Building and the areas of student accommodation is an undeveloped area that provides visual relief. This is not a hole in the purple zone but the placement of any structures within it will need to have special regard to general development principle (f) and the need for the campus to provide areas for informal recreation and visual relief from high density development.~~

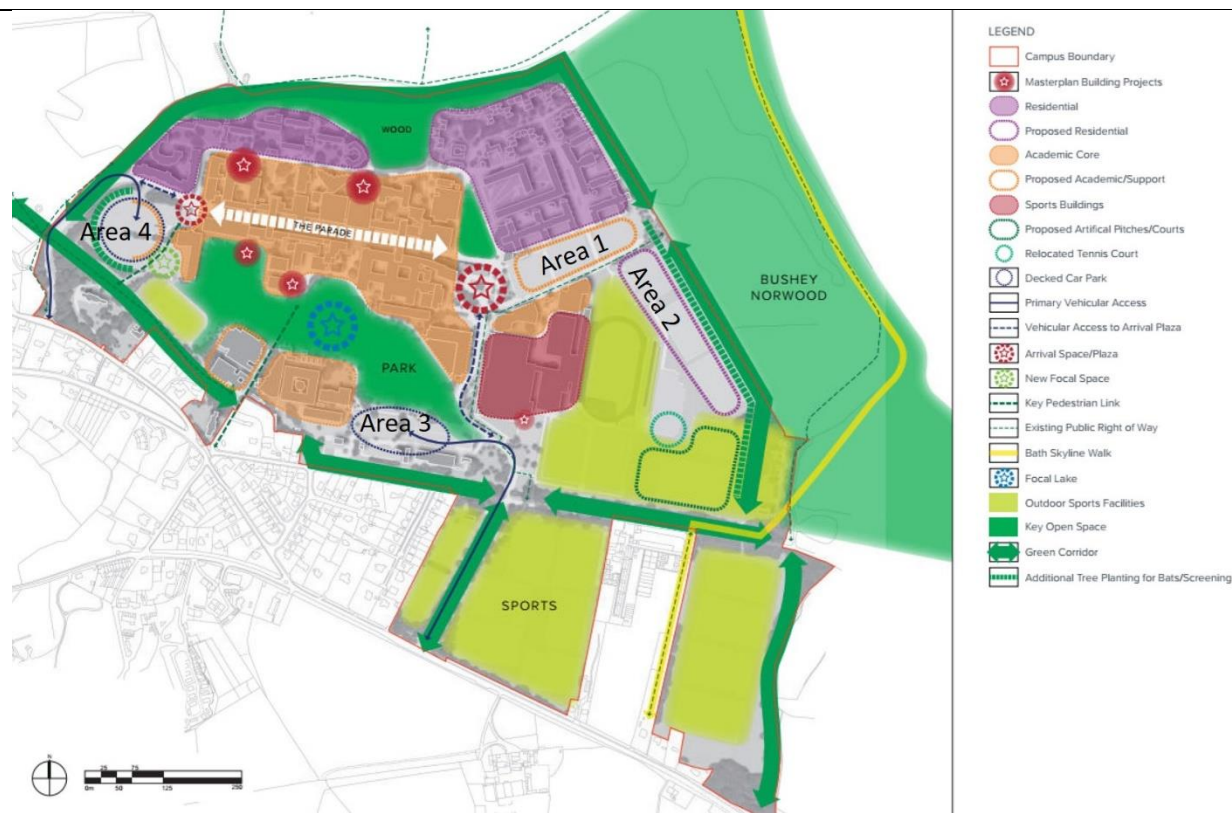
~~n Development on the southern car park should not adversely affect the residential amenity of properties to the south and special design regard should be had to the changing appearance that development in this area could cause to views from The Parade and from outside the campus.~~

~~e The Tennis Courts on Norwood Avenue, if redeveloped, are only suitable for development of a height and use that respects and is compatible with the amenity of residential properties on Beech Avenue. That amenity does not include the maintenance of residents' views from Beech Avenue over the AONB as this is not a material planning consideration. The Norwood Avenue approach should remained tree lined.~~

~~p Further to the provisions for policy area (2) the design of development on the eastern playing fields should be landscape led given its largely undeveloped nature and location within and potential to affect the qualities of wider AONB. Special attention should be paid to addressing general criteria (d) (f), and (j) and boundary treatments, paying particular regard to the impact of development on SAC bats and views from the wider Cotswold AONB.~~

Other Matters to be addressed

~~q Proposals for further first year student accommodation should set out how the University expects the consequent follow- on accommodation needs so generated will be met and how this is compatible with the overall sustainable development of the city.~~



It is anticipated that this policy will enable the delivery of new on-campus study bedrooms to ~~2020/21~~ **2029/30** at a rate which broadly matches the growth of the student population.

New
Policy
SB26

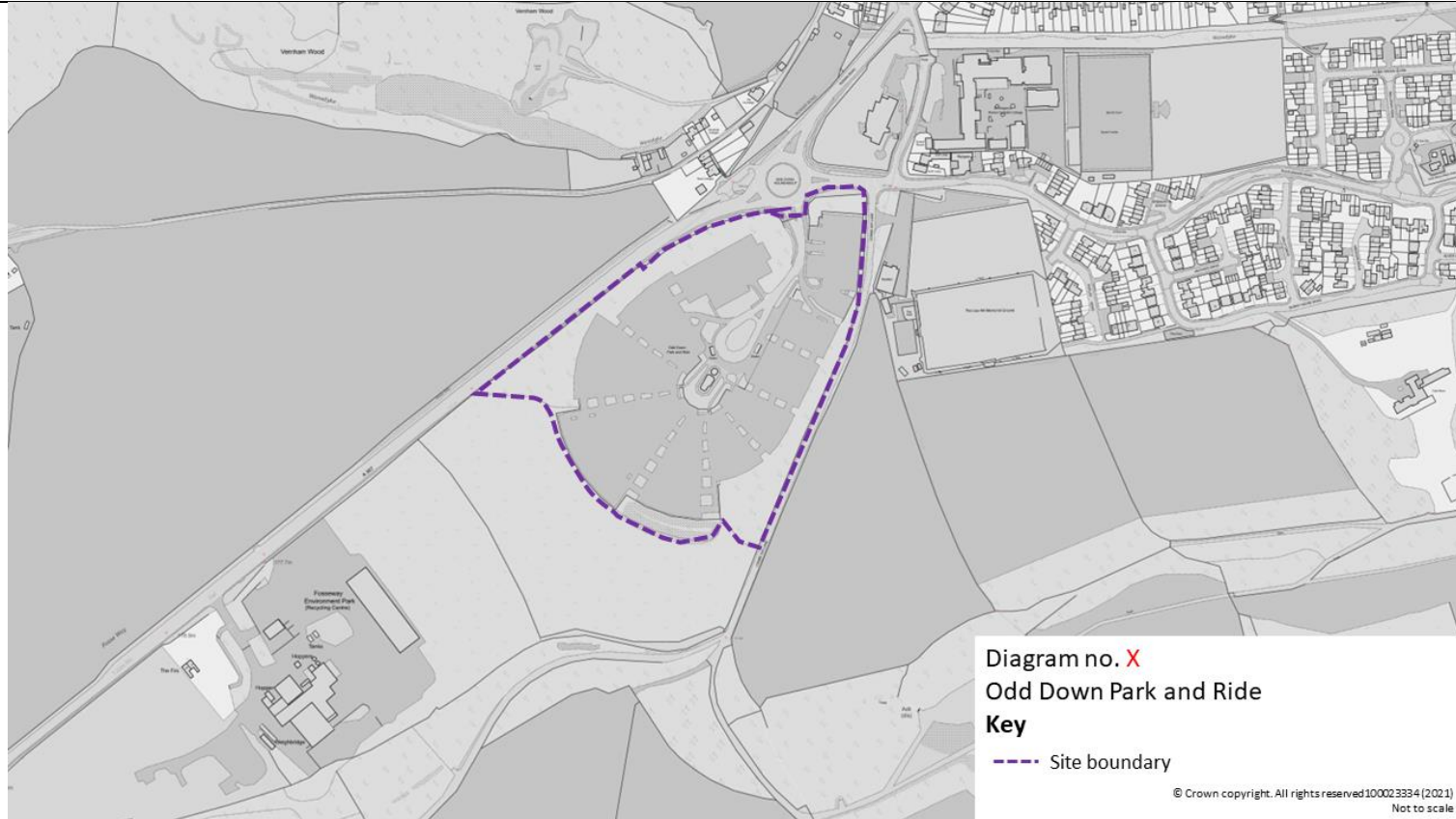
POLICY SB26: PARK AND RIDE SITES

Development Requirements and Design Principles

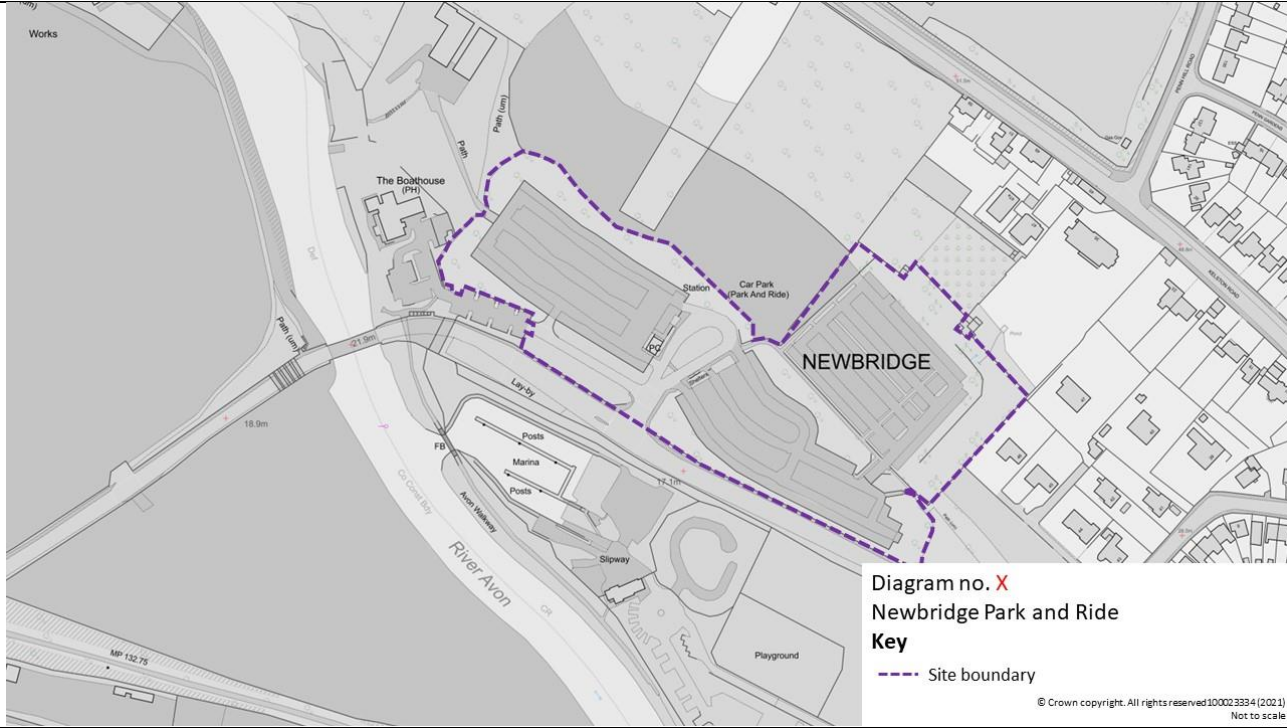
Odd Down, Newbridge and Lansdown Park and Ride sites are allocated as Transport Interchanges. As such development proposals at each of the Park and Ride sites will be expected to:

1. **Deliver multi-modal transport interchanges, the appropriate uses for which are set out in the supporting text for policy ST6 of the Local Plan Partial Update.**
2. **Incorporate renewable energy provision that is compatible with the primary function of these sites as multi-modal transport interchanges.**
3. **Ensure the continued use of the sites for Park and Ride purposes, as far as is necessary to achieve the aims of the Council's wider transport**

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| | <p><u>strategy, with additional facilities provided to enable interchange, complimenting the Park and Ride service.</u></p> <p>4. <u>Be contained within the areas of the sites already developed for Park and Ride use and removed from the Green Belt, as specified on the Policies Map.</u></p> <p>5. <u>Provide built form of an intensity, scale and massing appropriate to the sensitive landscape setting of the sites, minimising visual impact from the surrounding areas. Any development should be informed by a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment for each site, taking into consideration potential impact on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other sensitive landscape features.</u></p> <p>6. <u>Deliver high quality architectural design, informed by the sites' sensitive landscape surroundings.</u></p> <p>7. <u>Be informed by an ecological survey of each site to ensure key habitats and features of ecological value are retained and enhanced. This is an absolute requirement for the Odd Down site which is known to support a colony of Small Blue butterflies. The areas of calcareous grassland shown as Priority Habitat on the Policies Map must be retained and enhanced, and where feasible buffered with supporting habitat.</u></p> <p>8. <u>Protect and enhance existing green infrastructure and habitats within the site, including all trees, hedgerows, and grassland habitats. Flightlines and foraging routes to be protected from light spill.</u></p> <p>9. <u>Deliver biodiversity net gain of at least 10% in accordance with Policy NE3a. Opportunities to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain within the site curtilage should be fully explored and tested before any off-site measures are proposed. At Odd Down the Biodiversity Net Gain focus should be on increasing the area and improving quality of calcareous grassland priority habitat and maintaining suitable conditions for the Small Blue Butterfly (and other invertebrate interest) across the car park.</u></p> <p>10. <u>Facilitate safe walking and cycling routes through the sites, with connections to the surrounding countryside and into the City.</u></p> |
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Local Plan Partial Update

Note: in the changes below additional text is underlined and deletions are shown as a ~~strike-through~~.

Volume 3 (Keynsham)

Page/Para	Amendments
Policy KE1	POLICY KE1: KEYNSHAM SPATIAL STRATEGY The Strategy for Keynsham is to: 1 Natural and Built Environment - a Maintain the Green Belt surrounding Keynsham, allowing releases of Green Belt land to the east and south west of Keynsham to accommodate employment and housing growth. - b Make better use of the existing green and blue infrastructure (for example parks and rivers) running through and surrounding the town which will be enhanced, made more accessible and linked up. 2 Housing - a Make provision for around 2,150 new homes (net) between 2011 and 2029. This will include affordable housing, and an appropriate housing mix giving more choice of housing to meet the needs of the local community - b Allow for residential development if it is within the housing development boundary defined on the Policies Map or it forms an element of Policies K2, KE2, KE2a, KE3a, <u>KE3c, KE3d</u> and KE4.
New para 80a	<u>80a. In order to help deliver the strategy for Keynsham a number of key sites are allocated for development. For each of the sites allocated for development a policy, supported by a concept plan, is set out which details specific development requirements for that site. For these sites the plan must also be read as a whole as district-wide development management policies also apply, including (but not limited to) policies relating to sustainable construction, biodiversity net gain, affordable housing and sustainable transport.</u>
Paragraph 84 - 94	<u>84. A key redevelopment opportunity within Keynsham town centre is the site currently occupied by the Fire Station, Leisure Centre and Riverside offices. The fire station will be relocating to a new facility at Durley Hill on the western edge of the town and the Leisure Centre is proposed to be redeveloped as part of the Council's Fit for Life Strategy. The Riverside offices have been predominantly vacant following the Council's relocation to the Civic Centre. Therefore, the site will be available for redevelopment during the plan period. The freehold of the site is owned by the Council, but the leasehold of the offices is owned by a private company.</u> <u>85. The site currently comprises three distinct elements which are the Riverside offices/ground floor retail, Keynsham fire station and Keynsham leisure centre.</u>

	<u>86. This was historically a residential and commercial area with backland orchards and allotments. Temple Street was until the mid-20th century as active as the High Street, with shops and dwellings along both sides. The site was redeveloped in the 1960s and 70s for the current uses, with the leisure centre completed in the early 1980s. A number of historic buildings were demolished and replaced when this redevelopment occurred. The former fine grain of the east side of Temple Street was replaced by the more coarse grain displayed today, as many of the historic narrow plots were combined to form the large scale Riverside development.</u> <u>87. It is likely because of the complexity of the site that redevelopment will need to be phased.</u> <u>88. Evaluation has identified this site as the preferred location for a replacement leisure centre. This would maintain the mixed use offer of the town centre and make efficient use of a brownfield site. Public consultation also revealed a strong preference for providing a new leisure centre here. The exact mix of facilities provided within the new leisure centre will involve further public consultation.</u> <u>89. The site is located within a 'district heating priority area' as defined by Policy CP4. As such, development will be expected to incorporate infrastructure for district heating, and will be expected to connect to such a system as and when this is available.</u> <u>90. The fire station site is within the Conservation Area. The remainder of the site falls outside this designation, but redevelopment will have an impact on the setting of the Conservation Area. Taken as a whole, the Riverside complex currently causes harm to the Conservation Area.</u> <u>91. Current connections between Temple Street and the Memorial Park through the site are poor. To travel between the two currently means traversing a series of poorly designed pedestrian alleys, undercrofts and a narrow metal walkway and staircase. The spaces created feel windswept, stark and unsafe. They do not give inspiration to make the short journey between Temple Street and the park.</u> <u>92. Views from the park back to the site are dominated by the Riverside complex, which appears incoherent, ungainly and undistinguished, entirely detracting from the appreciation of the tree-studded river valley and park in the foreground.</u> <u>93. This is a key regeneration site for Keynsham. Redevelopment offers significant opportunities to enhance the town centre with a high quality development. Proposals that do not maximise the potential of the site for a high quality development will be resisted.</u> <u>Vision</u> <u>94. Comprehensive redevelopment of a key town centre area with a mixed use development which enhances the Conservation Area and rejuvenates this part of the town centre. A high quality design will improve links between Temple Street and the Memorial Park. The site will have close links with the Civic Centre development, but be subservient to it.</u>
After para 84	<u>84a. The redevelopment of Riverside and the Fire station was identified in earlier versions of the Plan as a key redevelopment opportunity within Keynsham town centre (KE2b). The site comprised three distinct elements: the Riverside offices/ground floor retail, Keynsham fire station and Keynsham leisure centre. The conversion of Riverside offices to residential, retaining the ground floor retail, and redevelopment of Keynsham leisure centre are now completed. The last remaining element to be developed is the former Fire Station, which became available for development following the relocation of the fire service to a new facility at Durley Hill on the western edge of the town.</u>

	<u>84b. This site is located between the recently completed Civic Centre and Library, and the Riverside development. The former Fire Station fronts onto Temple Street and at the rear of this building are the access and servicing areas for the Keynsham Leisure Centre and the Riverside development. Beyond this, and further to the east, is the Civic Centre Car Park.</u> <u>84c. The existing site allocation (KE2b) includes all these areas and further extends to encompass parts of the Memorial Park to the banks of the River Chew. It is proposed to retain the geographic scope of this existing site allocation, removing the recently completed Riverside development.</u> <u>84d. The town centre location of the site, close to local amenities and public transport services, offers significant potential but also complex challenges which will need to be met in terms of the functioning of the area as a whole. The site allocation spans different land ownerships and co-operation and joint working is required to bring forward a scheme that optimises the potential of the site whilst enabling the access, servicing and parking requirements of nearby land uses and other access rights.</u> <u>84e. There is a pedestrian and cycle route dividing the site and running in front of the Civic Centre, set back from Temple Street, known as “Market Walk”, which acts as both an important connection and contributes to the public realm of the area. The Civic Centre Car Park is accessed to the rear of the site, and there are access and servicing requirements for other land uses, including the Keynsham Leisure Centre. The design of the site, the co-operation of the different landowners and how it interacts with the surrounding land uses will be key to maximising its sustainability without having an unacceptable impact on the operation of the Town Centre.</u> <u>Vision</u> <u>84f. The site must integrate positively with the wider urban fabric and incorporate a continuation of the Market Walk public realm route from the north. The site offers significant potential to deliver sustainable town centre development which must be maximised through the design of the scheme.</u> <u>84g. Given the complexities of land ownership, it is anticipated that different phases of development may come forward at different times. It is essential that earlier phases of development do not prejudice the potential of future phases, and landowners and developers are therefore strongly encouraged to work jointly and collaboratively to identify how their individual elements may come forward and be complementary to each other. It is anticipated that the earliest phase of development likely to come forward will be the Fire Station site. This is assumed to have a development capacity of around 21 residential flats (C3 use class).</u>
Policy KE2b	RIVERSIDE AND FIRE STATION SITE Development Requirements and Design Principles Development must: <u>1. Replace existing buildings with a new, high quality mixed use development comprising ground floor retail and/or other town centre uses</u>

along Temple Street, mixed residential and a replacement Leisure Centre.

2. Incorporate infrastructure for district heating in compliance with Policy CP4

3. Achieve high quality design that enhances the Conservation Area and its setting.

4. Provide a variation in roof heights. Design of buildings must provide articulation and relief to the elevations.

5. Construct external facades in an appropriate palette of materials referenced from the local context and vernacular. This should include materials identified as central to the character of Keynsham from the Conservation Area Appraisal.

6. Ensure the general alignment of the existing public rights of way that run through the site are retained, enhanced and incorporated into and through the scheme. These routes must include the continuation of Market Walk into the site and provide direct pedestrian connection and vistas between the site and the High Street.

7. Ensure new high-quality public rights of way that link the site to Temple Street / Carpenters Lane, and the Memorial Park / River Chew are provided.

8. Have a positive relationship with all publically accessible routes and the Memorial Park. The frontage to Temple Street must be active.

9. Ensure sensitive lighting solutions are provided for the buildings and the public realm to minimise light spill within and into the River Chew corridor.

10. Provide suitable additional car parking that mitigates the transport impact of the development.

Development should also:

11. Provide around 2,500sqm of B1 office floorspace in order to provide a mix of uses and contribute to the vitality and viability of the town centre.

12. Provide a high quality public realm along Temple Street constructed from an appropriate palette of materials referenced from the local context. The suitability for tree planting along Temple Street should be investigated.

13. Enhance the Memorial Park and provide links with Temple Street to include planting in order to improve links, views and green infrastructure. Opportunities for providing terraced public open space overlooking the park will be encouraged, as will reinstatement of the orchard.

14. Provision of SUDS (excluding infiltration techniques) will be supported

1. Provide residential development (C3 use class) and around 2,500sqm of B1 office floorspace to provide a mix of uses that contribute to the vitality and viability of the town centre.

2. Provide an active frontage to Temple Street and a positive frontage with all other publicly accessible routes, particularly at ground floor level.

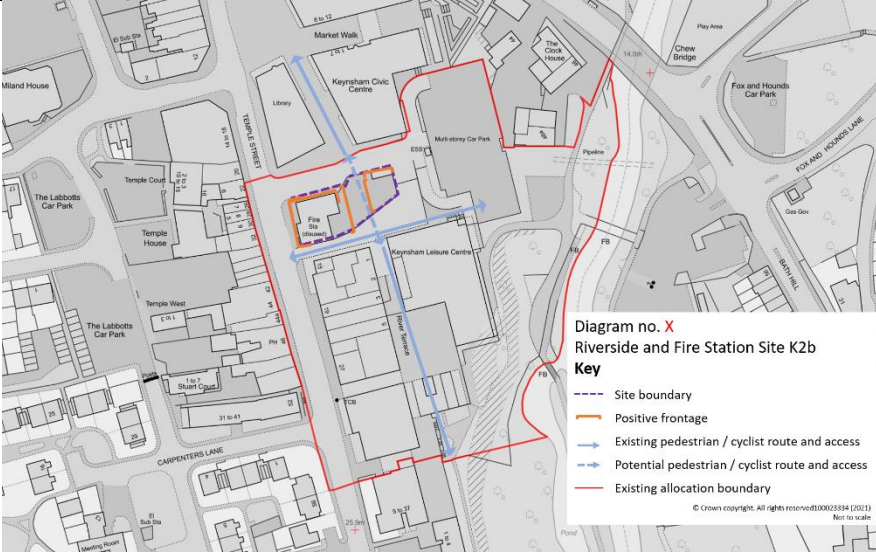
3. Respond appropriately to the Memorial Park, in the views to and from it, and in the relationship of development to it. It is essential that development respects the residential amenity of neighbouring buildings, for example Riverside.

4. Achieve high quality design that enhances the Conservation Area and its setting and which complements the transition between the Civic Centre and Library and the Riverside development. This may require some variation in roof heights and the design of buildings must provide articulation and relief to their elevations.

5. Construct external facades in an appropriate palette of materials referenced from the local context and vernacular. This should include

materials identified as central to the character of Keynsham from the Conservation Area Appraisal.

6. Optimise the solar energy potential of development by careful design and orientation.
7. Achieve low or zero car parking for non-residential land uses, subject to an appropriate assessment of the effect on wider town centre parking.
8. Ensure the general alignment of the existing public rights of way that run through the site are retained, enhanced and incorporated into and through the scheme. This includes the links through the site to the Memorial Park and River Chew.
9. Deliver the 'Market Walk' through the site. Whilst its alignment may be slightly deflected to enable practical development parcels to come forward, there must be a direct visual connection along its route from the Civic Centre to the Riverside development.
10. Ensure sensitive lighting solutions are provided for the buildings and the public realm to minimise light spill within and into the River Chew corridor.
11. The Transport Assessment for the site must include a review of walking and cycling routes likely be used by occupiers, with proportionate improvements identified and delivered.
12. Provide a high quality public realm along Temple Street and throughout the public spaces of the development, constructed from an appropriate palette of materials referenced from the local context. The suitability for tree planting along Temple Street should be investigated.
13. Enhance the Memorial Park and provide links with Temple Street to include planting in order to improve links, views and green infrastructure. Opportunities for providing terraced public open space overlooking the park will be encouraged, as will reinstatement of the orchard. The provision of SUDS (excluding infiltration techniques) is required.
14. Deliver biodiversity net gain of at least 10% in accordance with Policy NE3a . Opportunities to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain within the site curtilage should be fully explored and tested before any off-site measures are proposed.
15. Provide a minimum of one nest or roost site per residential unit, in the form of integrated bird and bat boxes within new buildings, and/or as standalone features within the public realm, such as bat walls and swift towers. Additional features such as log piles, insect hotels, bee bricks, hedgehog connectivity measures and green and brown roofs / walls are also required.
16. Be informed by a detailed historic environment assessment, and where necessary evaluation, in order to identify and implement appropriate mitigation

	 Diagram no. X Riverside and Fire Station Site K2b Key - Site boundary - Positive frontage - Existing pedestrian / cyclist route and access - Potential pedestrian / cyclist route and access - Existing allocation boundary © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023384 (2021) Not to scale
Policy KE3b	Keynsham <u>POLICY KE3B: SAFEGUARDED LAND AT EAST KEYNSHAM</u> Land shown on the Key Diagram and Policies Map is removed from the Green Belt and safeguarded for possible development. The safeguarded land is not allocated for development at the present time and Policy CP8 will apply. Planning permission for development of the safeguarded land will be granted only when it is proposed for development following a review of the Local Plan.
New paras supporting Policy KE3c	<u>EAST OF KEYNSHAM – Safeguarded Land KE3C</u> <u>Context</u> <u>The 2017 Placemaking Plan analysed the highways capacity in Keynsham and concluded that mitigation would need to be delivered prior to allocating further housing growth. Hence this land was safeguarded but not allocated for future housing. It has however been removed from the Green Belt.</u> <u>Mitigation opportunities have been reviewed following the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declarations to ensure that they meet the Council's requirements to maximise sustainable transport improvements. This has included identifying measures which will also shift some existing car trips to sustainable modes in order to release capacity for additional housing growth in advance of major strategic interventions such as metrobus and Mass Transit. Thus, the Council's position remains that mitigation is required to deliver growth, but the content of the mitigation package has been updated to meet the requirements of the Climate Emergency, enabling the safeguarded land to be allocated for much needed housing.</u>
New Policy KE3c	<u>POLICY KE3C:</u> <u>Development proposals will:</u>

1. Deliver residential development (Class C3) of around 210 dwellings in the plan period, in the areas as shown on the concept diagram.
2. Complement the housing style, character and density of the adjacent Hygge Park development – incorporating an element of traditional materials including natural lias limestone. Building heights will generally be limited to 2/2.5 storeys, ensuring that development does not interrupt the skyline views from the Cotswolds AONB.
3. Provide a positive relationship with all publicly accessible routes and face outwards towards the open countryside, adopt a perimeter block layout, with a clear distinction between the fronts and backs of properties.
4. Provide an appropriate access from the A4 Bath Road. This is to include pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities over the A4 Bath Road to link the site with facilities and active travel routes on the north side. This needs to include appropriate consideration of the interaction with other junctions on the A4 Bath Road, including Pixash Lane. There must be no possible through-route for general traffic between existing residential areas south of Wellsway School and the A4.
5. Demonstrate that they support metrobus and Mass Transit plans as they emerge, in order to maximise integration between housing development and metrobus and Mass Transit.
6. Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists over private vehicles, and provide an attractive, low-speed environment throughout. The development should integrate well with the surrounding residential areas and provide a comprehensive network of pedestrian and cycle routes, including enabling the creation of a public footpath between K26 A and K26 C, connecting at Manor Road Community Woodland. These routes should utilise existing green corridors where practicable and provide LTN1/20 standard pedestrian and cycle routes which enhance and allow appropriate space for green infrastructure and landscape infrastructure provision.
7. Public space and footpaths should incorporate species-rich verges and grassland habitat and design should be integrated with green infrastructure and landscape design of the site.
8. Be accompanied by a Travel Plan and Transport Assessment, which assesses in detail the mitigation requirements of an individual site. Mitigation proposals for the site must include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Improved frequency of public transport services along the A4;
 - b. Enhanced local town centre bus services connecting the development site with the town more widely and providing an opportunity to interchange with metrobus and Mass Transit Services;
 - c. LCWIP route improvements to LTN1/20 standards within Keynsham, specifically between the development location, Wellsway School, and Keynsham Town Centre. This must include segregated pedestrian and cycle provision on the south side of the A4 between Grange Road and Broadmead Roundabout, and onward comparable provision along Bath Road to the Town Centre; and
 - d. New active travel connection between the A4 and the Bristol Bath Railway Path via Clay Bridge, World's End Lane.
9. Deliver biodiversity net gain of at least 10% in accordance with Policy NE3a. Opportunities to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain within the site curtilage should be fully explored and tested before any off-site measures are proposed. The substantive retention of internal and boundary hedgerows, with 10-15m habitat buffers is expected. Protective buffers of at least 25m are expected around the LNR woodland.
10. Provide a minimum of one nest or roost site per residential unit, in the form of integrated bird and bat boxes within new buildings, and/or

as standalone features within the public realm, such as bat walls and swift towers. Additional features such as log piles, insect hotels, bee bricks, hedgehog connectivity measures and green and brown roofs / walls are also required. All new garden boundaries should be permeable for hedgehogs.

11. Retain and enhance internal hedgerows including hedgerow specimen trees, enabling the subdivision of the site into a number of development areas and providing a strong landscape and green infrastructure framework. Sufficient setback of development should allow for growth of trees, ecological functioning of habitat corridors and buffering of the Local Nature Reserve. (The following minimum buffers will be required: 10m from base of hedgerow; 15m from base of hedgerow with ditch; 25m to buffer the woodland LNR).

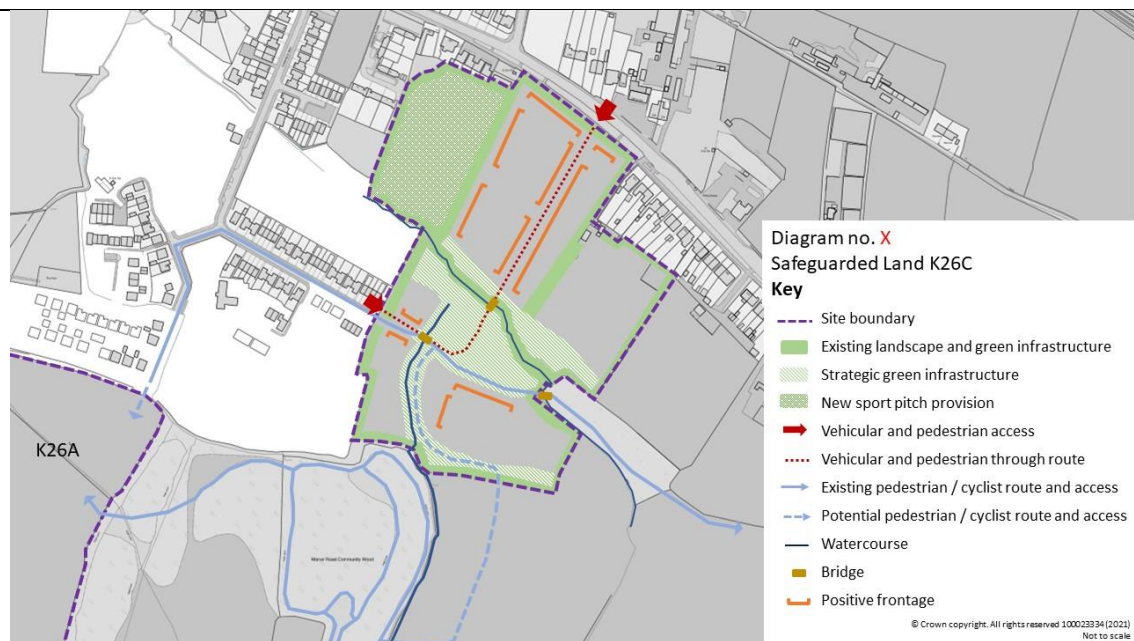
12. Fully incorporate Nature-based SuDS solution as part of the green infrastructure strategy to provide betterment to the existing surface water flood issues and habitat gains.

13. Incorporate green infrastructure, including on-site provision of well-integrated formal and natural green space and play provision, and on or off-site provision allotments.

14. Provide a replacement sports pitch in the north-west corner of K26 C to facilitate the expanded primary school located within the Hygge Park development.

15. Optimise the solar energy potential of development by careful design and orientation.

16. Implement downstream sewer upsizing works and pumping station upgrade.



New Policy
KE3d

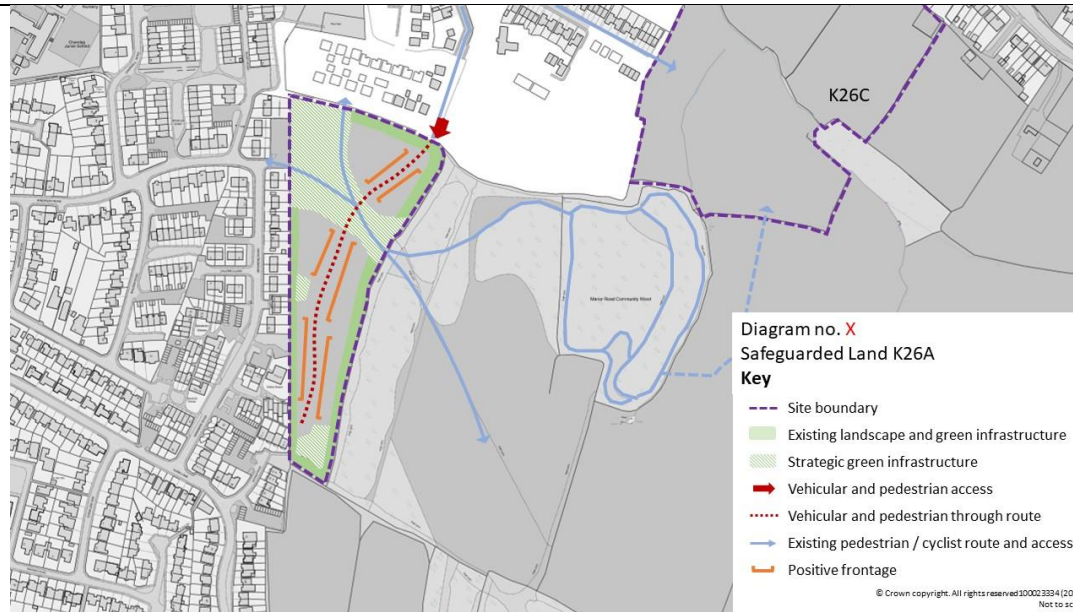
POLICY KE3d: East of Keynsham Safeguarded Land KE3d

Development Requirements and Design Principles

Development proposals will:

- 1. Deliver residential development (Class C3) of around 70 dwellings in the plan period, in the areas as shown on the concept diagram.**
- 2. Contemporary housing style, character and density to complement of the adjacent residential areas, incorporating an element of traditional materials including natural lias limestone. Building heights will generally be limited to 2/2.5 storeys, ensuring that development does not interrupt the skyline views from the Cotswolds AONB.**
- 3. Provide a positive relationship with all publicly accessible routes and face outwards towards the open countryside, adopt a perimeter block layout, with a clear distinction between the fronts and backs of properties.**
- 4. Ensure that there is no possible through-route for general traffic between existing residential areas south of Wellsway School and the A4. Access can either be via Hygge Park or via the residential area to the west, with the inclusion of a modal filter at an appropriate location on the street network that allows for pedestrian and cyclist permeability, but does not allow general vehicles to pass through.**
- 5. Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists over private vehicles, and provide an attractive, low-speed environment throughout. The development should integrate well with the surrounding residential areas and extend the network of pedestrian and cycle routes. These should utilise existing and enhanced green corridors where practicable to provide LTN1/20 standard pedestrian and cycle routes. Public space and footpaths should incorporate species-rich verges and grassland habitat.**
- 6. Be accompanied by a Travel Plan and Transport Assessment, which assess in detail the mitigation requirements of an individual site. Mitigation proposals for the site must include, but not be limited to, the following:**

- a. Improved frequency of public transport services along the A4;
- b. Enhanced local town centre bus services connecting the development site with the town more widely and providing an opportunity to interchange with metrobus and Mass Transit Services;
- c. LCWIP route improvements to LTN1/20 standards within Keynsham, specifically between the development location, Wellsway School, and Keynsham Town Centre. This must include segregated pedestrian and cycle provision on the south side of the A4 between Grange Road and Broadmead Roundabout, and onward comparable provision along Bath Road to the Town Centre; and
- d. New active travel connection between the A4 and the Bristol Bath Railway Path via Clay Bridge, World's End Lane.
- e. The creation of a public footpath between K26 A and K26 C, connecting at Manor Road Community Woodland.
- f. Upgrade of the footpath connection to Windrush Road to allow cycling – this will entail altering the section of footpath in the existing residential areas to become a Bridleway via a TRO.
7. Deliver biodiversity net gain of at least 10% in accordance with Policy NE3a. Opportunities to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain within the site curtilage should be fully explored and tested before any off-site measures are proposed. The substantive retention of internal and boundary hedgerows, with 10-15m habitat buffers is expected. Protective buffers of at least 25m are expected around the LNR woodland.
8. Provide a minimum of one nest or roost site per residential unit, in the form of integrated bird and bat boxes within new buildings, and/or as standalone features within the public realm, such as bat walls and swift towers. Additional features such as log piles, insect hotels, bee bricks, hedgehog connectivity measures and green and brown roofs / walls are also required. All new garden boundaries should be permeable for hedgehogs.
9. Retain and enhance internal hedgerows including hedgerow specimen trees, enabling the subdivision of the site into a number of development areas and providing a strong landscape and green infrastructure framework. Sufficient setback of development should allow for growth of trees, ecological functioning of habitat corridors and buffering of the Local Nature Reserve. Lightspill in the retained hedgerow network and habitat buffers should be avoided. (The following minimum buffers will be required: 10m from base of hedgerow; 15m from base of hedgerow with ditch; 25m to buffer the woodland LNR)
10. Fully incorporate Nature-based SuDS solution as part of the green infrastructure strategy to provide betterment to the existing surface water flood issues and habitat gains.
11. Incorporate green infrastructure, including on-site provision of well integrated formal and natural green space and play provision, and on or off-site provision of allotments.
12. Optimise the solar energy potential of development by careful design and orientation.



New Policy KE5

KEYNSHAM TREETOPS -**Context**

This 0.23 ha triangular shaped site lies within the built-up area of Keynsham. The three storey Keynsham Health Centre, including its car park, is situated to the north. The open countryside is to the south and east, with residential areas to the west. The site includes a 1960s one and two storey building that is unoccupied and was previously used as a 30 bedroom nursing home. Overall, this part of Keynsham has a pleasant suburban character.

The site is located within walking and cycling distance of the amenities and facilities in Keynsham Town Centre and the High Street, and in reasonable proximity to Keynsham Rail Station. Bus services to Bristol can be accessed from Albert Road, within walking distance of the site. Thus, by virtue of its location, the site offers the potential for local trips to be made on foot or by cycle, and for longer distance trips to be made by public transport. A planning application for the site would be expected to undertake route reviews of the walking and cycling networks, and ensure that suitable improvements are made to maximise the active travel potential of the site's location.

Vision

Development at this location will be expected to bring forward a high quality design, making use of the sites sustainable location, also achieving well-designed spaces, including good layout, appropriate and effective landscaping, as well as securing a high standard of amenity for future users.

It is expected that the site has the potential to deliver residential development of around 30 dwellings (C3 use class), including at least 30% affordable housing provision. Development of the site should respond positively to the character and appearance of the area, including the setting

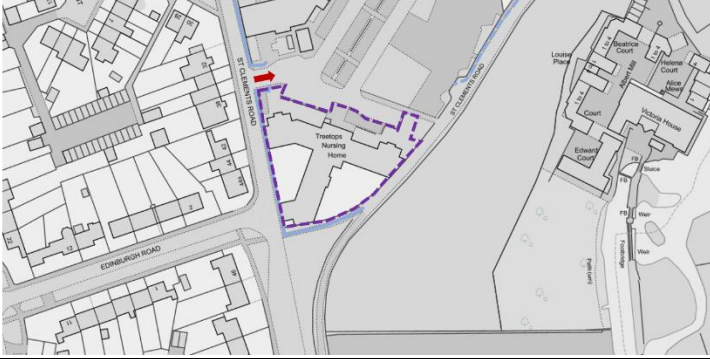
	<u>of Keynsham Conservation Area, as well as the visual amenity of the Bristol and Bath Green Belt (GB).</u>
New allocation Policy KE5 KEYNSHAM TREETOPS	KE5 Treetops Development Requirements and Design Principles Development proposals will: 1. Deliver residential development of around 30 dwellings (C3 use class) 2. <u>Development should respond positively to the character and appearance of the area, including the setting of Keynsham Conservation Area, as well as the visual amenity of the Bristol and Bath Green Belt (GB)</u> 3. Provide a positive relationship with all publicly accessible routes with a clear distinction between the fronts and backs of properties. 4. Optimise the solar energy potential of development by careful design and orientation. 5. Maximise sustainable transport opportunities for future residents, particularly in terms of capitalising on the active travel potential of its location. This will need to be informed by a detailed route review. Improved crossing points over St Clements Road and Albert Road along desire lines will need to be delivered to achieve this, along with a proportionate contribution to improvements to Keynsham Route 3 in the WoE LCWIP. 6. Deliver biodiversity net gain of at least 10% in accordance with Policy NE3a . This net gain should be delivered on-site as far as possible, with off-site compensation provided only where the 10% cannot be met on-site 7. Provide a minimum of one nest or roost site per residential unit, in the form of integrated bird and bat boxes within new buildings, and/or as standalone features within the public realm, such as bat walls and swift towers. Additional features such as log piles, insect hotels, bee bricks, hedgehog connectivity measures and green and brown roofs / walls are also required. All new garden boundaries should be permeable for hedgehogs.

Diagram no. X
Treetops

Key

-  Site boundary
-  Vehicular and pedestrian access
- Existing pedestrian / cyclist route and access
-  Potential pedestrian / cyclist route and access

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Not to scale



Local Plan Partial Update

Note: in the changes below additional text is **underlined** and deletions are shown as a ~~strike through~~.

Volume 4 (Somer Valley)

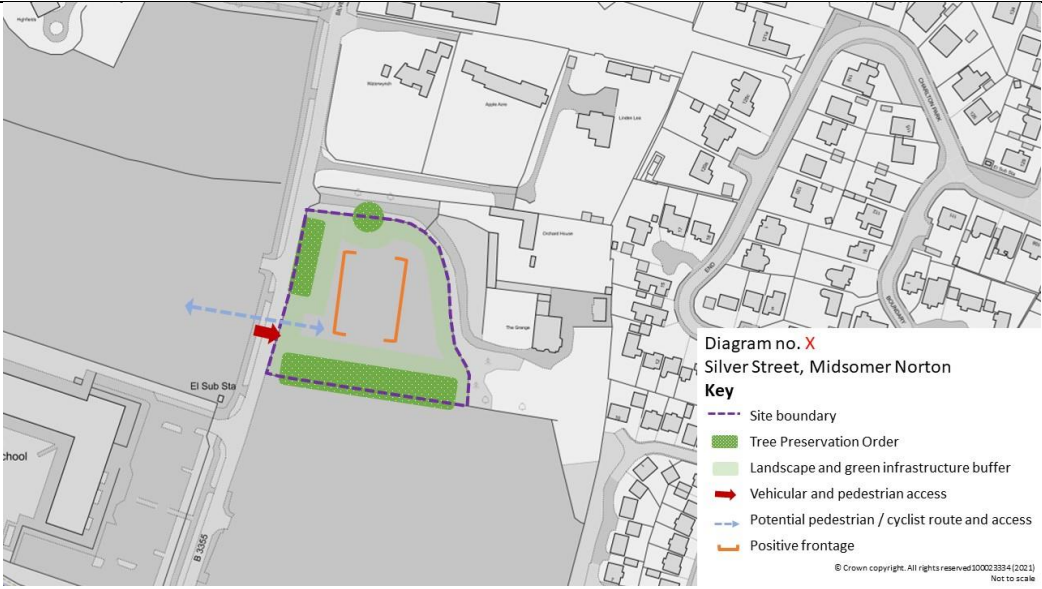
Page/Para	Amendments
Policy SV2	POLICY SV2 MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN CENTRE STRATEGIC POLICY The Strategy for the Midsomer Norton Town Centre is to: 1 Key Opportunities/Priorities a. Unlock redevelopment sites in the town centre (boundary defined on the Policies Map) to avoid the need for out of centre retail development, particularly in respect of vacant/underused buildings such as the former Palladium cinema and former brewery. b. Enhance the public realm. c. Enhance leisure provision including the Town Park. d. Focus new retail development on the southern end of the High Street as the retail core. <u>public realm and other improvements on the southern end of the High Street and facilitate enhancements to the wider town centre.</u> 2 Scope and Scale of Change Make provision for: a. Residential development as part of mixed-use schemes b. Some larger retail units in the core areas of the High Street. c. Modern office space to offset the loss of manufacturing jobs. d. A district heating network. 3 Placemaking Principles a. Strengthen the shopping offer in the southern end of the High Street and provide better pedestrian connections from the main car parks to the core retail area, creating a stronger frontage to South Road. b. Enable more intensive use of the South Road car park providing the opportunity to accommodate a modern food store. Any development here should retain public car parking for the town centre. c. Conserve the town centre's heritage and unique townscape character.

	d Enhance the positive feature of the River Somer. e Reduce the amount of traffic using the retail core of the High Street and improve the environment for pedestrians. f Improve routes and major entrances into the centre. g Improve access to green infrastructure including the proposed Town Park. h Improve linkage to Sustainable Transport Routes. i Improve the range of leisure and visitor attractions as part of the total town centre offer.
New para 44a	<u>44a. In order to help deliver the strategy for Midsomer Norton and the other settlements in the Somer Valley a number of key sites are allocated for development. For each of the sites allocated for development a policy, supported by a concept plan, is set out which details specific development requirements for that site. For these sites the plan must also be read as a whole as district-wide development management policies also apply, including (but not limited to) policies relating to sustainable construction, biodiversity net gain, affordable housing and sustainable transport.</u>
Paras 47 -50 Add new paragraph 46a.	Delete paragraphs 47- 50 Replace with additional text <u>46a. An updated car parking survey was undertaken in 2019. This survey looked at the use of the car park in terms of capacity and duration of stay. The survey found that the car park was usually at around 80% capacity. It also found that the duration of stay was 1-2 hours suggesting that the car park is predominantly used by people looking to access that town centre rather than commuters who might stay all day. The survey therefore shows that the car park is important to support the vitality of the High Street. In light of the new evidence from the car parking survey the allocation of South Road car park as a retail store will be removed and policy SSV2 will be deleted.</u>
Para 56	Vision Redevelopment of South Road Car Park and the Central High Street Core site will help stimulate the delivery of new retail floorspace and facilitate significant public realm improvements. Key to this ---
Policy SSV2	Delete policy SSV2 POLICY SSV2: SOUTH ROAD CAR PARK Development Requirements and Design Principles 1. —— Retail led mixed use development 2. —— Enhance the Conservation Area and its setting. 3. —— Provide high standard of pedestrian, cyclists and vehicular access with principal access to the site from South Road. 4. —— Create a well designed frontage with the entrance of a new store orientated towards the High Street to help integrate new development and encourage pedestrian connections. The store and parking layout should create an easy and obvious pedestrian route through the site.

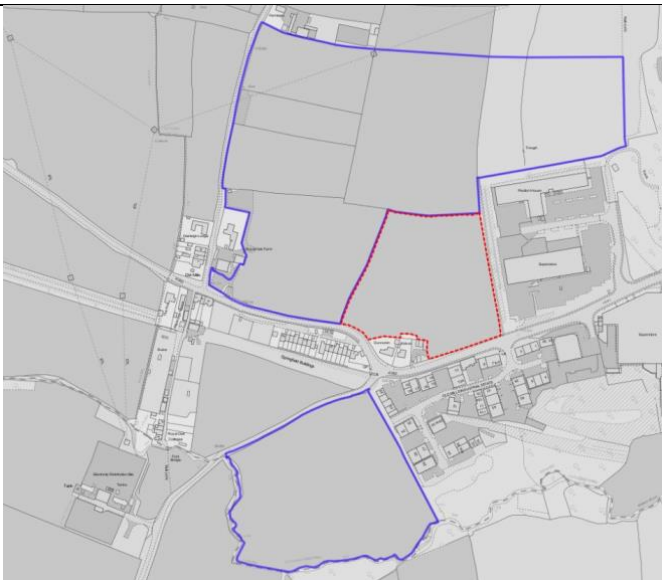
	5. Provide landscape, tree planting and public realm enhancements to ensure a positive relationship with South Road and to enhance the Town's Green Infrastructure, (e.g. Links to Town Park) and ecological networks, with specific consideration for bat flight lines. 6. Continue to offer sufficient public car parking for the town centre through the provision of parking spaces on site or off site in locations well related and easily accessible to the town centre. 7. Undertake a detailed historic environment assessment and, where necessary, evaluation, in order to identify and implement appropriate mitigation.
Para 61 and new paragraphs	61. The Retail Study (July 2015) considers this site as a potential retail development site. It is concluded that the site is sequentially inferior to the South Road car park site in delivering new retail floorspace, due to it being an 'edge of centre' location outside the town centre. The issue of suitable pedestrian links between the High Street and this site also make it difficult for retail uses to function as an integral part of the town centre. <u>The retail study in 2021 reviewed the need for a medium size food retail store as well as alternative locations within and adjacent to the town centre. The study found that the town centre would benefit from the provision of a medium size food store which could support the vitality of the town centre. As there are no sites available within the High Street an edge of centre site can be considered. This site is considered to be the next best site to provide a potential site for a retail store of approximately 1,300sqm.</u> <u>61a. The allocation for retail must ensure that linked trips to the High Street are encouraged to support the existing retail offer. The site sits to the north of the High Street and is separated from the High Street by a crossroads. Any retail development should be on the southern part of the site and must ensure good pedestrian connections to the High Street. A crossing would be required at the North Road entrance to allow access to the south side of North Road. A further crossing would be required at the northern end of the High Street due to the fact that there is a break in the pavement on the western side of the High Street.</u>
Policy SSV4 Former Welton Manufacturing Site	POLICY SSV4: FORMER WELTON MANUFACTURING SITE Development Requirements and Design Principles - Comprehensive mixed use redevelopment comprising residential, community facilities and employment uses including small <u>medium</u> scale retail, <u>up to around 1,300sqm</u>, which does not adversely impact on the existing town centre. <u>1a. Retail store must be sited on the southern section of the site to provide connections to the High Street</u> <u>1b. Improved connectivity between the development site and northern end of the High Street including through the provision of additional crossing points at North Road and the High Street to be secured through a legal agreement.</u> - Provide at least 100 dwellings - Enhance the Conservation Area and its setting including the retention and reuse of the former brewery building, with a strong presumption in favour of its physical preservation, subject to robust economic viability testing measured against the value of the whole development allocation, and taking full account of the heritage value and wider possible uses of the former brewery building. - Provide new streets and spaces through the site that improve pedestrian and cycling connections both north to south and east to west connecting to existing cycle and bridleway for new and neighbouring residential communities.

	5. De-culvert the Wellow Brook to provide continued natural sections through the site, and provide habitat creation/enhancement which will be part of the west-east strategic green infrastructure route. 6. Appropriate ecological mitigation to be included for bats, reptiles and invertebrates. Bat flight lines are to be maintained with no increase to light levels along this boundary. 7. Main vehicular access from Station Road. 8. Land remediation as necessary. 9. Coal Mining Risk Assessment is necessary. 10. The sequential approach to site layout is required informed by a site specific Flood Risk Assessment. 11. Provision of SuDs (excluding infiltration techniques) 12. Undertake a detailed historic environment assessment, and where necessary evaluation, in order to identify and implement appropriate mitigation.
After para 82 New paragraphs	<u>SILVER STREET</u> <u>Context</u> <u>82a. The site is currently an open field that sits to the south of Midsomer Norton town centre outside of the Housing Development Boundary. The site sits on a plateau above the town centre and would be viewed as part of the existing built up area. The current access sits to the north of the north west corner of the site.</u> <u>82b. The context of the surrounding area has until recently been open fields. However, permission has been granted for the development of the surrounding fields to housing and a primary school. The primary school has been constructed. Highway works have been completed in the surrounding area and pavements have been constructed on some of the surrounding housing sites. The various developments in the area will deliver a safe and suitable pedestrian and cycle access to the town centre, which will be key to supporting local journeys being undertaken by active modes.</u> <u>Vision</u> <u>82c. The site is anticipated to deliver up to 12 dwellings of a mix of sizes and heights and in a courtyard type arrangement that respects the wider context and the setting of the nearby undesignated heritage asset. This arrangement will allow for biodiversity net gain on the outer edges of the site, including a hedgerow around the periphery of the site.</u>
New policy SSV21 Silver Street	<u>Development Requirements and Design Principles</u> <u>Development proposals will:</u> 1. <u>Deliver a residential development of between 10 and 12 dwellings, including on-site affordable housing in compliance with policy CP9</u> 2. <u>Optimise the solar energy potential of development by careful design and orientation.</u>

3. Provide pedestrian/cycle connection to the recently delivered and committed active travel routes on Silver Street to allow for active travel access to existing shops, services, and facilities.
4. Make a financial contribution to the delivery of LCWIP walking and cycling routes between Norton Hill Primary School and Charlton Road.
5. Provide an appropriate buffer between the dwellings and the existing Tree Preservation Orders, and respond appropriately to the setting of the nearby undesignated heritage asset.
6. Retain the existing trees and hedgerows within the site boundaries and with appropriate habitat buffers (10m from base of hedgerow or as defined by hedgerow canopy- whichever is larger).
7. Deliver biodiversity net gain in accordance with policy NE3a, including through the provision of a hedgerow around the full periphery of the site (excluding the access).
8. Provide a minimum of one nest or roost site per residential unit, in the form of integrated bird and bat boxes within new buildings, and/or as standalone features within the public realm, such as bat walls and swift towers. Additional features such as log piles, insect hotels, bee bricks, hedgehog connectivity measures and green and brown roofs / walls are also required. All new garden boundaries should be permeable for hedgehogs.

	 Diagram no. X Silver Street, Midsomer Norton Key - Site boundary - Tree Preservation Order - Landscape and green infrastructure buffer - Vehicular and pedestrian access - Potential pedestrian / cyclist route and access - Positive frontage © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 100023334 (2011) Not to scale
Paras 146-153	Paragraphs to be amended/updated explaining the proposed changes to the Old Mills Industrial Estate site allocation policy and site boundary. Main changes are incorporation of additional land in northern area of the allocation so that it aligns with SVEZ boundary, incorporation of some higher value (retail/food & drink/hotel) uses and more detail on ecological and transport requirements of development.
PMP:SSV9: Old Mills Industrial Estate	OLD MILLS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE (<u>Incorporating Somer Valley Enterprise Zone</u>) Development Requirements and Design Principles for both areas 1. Development of light industrial, heavy industrial, warehousing (classes E(g) B4e, B2 and B8 uses, builders merchants and car show rooms (sui generis) 2. Major landscaping in order to mitigate the impact on the surrounding countryside and nearby residential properties 3. <u>Retention and enhancement of existing hedgerows along perimeter of site (with on-site replacement of any habitat lost in accommodating the access roads. The substantive retention of internal and boundary hedgerows is expected. Where hedgerow sections will be lost or breached, replacement hedgerows to be provided within or at the periphery of the site to enhance habitat connectivity for mobile species. Provision of 10m habitat buffers is expected for retained and created hedgerows. A protective and complimentary habitat buffer of at least 20m is expected adjacent to the SNCI. A 15m habitat buffer to the River Somer/ Wellow Brook for the southern section of the site is also required</u> 3a. <u>Ensure sensitive lighting solutions are provided for the buildings and the public realm to minimise light spill to retained habitats and protective buffers in accordance with latest best practice guidance.</u>

- 3b. Bat surveys are to be undertaken in order to inform proposals meeting clauses 3 and 3a above.**
4. Protection, diversion or undergrounding of overhead electricity lines
 5. ~~Improvements to the transport network to mitigate the impact of the scheme~~ **Improvements to the A362 and other local roads in order to satisfactorily serve and mitigate the impacts of development, and the provision of suitable vehicular and walking and cycling access to the development**
 6. Provision of ~~community~~ **ancillary** facilities to meet the needs of workers
 7. Incorporation of SuDS as part of the surface water drainage strategy
 - 7a. Undertake a detailed historic environment assessment, and where necessary evaluation, in order to identify and implement appropriate mitigation
- Additional Development Requirements and Design Principles for the Northern area (Somer Valley Enterprise Zone)
- 7b. Development of some retail, food & drink units (use classes E(a), (b) and a hotel (use class C1) will be supported if of a scale, type and format that does not harm, but complements, nearby town centres and that benefits the attractiveness and operation of the Enterprise Zone.**
8. Minimise and mitigate impact on the Batch which is identified as an undesignated heritage asset, a Regionally Important Geological Site and a Site of Nature Conservation Interest
 9. ~~Access from the A362 (west of Langley's Lane) and Paulton House / former Focus DIY access road~~ **Provision of new and enhanced walking and cycling routes linking the Enterprise Zone to Midsomer Norton and Paulton**
 10. Retention and incorporation of existing public rights of way into the scheme
 11. Careful consideration of the appropriate position and scale of development to ensure impact on the surrounding landscape is minimised
- Additional Development Requirements and Design Principles for the Southern area
12. Access from existing Old Mills Industrial Estate
 13. Flood mitigation measures along the southern and western boundaries of the site, which should also incorporate ecological improvements
 14. Appropriate lighting strategy to incorporate dark corridors to mitigate impact on bats **(to be informed by at surveys)**



NB: Blue line shows the adopted Placemaking Plan site allocation boundary and the red line shows the additional land proposed to be included within the allocation.

New Policy SSV22

SSV22 FORMER PAULTON PRINTWORKS

Context

153a.The former Paulton Printworks site has been redeveloped in stages over the past 10 years, following the approval of an outline planning permission for the wider area in 2010. The wider site provides a significant number of new homes within the locality.

153b.Five parcels of land within the wider site remain undeveloped. These parcels are referenced on the concept diagram as LP1 – LP5. Some of these land parcels were previously allocated in the 2007 Local Plan for a mix of uses, and an outline planning permission secured all of the sites for various uses including continuing care retirement housing, commercial uses and light industrial floorspace.

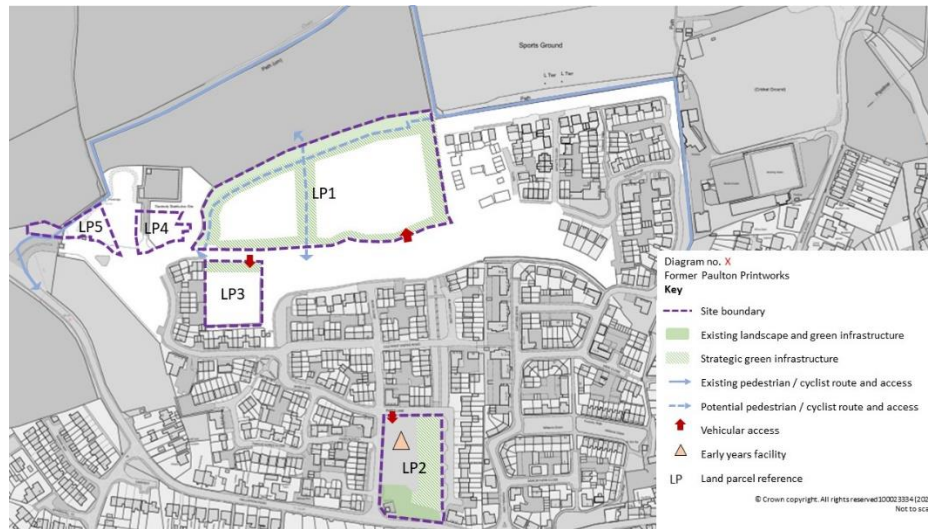
153c. Policy SSV22 replaces Saved policy V3 from the Bath & North East Somerset Local Plan 2007 and provides updated development requirements for the remaining parcels of land.

153d.An opportunity has arisen for land parcel 1 to provide development of circa 70 affordable dwellings within the area. In order to bring this forward, an existing deficiency of early years places in Paulton must be addressed. As such, provision of an early years facility is required as part of this allocation, not only to meet the need of occupiers of the new dwellings, but also create provision to meet the existing deficit in the area.

	<u>153e. There is also a shortage of good quality open space and green infrastructure in this part of the village, which will also be addressed through this allocation.</u> <u>Vision</u> <u>153f. The site will deliver around 80 new dwellings across land parcels 1 and 2. Early years provision shall be provided on land parcel 3, along with good quality public open green space for use by the facility and occupiers of the surrounding housing developments. Land parcels 4 and 5 shall be allocated for light industrial use.</u>
	<u>SSV22 FORMER PAULTON PRINTWORKS</u> <u>Development Requirements and Design Principles</u> <u>Development proposals will:</u> 1. <u>Deliver a mixed-use development across the five land parcels identified on the concept plan, comprising:</u> ▪ <u>Residential development of around 80 new homes across land parcels 1 and 2.</u> ▪ <u>An early years facility on land parcel 3, with provision to meet the existing deficit in the area, plus provision for any additional housing proposed on land parcels 1 and 2. The early years facility must be secured prior to the occupation of any of the dwellings proposed on land parcels 1 and 2.</u> ▪ <u>Light industrial floorspace on land parcels 4 and 5.</u> 2. <u>Deliver biodiversity net gain of at least 10% in accordance with Policy NE3a. Opportunities to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain within each of the land parcels should be fully explored and tested before any off-site measures are proposed.</u> 3. <u>Provide a minimum of one nest or roost site per residential unit, in the form of integrated bird and bat boxes within new buildings, and/or as standalone features within the public realm, such as bat walls and swift towers. Additional features such as log piles, insect hotels, bee bricks, hedgehog connectivity measures and green and brown roofs / walls are also required. All new garden boundaries should be permeable for hedgehogs. Protect all habitats from increased light spill.</u> 4. <u>Retain and enhance existing green infrastructure and habitats along the northern boundary of land parcel 1 and the southern boundary of land parcel 3, including all trees, hedgerows and planting. A 10m buffer to all boundary hedgerows is required, creating an area of grassland within the buffer.</u> 5. <u>Provide rows of large growing trees fronting Oxleaze Way on land parcels 1 and 2, with houses sufficiently set back to allow for future tree growth.</u> 6. <u>Deliver strong street tree infrastructure throughout each of the land parcels, including large growing species with room for future growth.</u> 7. <u>Provide a central north to south green infrastructure link within land parcel 1, with a minimum width of 20m. This should also provide a</u>

pedestrian link through the site.

8. Provide a positive relationship with all publicly accessible routes and in the case of land parcel 1, face outwards towards the open countryside, adopting a perimeter block layout, with a clear distinction between the fronts and backs of properties.
9. Provide walking and cycling routes through each of the land parcels, allowing access to surrounding homes, and to the countryside to the north.
10. Ensure that development does not detract from views over the site from the countryside to the north, with development designed to sensitively define the site's edge of settlement location, and the transition between town and country.



Local Plan Partial Update

Note: in the changes below additional text is **underlined** and deletions are shown as a ~~strike through~~.

Volume 6 (Appendices)

New Table 7	New Table 7 will be prepared to list the Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan policies that are proposed to be superseded by policies in the Local Plan Partial Update
New Table 8	New Table 8 will be prepared to list Core Strategy/Placemaking Plan and saved B&NES 2007 policies that are proposed to be replaced by policies in the Local Plan Partial Update
Glossary	Add <u>Irreplaceable habitat within B&NES includes :</u> • <u>Ancient woodland - an ancient woodland is a woodland that has existed continuously since 1600 or before in England. Most ancient woodlands are shown on the Natural England Open Data Source for Ancient woodlands</u> • <u>Ancient tree - They have passed maturity, are very old in comparison to other trees of the same species and are actually in the third and final stage of their life.</u> • <u>Veteran tree - The term veteran tree is one that is not capable of precise definition but it encompasses trees defined by three guiding principles:</u> • <u>trees of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of their age;</u> • <u>trees in the ancient stage of their life;</u> • <u>trees that are old relative to others of the same species.</u> <u>http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/75035#:~:text=This%20record%20was%20published%20by,and%20archived%20guidance%20Veteran%20trees</u> • <u>Ancient hedgerows - defined as those which were in existence before the Enclosure Acts of 1720 to 1840.</u> • <u>Ancient grasslands - a semi-natural plant community maintained as grassland since 1840, Redhead et Al 2013</u> <u>(https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/avsc.12076)</u> • <u>Tufa spring habitat –</u> • <u>SAC bat foraging habitat within the SAC bat juvenile sustenance zones</u>
Glossary	Add <u>Priority Species & Habitats –</u> <u>Reference to “priority” species and habitats refers to those species and habitats identified as being of principal importance in England, Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006</u>

Glossary	Active Ground Floor Use (within designated centres) as Active ground floor uses within designated centres (defined in Policy CP12) are generally considered those falling within Use Classes A1 to A5 <u>Class E(a) and E(b) (former A1 -A3) and No Use Class Sui Generis (p,q,r) (former A4 Drinking establishments and A5 Hot food takeaways)</u> but can also include other town centre uses which are visited by large numbers of people. Residential uses and offices (Use Class B1 <u>E (g)(i)</u>) would not normally be considered as active uses for ground floors in this context (but could contribute to the active frontage by having a front door to a residential or office use on upper floors).

Schedule of Policies Map Changes (Appendix 2)

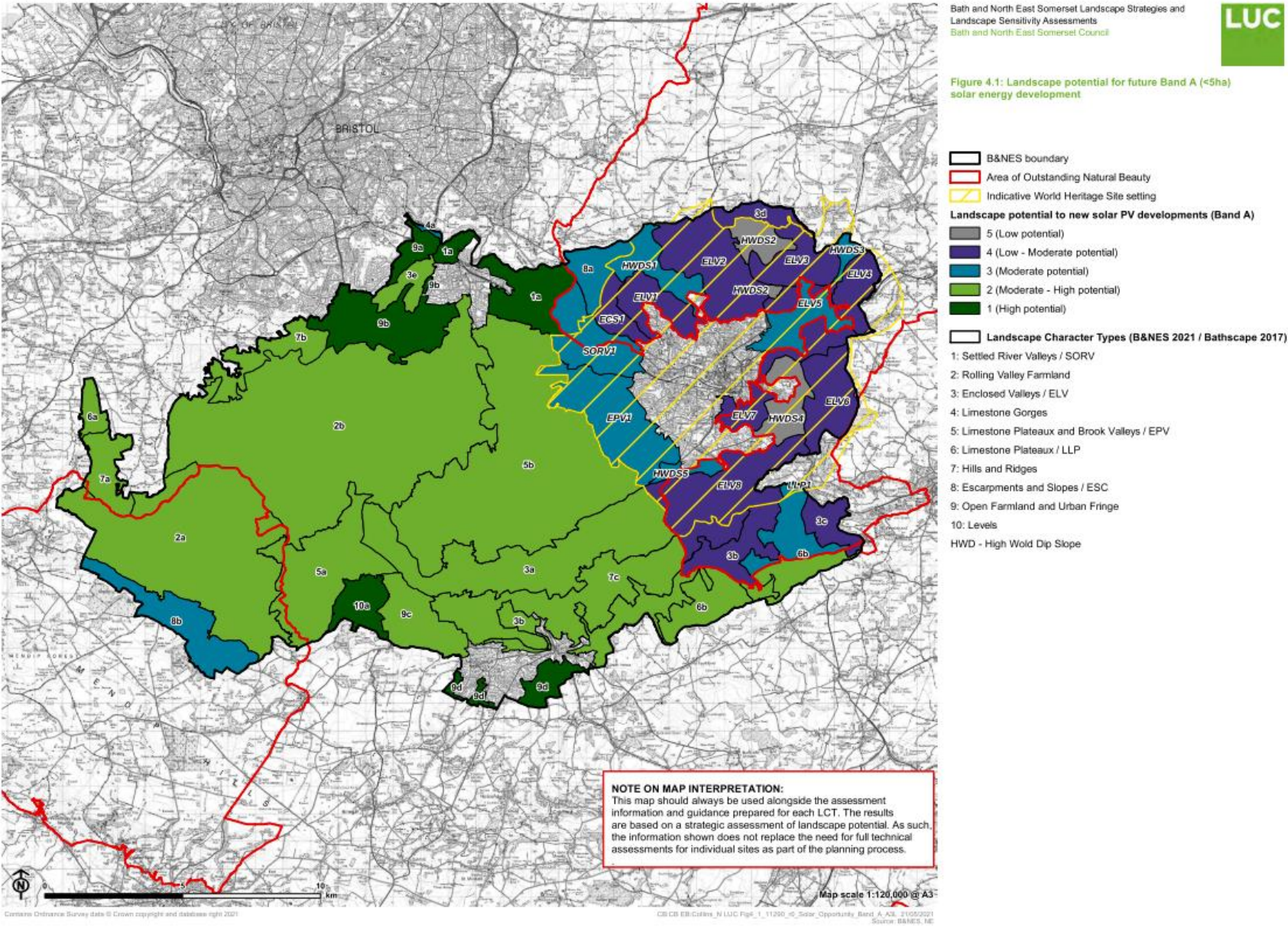
New Table 4: Proposed amended and new allocations and designations in the Local Plan Partial Update (see Maps in Annex 1)

Policy Reference	Summary of Change
<u>GB2</u>	<u>All GB2 Housing Development Boundaries to change to ‘Infill Boundaries’ and to include new infill boundaries (redefined and new villages)</u>
<u>CP3</u>	<u>Landscape Sensitivity maps for Wind and Solar Energy. New mapping to support policy approach</u>
<u>NE3, CP3</u>	<u>UK Priority Habitats. New mapping to support policy approach</u>
<u>NE5</u>	<u>Nature Recovery Network. Supersedes Ecological Networks</u>
<u>LCR 5</u>	<u>Remove safeguarded playing pitch within University of Bath campus (area 2)</u>
<u>Allocations</u>	<u>Summary of Change</u>
<u>SB1</u>	<u>Amended Concept Diagram</u>
<u>SB22 Locksbrook Creative Hub</u>	<u>New allocation</u>
<u>SB23 Weston Island</u>	<u>New allocation</u>
<u>SB24 Sion Hill</u>	<u>New allocation</u>
<u>SB25 St Martins Hospital</u>	<u>New allocation</u>
<u>SB19 University of Bath</u>	<u>New development framework map</u>
<u>Policy GB8 and SB26: Park and Ride Sites</u>	<u>Amended Green Belt boundary (following site allocation boundary) and new allocation</u>
<u>KE3c East Of Keynsham</u>	<u>New allocation</u>
<u>KE3d East of Safeguarded Land</u>	<u>New allocation</u>
<u>KE5 Treetops</u>	<u>New allocation</u>
<u>SSV9 Old Mills Industrial Estate</u>	<u>Amended allocation boundary</u>
<u>SSV21 Silver Street</u>	<u>New allocation</u>
<u>SSV22 Former Paulton Printworks</u>	<u>New allocation</u>
<u>SSV2 South Road Car Park</u>	<u>Remove SSV2 South Road Car Park allocation</u>

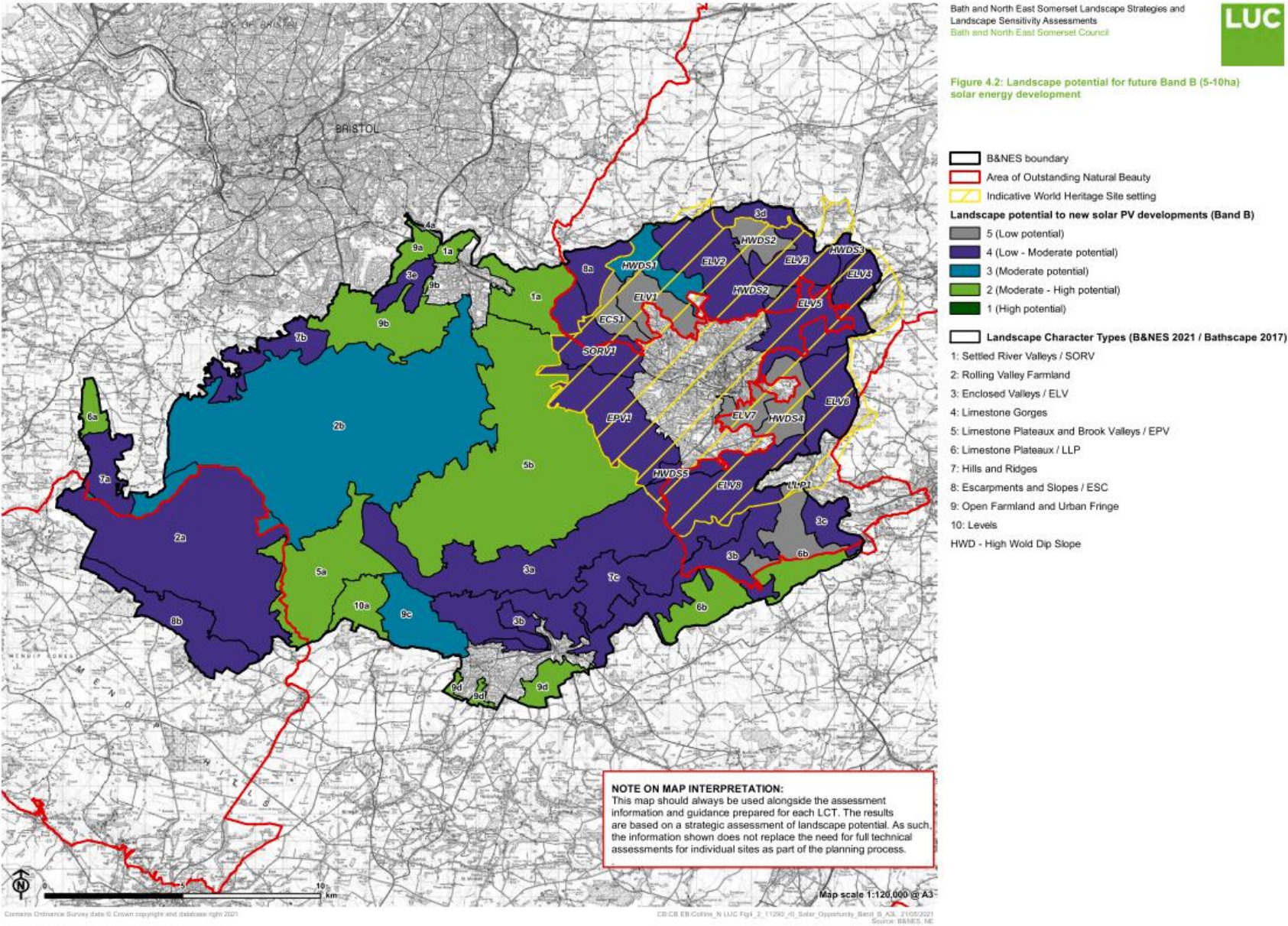
Bath & North East
Somerset Council



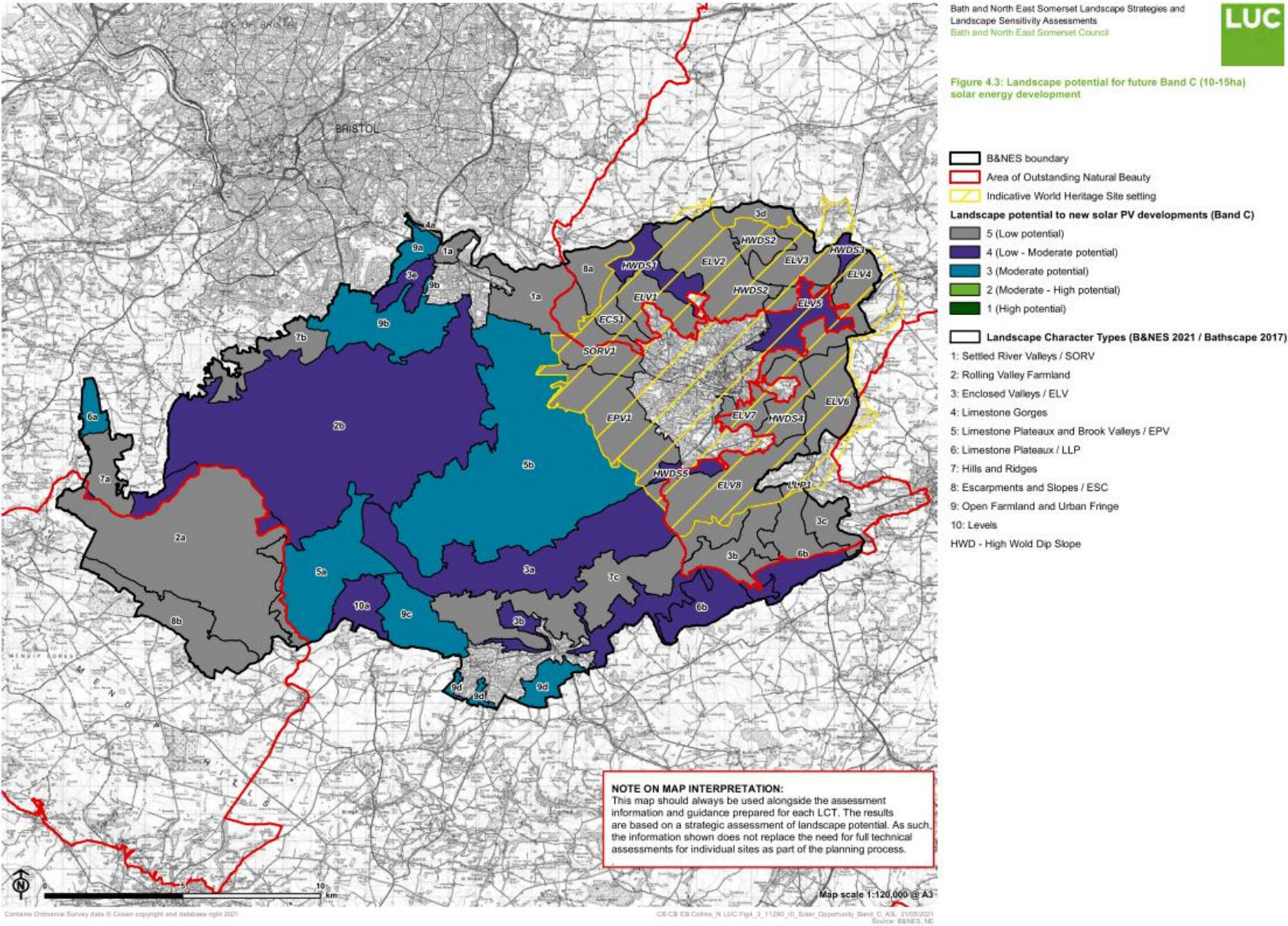
Annex 1 - CP3 Landscape Sensitivity for wind and solar energy (Solar Band A)



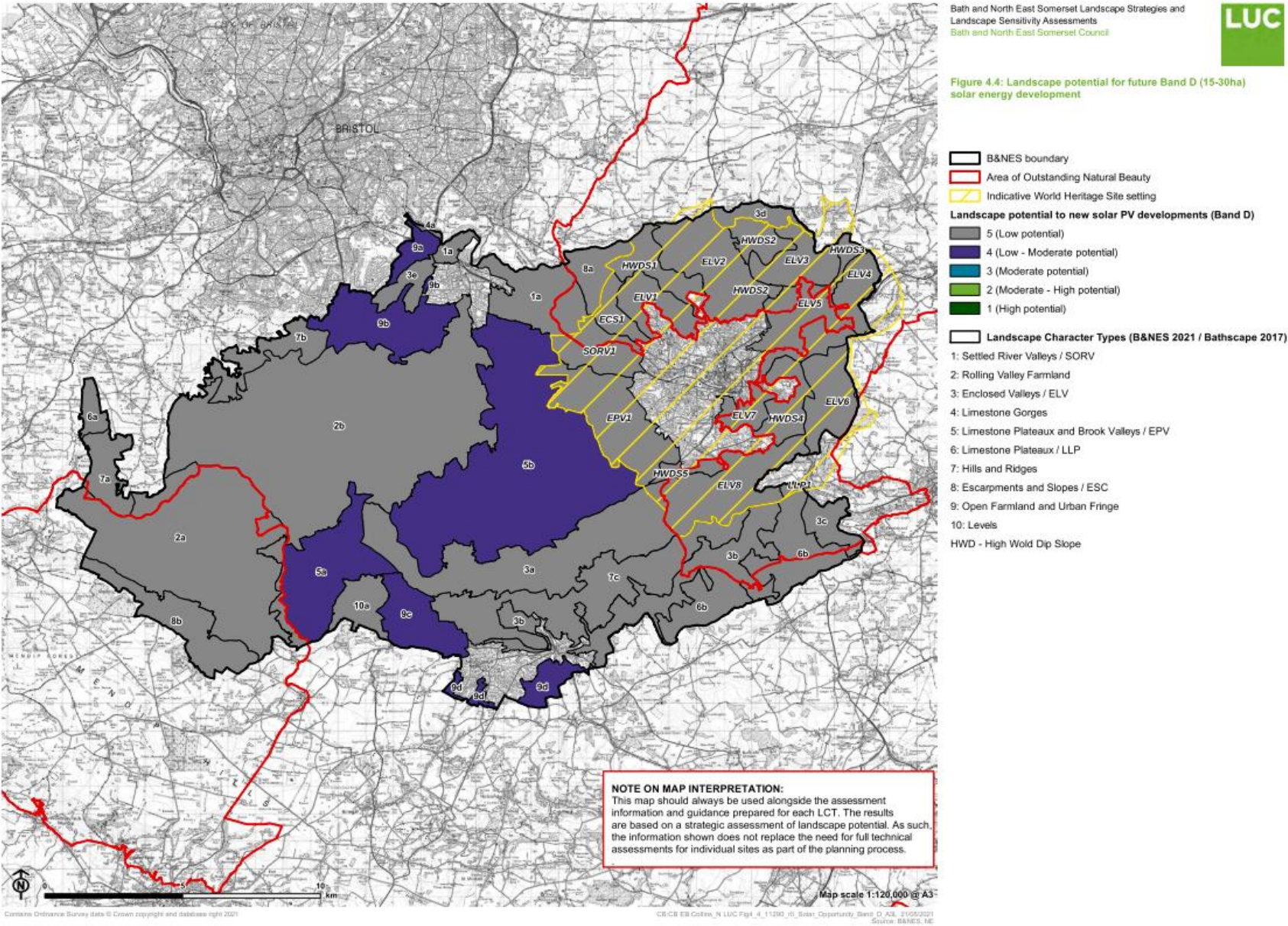
Annex 1 - CP3 Landscape Sensitivity for wind and solar energy (Solar Band B)



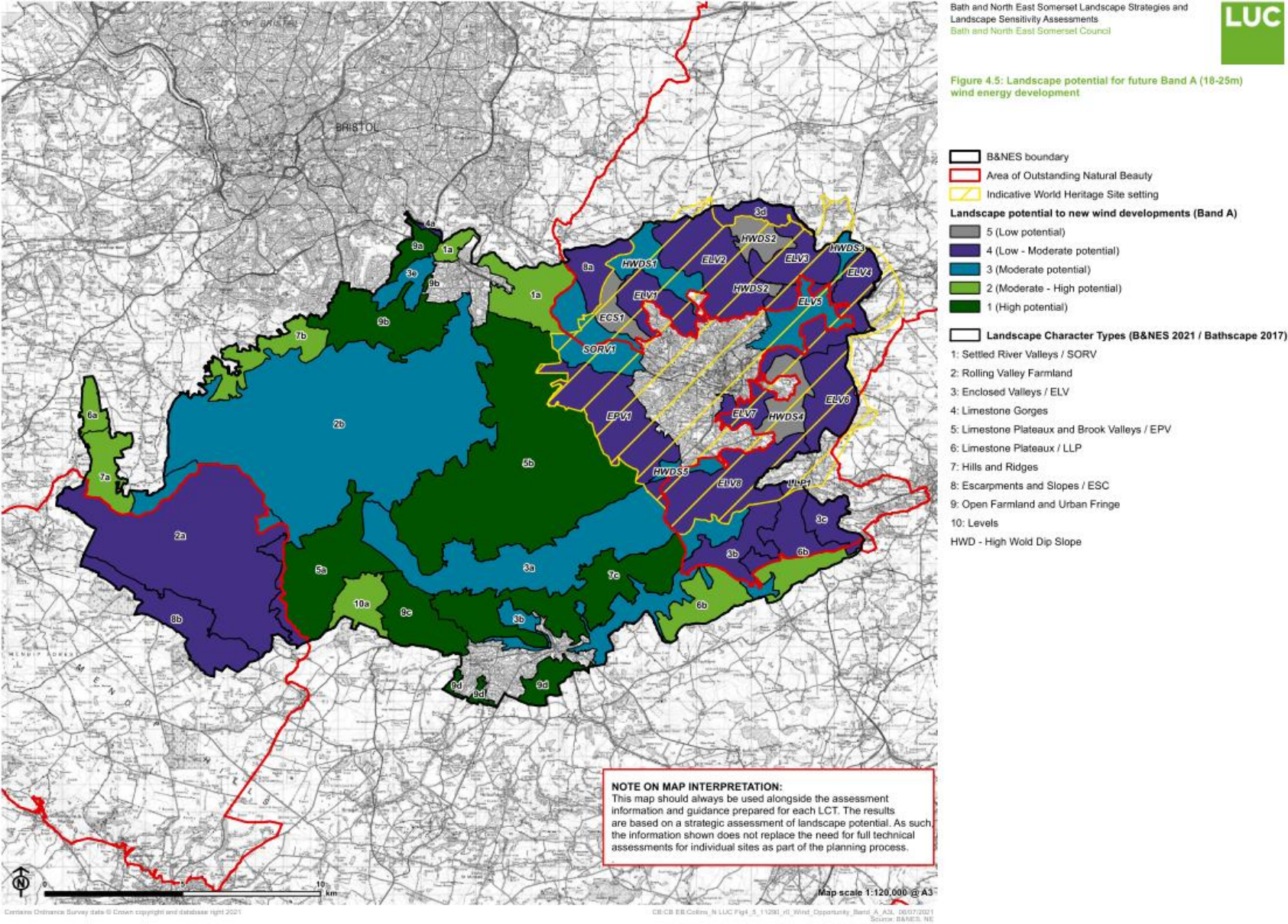
Annex 1 - CP3 Landscape Sensitivity for wind and solar energy (Solar Band C)



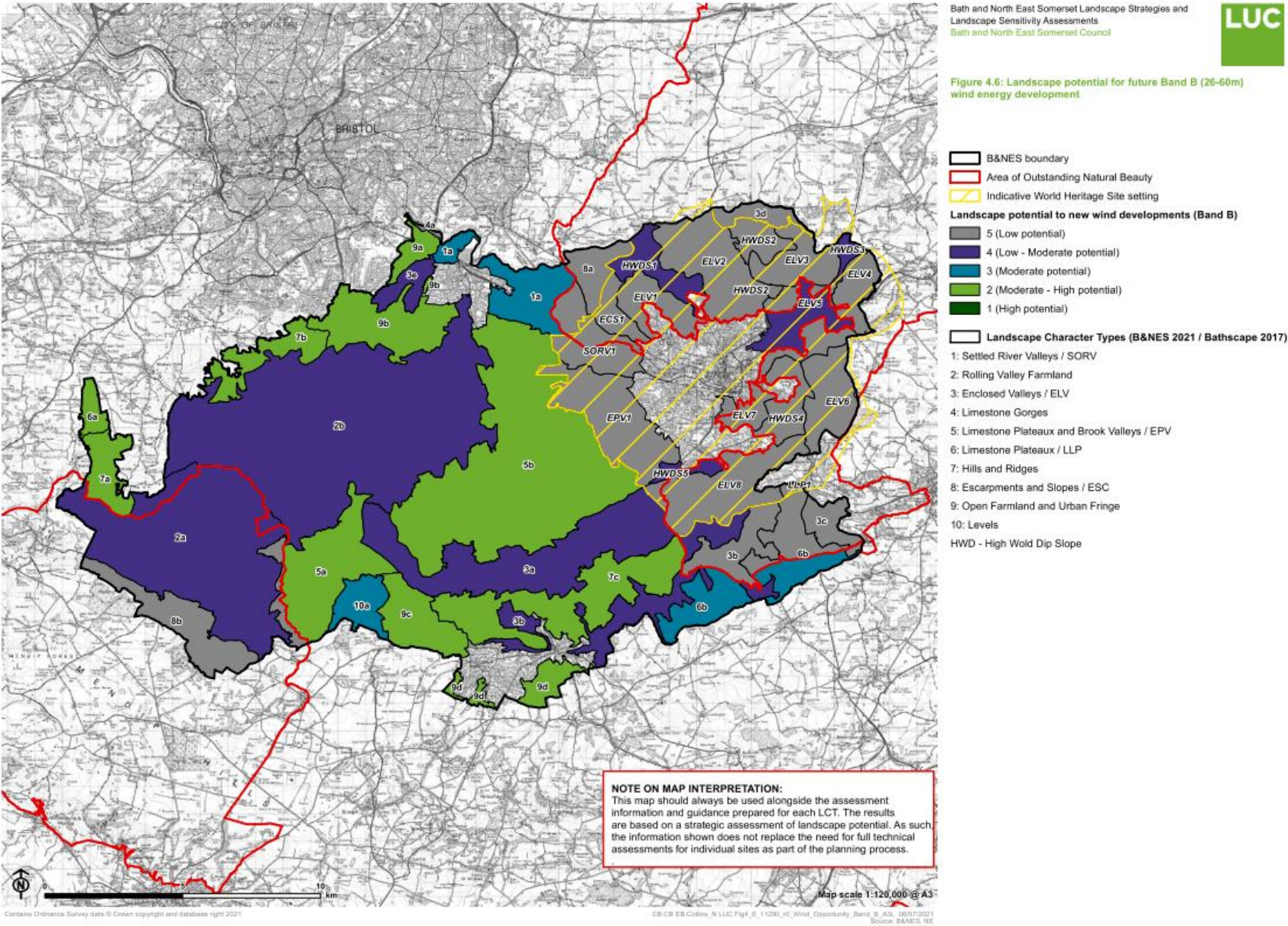
Annex 1 - CP3 Landscape Sensitivity for wind and solar energy (Solar Band D)



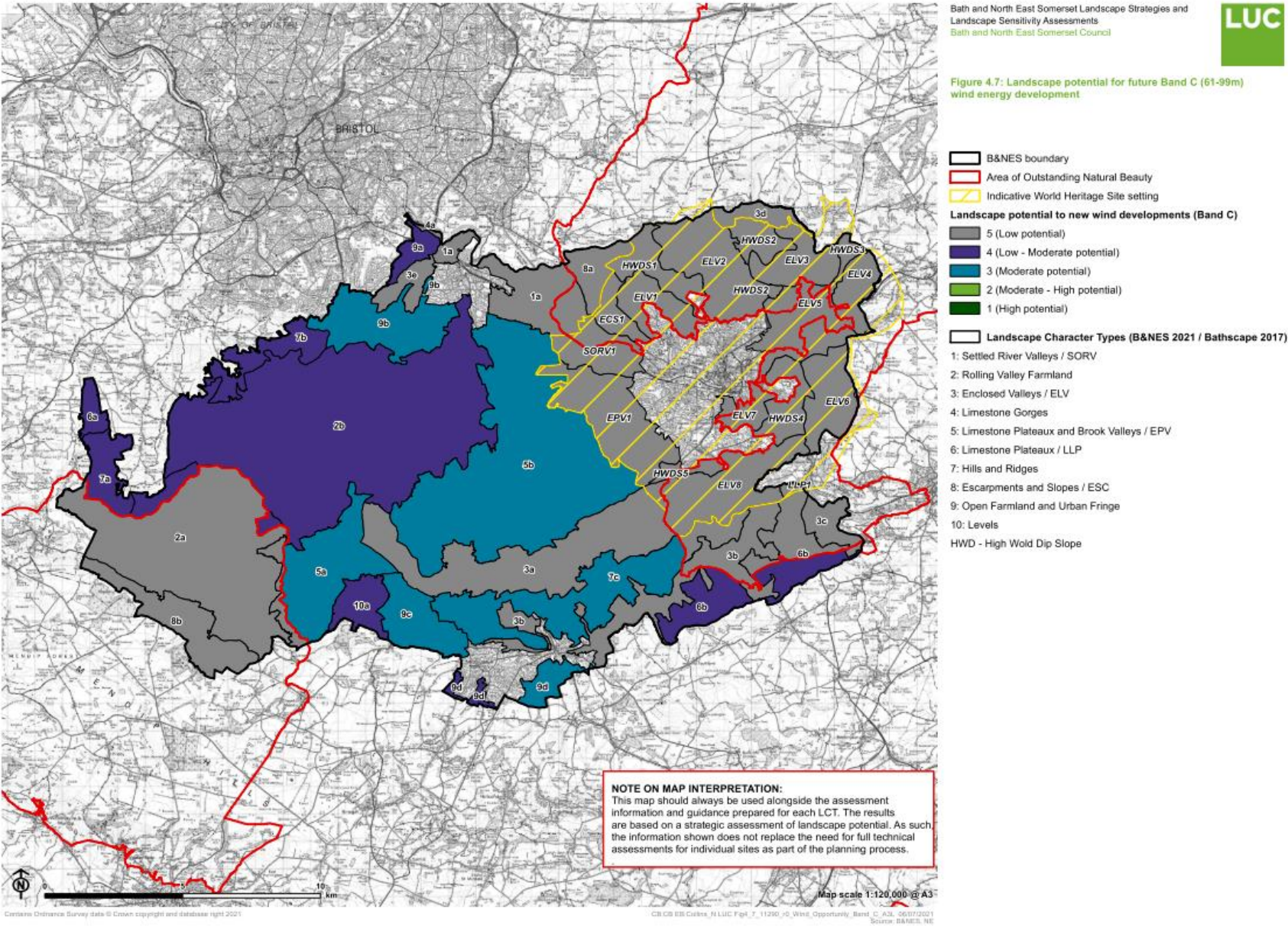
Annex 1 - CP3 Landscape Sensitivity for wind and solar energy (Wind Band A)



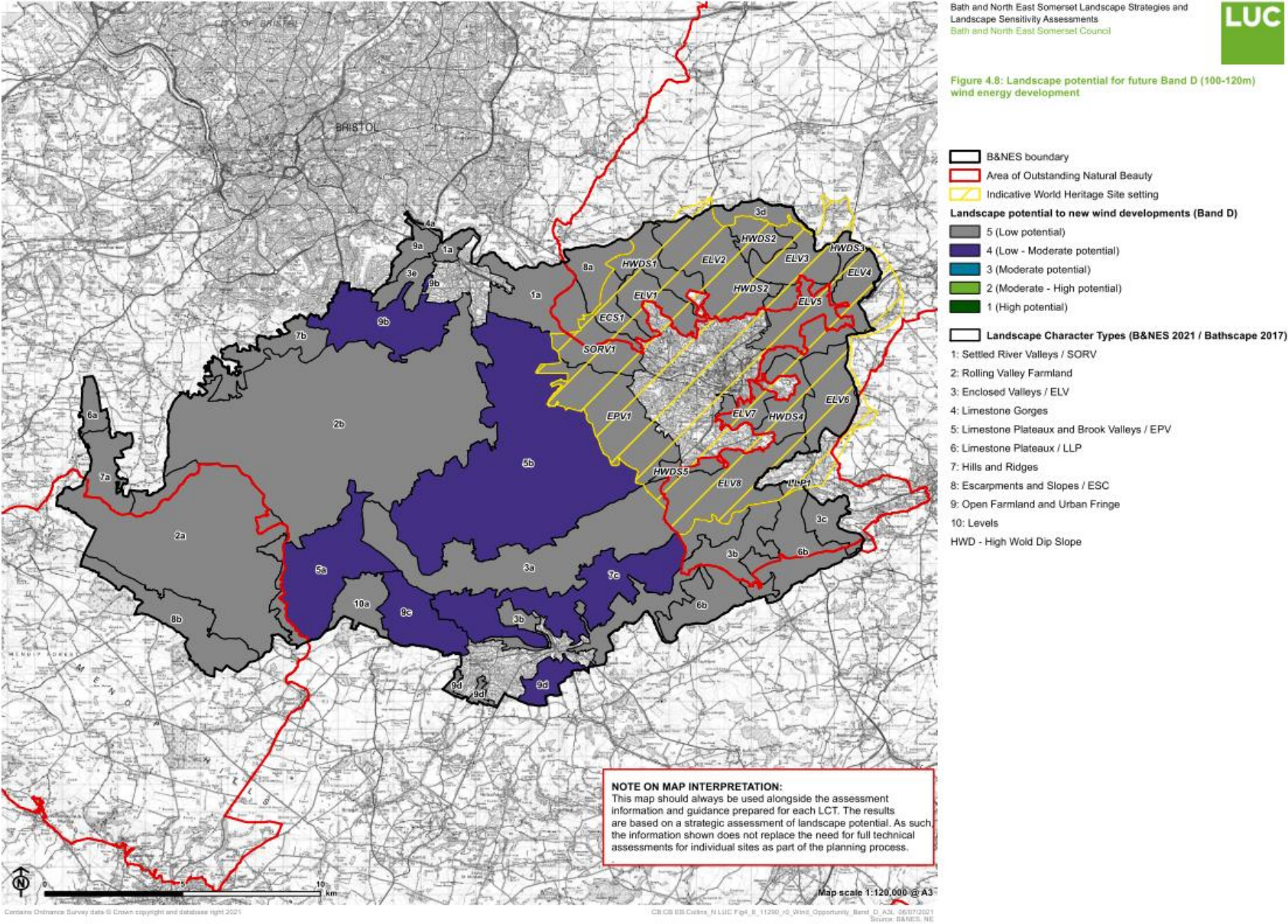
Annex 1 - CP3 Landscape Sensitivity for wind and solar energy (Wind Band B)



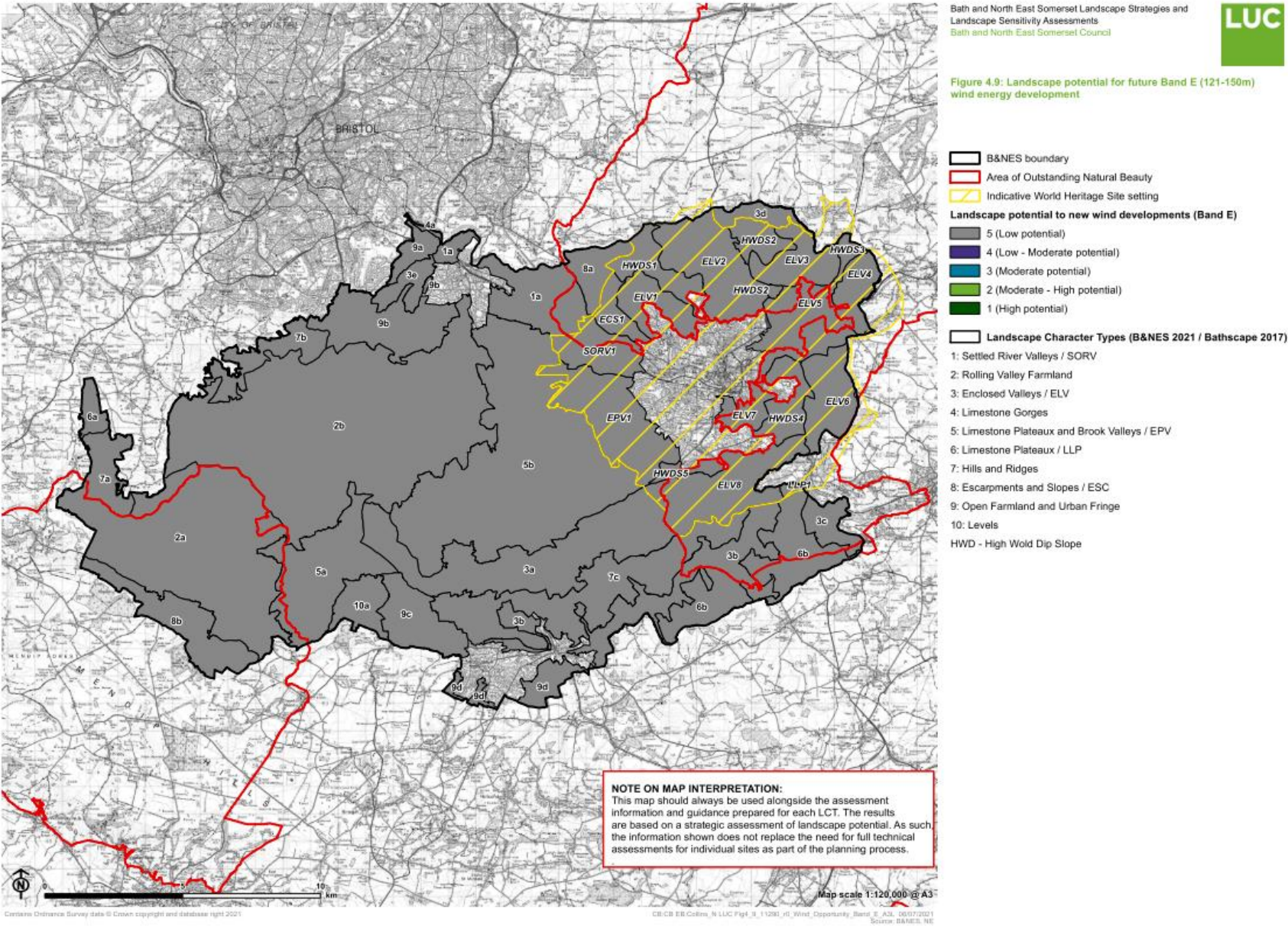
Annex 1 - CP3 Landscape Sensitivity for wind and solar energy (Wind Band C)



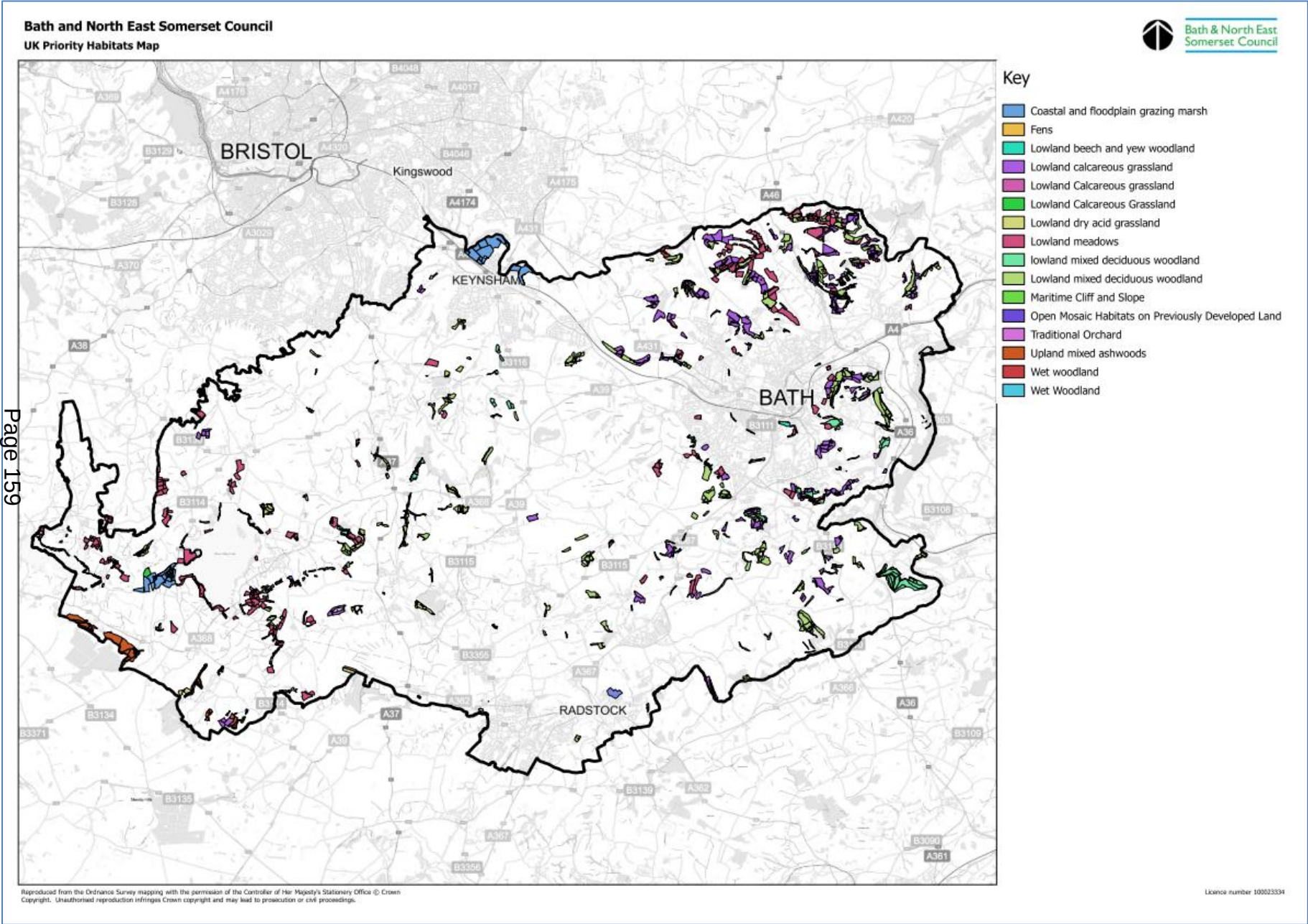
Annex 1 - CP3 Landscape Sensitivity for wind and solar energy (Wind Band D)

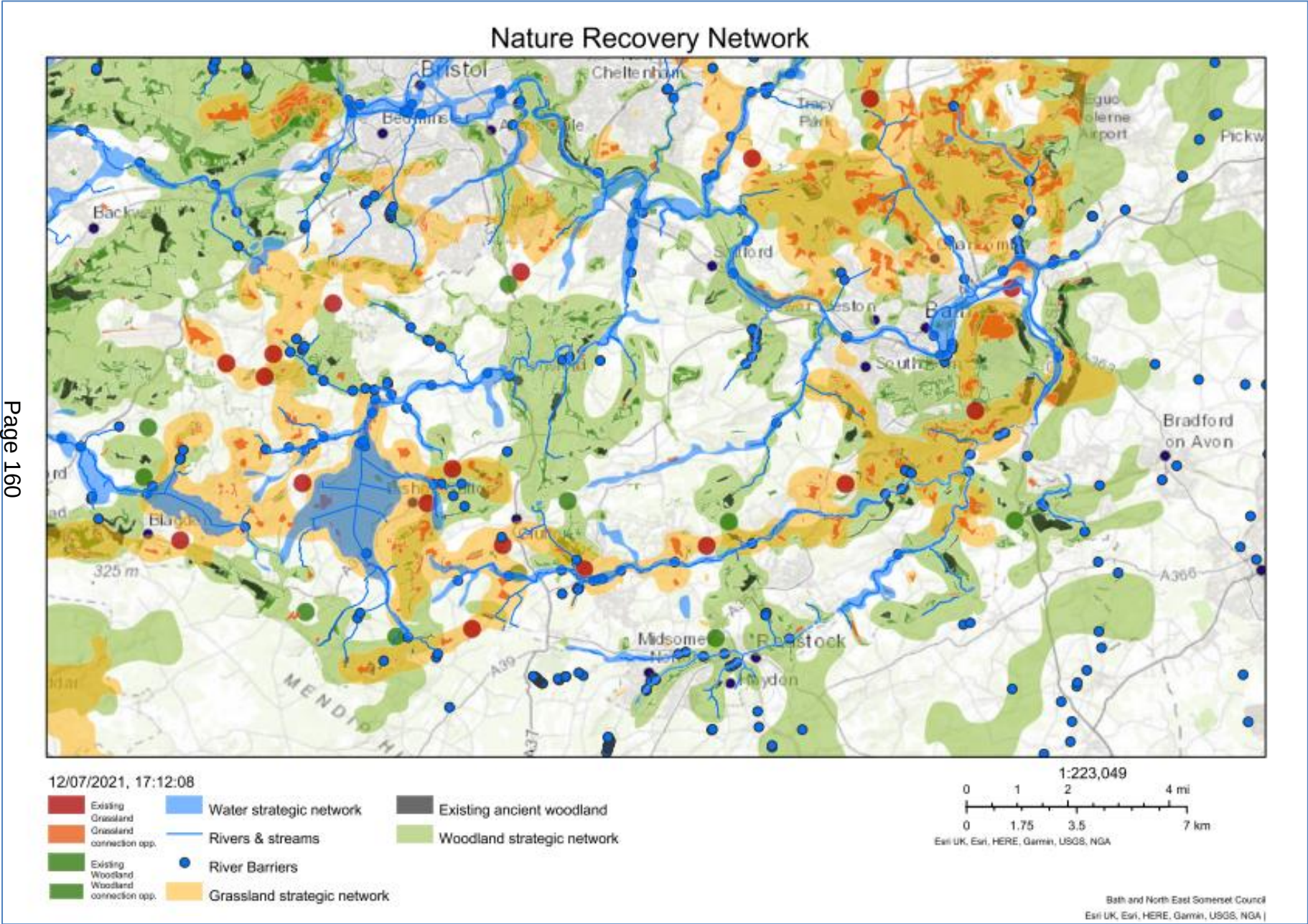


Annex 1 - CP3 Landscape Sensitivity for wind and solar energy (Wind Band E)



Annex 1 – NE3 UK Priority Habitats

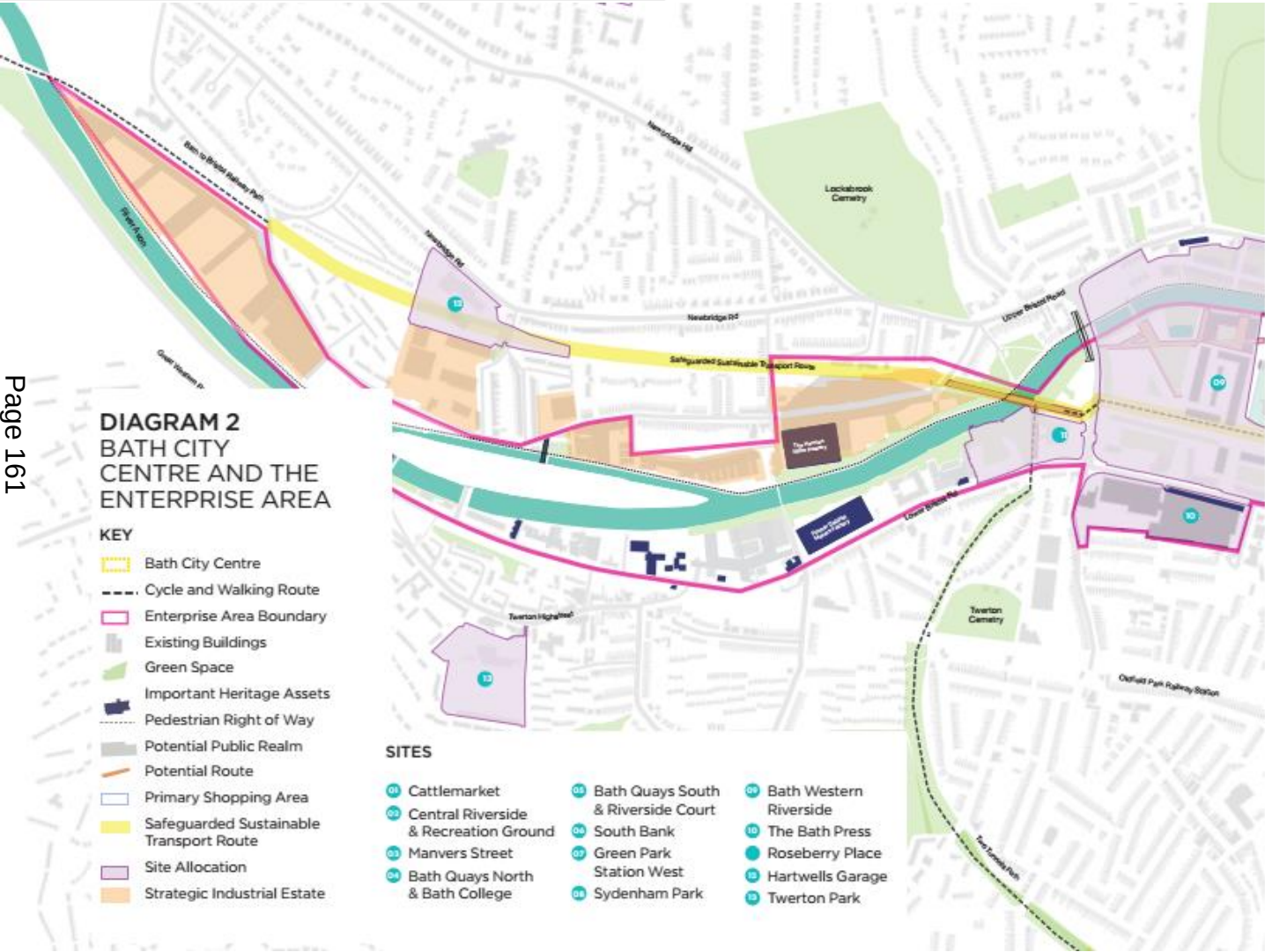




Annex 1 – Diagram 2 Bath City Centre and the Enterprise area

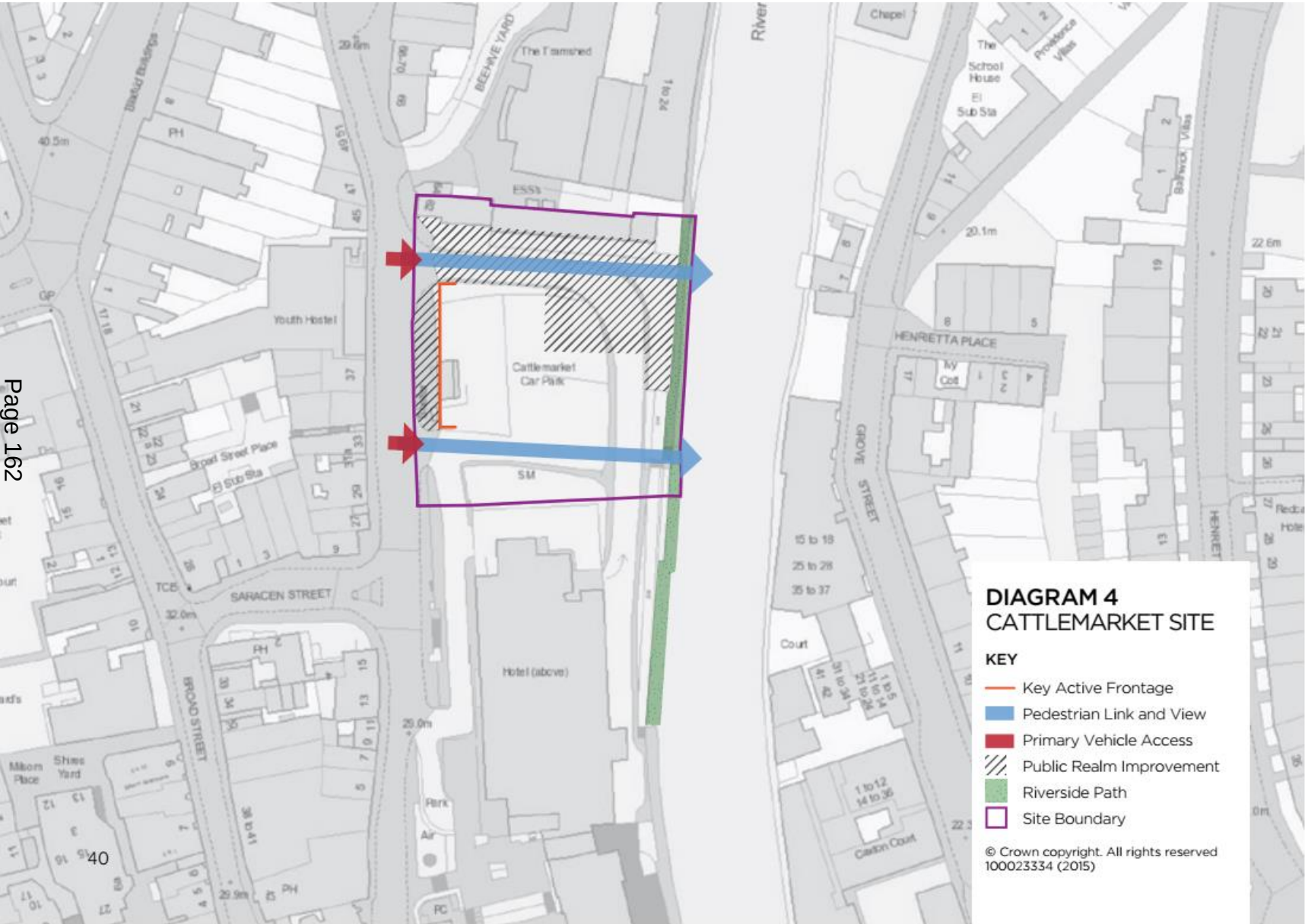
Add Milsom Quarter and Locksbrook Creative Hub

EZWrong boundary



Annex 1 — SB1 Cattlemarket Site

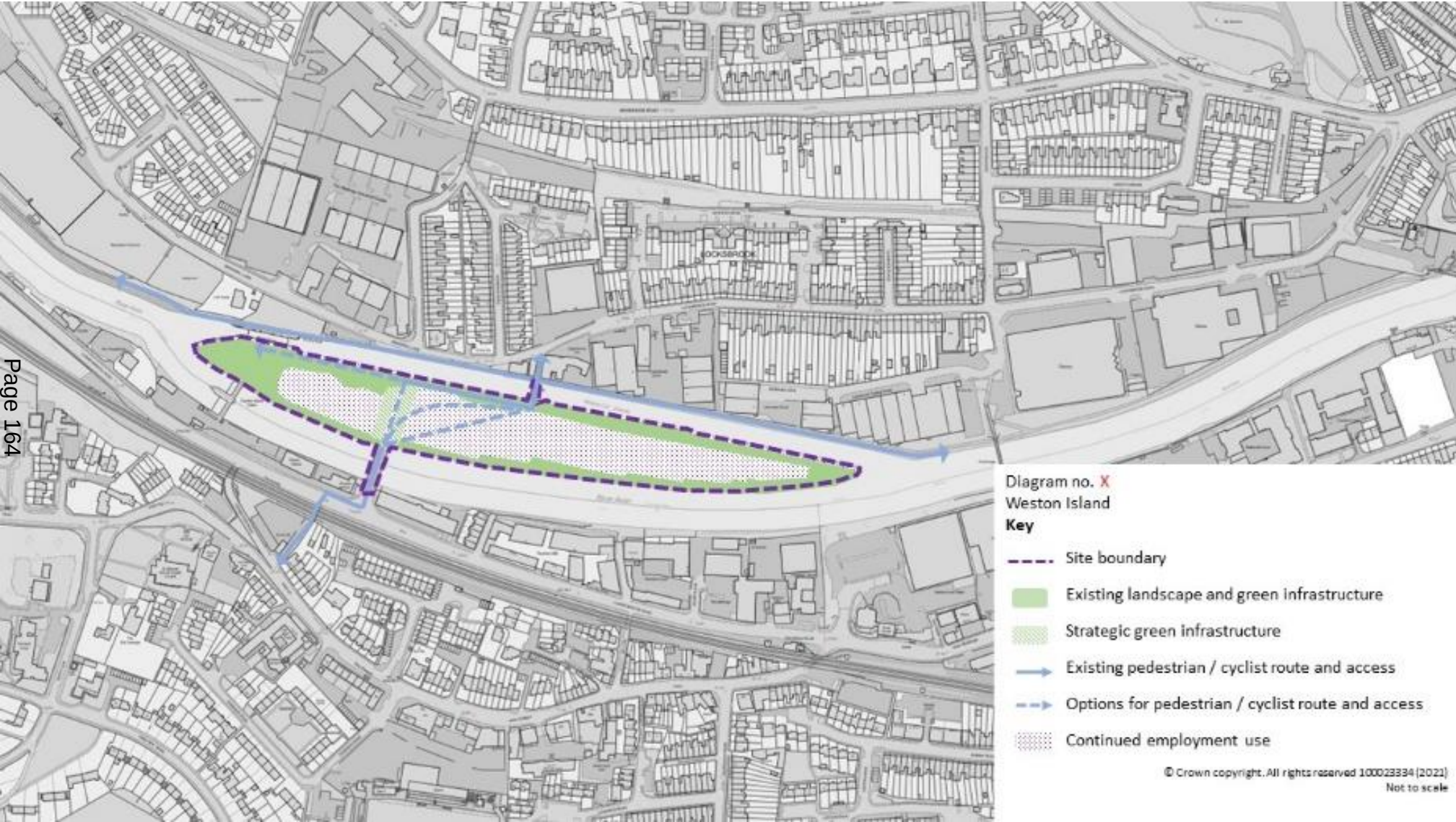
*Remove key active frontage, primary vehicle access and pedestrian link



Locksbrook Creative Industry Hub

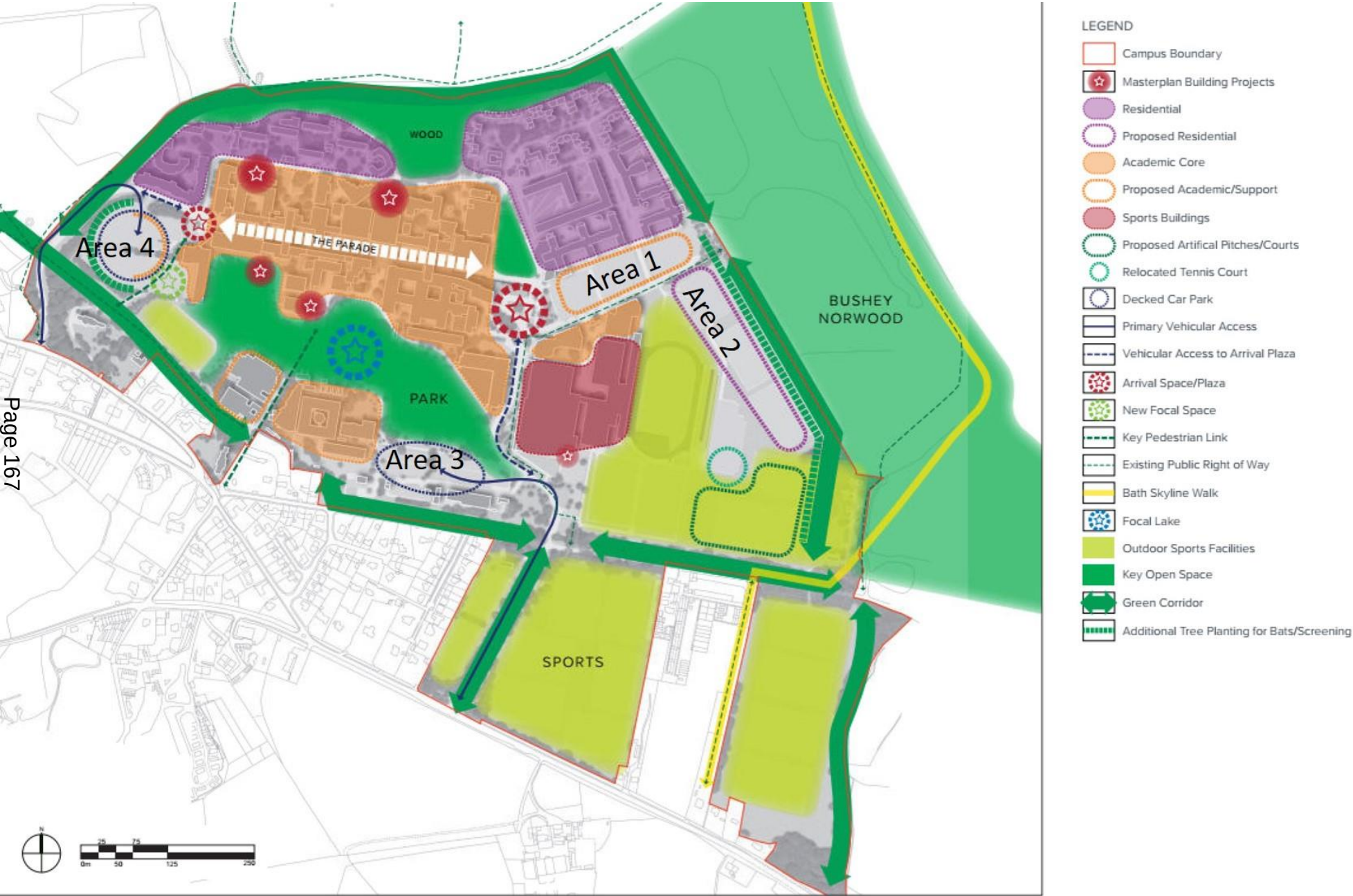
Annex 1 – SB22 Locksbrook Creative Industry Hub







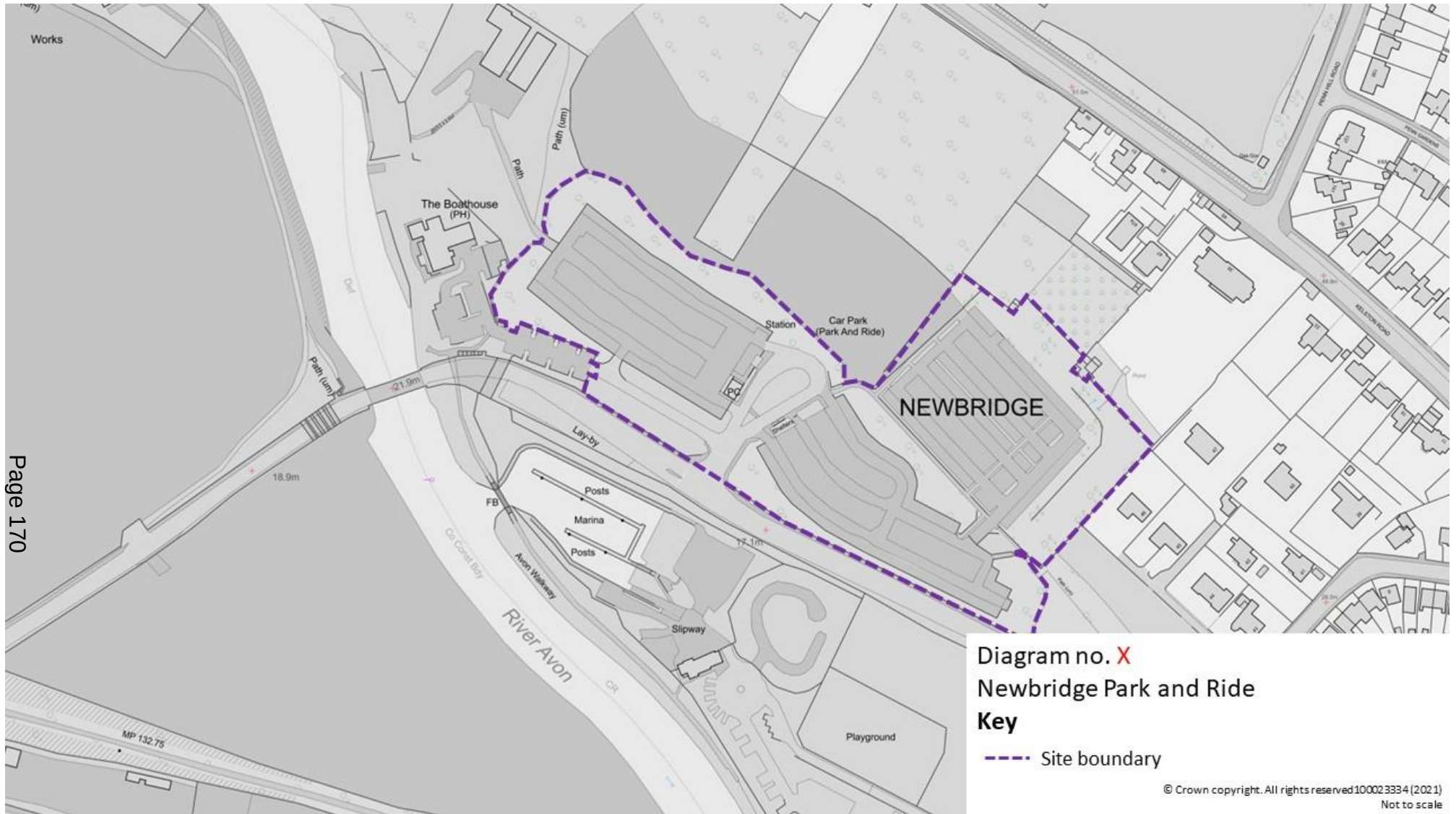




Annex 1 – SB26 – Park and Ride Sites (site allocation boundaries and new Green Belt boundary to be shown)



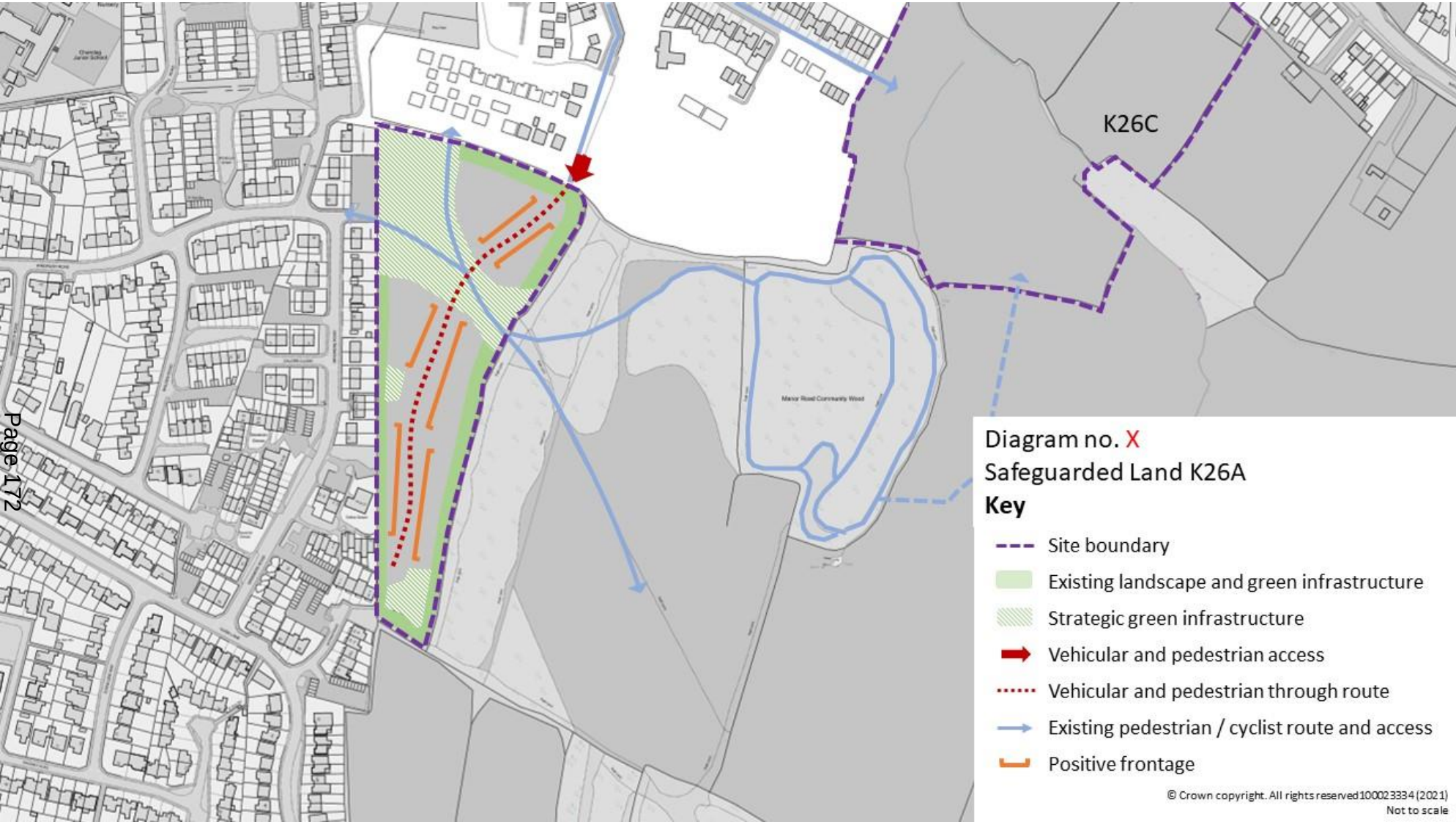




Annex 1 – KE3c – East of Keynsham (new allocation site boundary)



Annex 1 – KE3d – Safeguarded land (new allocation – site boundary)



Annex 1 – KE5 – Treetops – new allocation site boundary

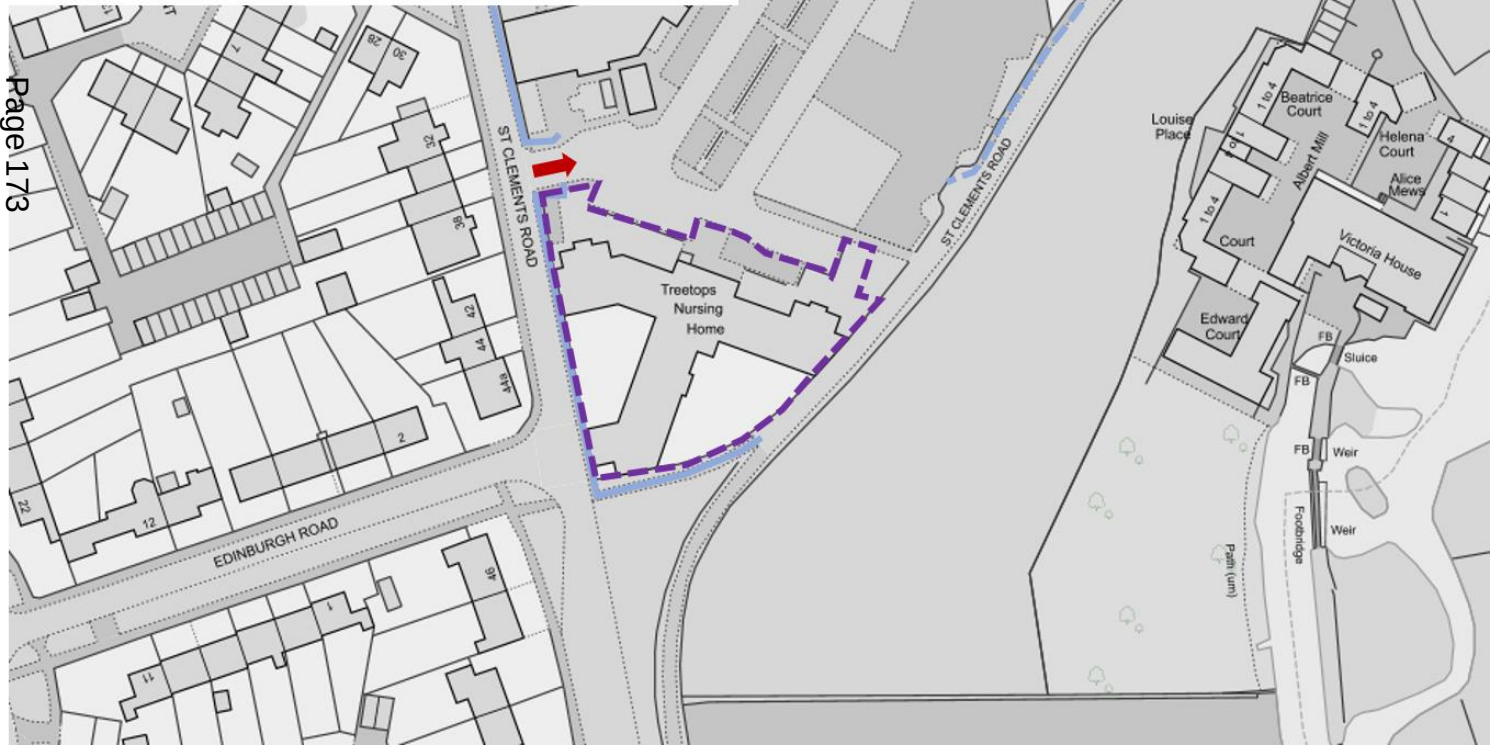
Diagram no. X

Treetops

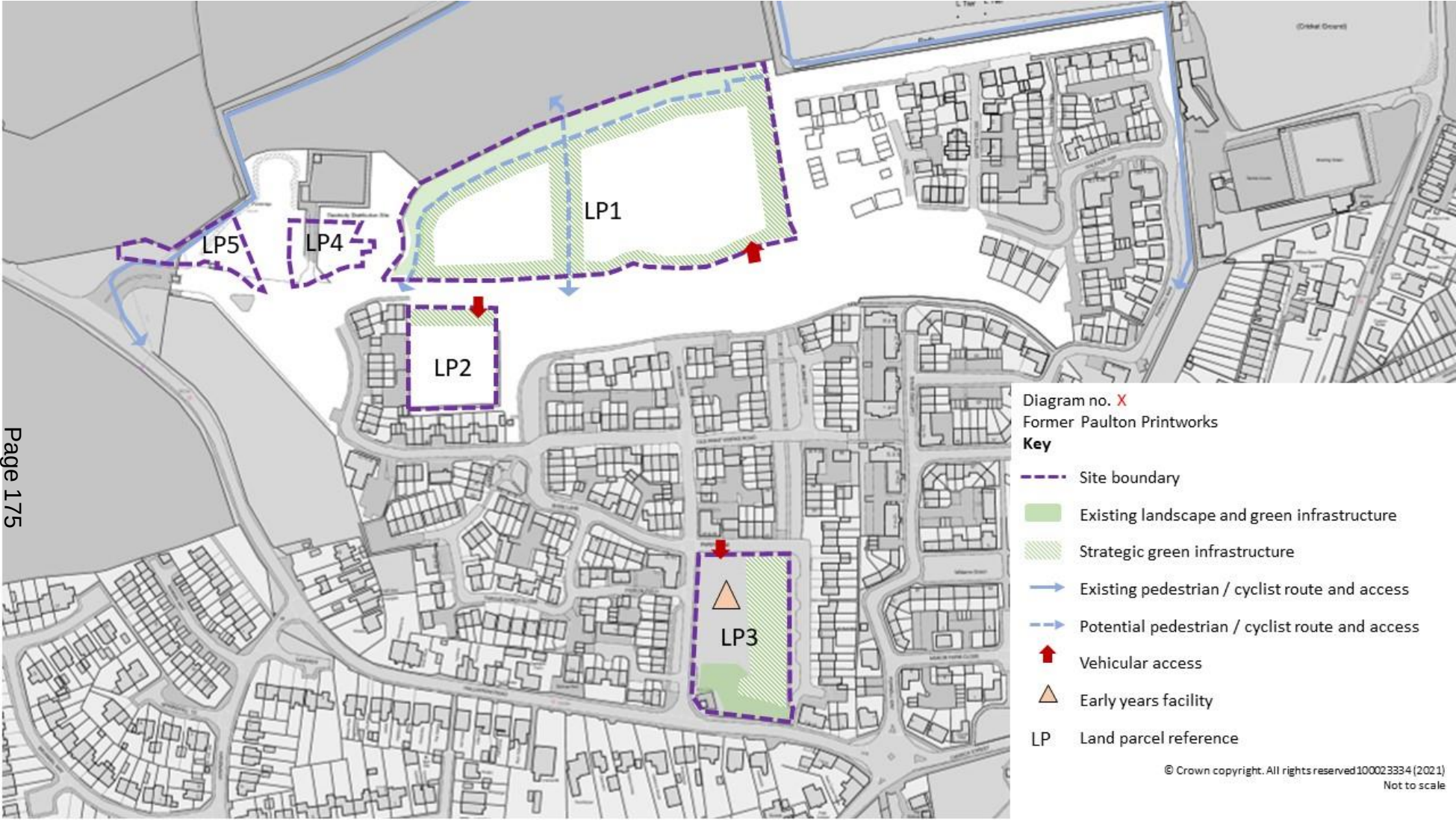
Key

- Site boundary
- Vehicular and pedestrian access
- Existing pedestrian / cyclist route and access
- Potential pedestrian / cyclist route and access

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Not to scale







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Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING	Council	
MEETING DATE:	22 July 2021	
TITLE:	Youth Justice Plan 2021-22	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Youth Justice Plan 2021-22		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty, in consultation with named partners Health, Police and Probation, to produce an annual Youth Justice Plan. The Plan sets out how services are to be organised and funded and what functions they will carry out to prevent youth offending and re-offending across Bath and North East Somerset.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Council is asked to:

- 2.1 Agree the Youth Justice Plan fulfils the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and can be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.
- 2.2 Adopt the Youth Justice Plan as part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework that can be accommodated within the Council budget.
- 2.3 Note that the Youth Offending Service Management Board is responsible for ensuring delivery and ask the relevant Development and Scrutiny Panel to oversee performance.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The principal, statutory aim of the youth justice system is to prevent youth offending by 10-17 year olds. The Youth Justice Plan includes the latest performance indicators for work with children at risk of offending and re-offending and sets out how services will be resourced and delivered in 2021-22.
- 3.2 Actions in the work plan will help to make Bath and North East Somerset a safer place and support children work towards crime-free lives with better prospects for the future.
- 3.3 The Youth Justice Plan 2021-22 is attached as an appendix to this report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Preparation of a Youth Justice Plan is required under Section 40 Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The national Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has published guidelines for its completion.
- 4.2 All work with children at risk of offending or re-offending takes full account of their status as children before their status as potential offenders and prioritises safeguarding them within their communities as well as in their family settings.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 The Council is the lead partner in the multi-agency arrangements to prevent youth offending, working closely with Police, Probation and Health Services. All partners have statutory responsibilities to participate in the resourcing of the Youth Offending Service and are maintaining their current level of support. The Council makes the greatest contribution in terms of staff, cash and additional support, including office accommodation and financial and human resources support services. In 2021-22, the Council will contribute £426,441 towards a total budget of £797,824 (53%). Council commitment to staffing and contribution to the pooled budget remain at the same level as last year. This contribution is within the existing Council approved budget.
- 5.2 The work of the Service also depends on a core national grant from the Ministry of Justice, via the Youth Justice Board. For the year ahead, this amount increases by 8% to £199,374. The Ministry of Justice also delegates funding towards the costs, where needed, of remand places for children. The Police and Crime Commissioner's direct contribution continues to be £10,217. All remaining costs are met by the statutory partners who contribute to a pooled budget.

5.3 Submission of a Youth Justice Plan and quarterly data returns are conditions for receipt of the Youth Justice Board grant.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A summary of challenges, risks and issues is included in the Youth Justice Plan itself.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 A number of children who work with the Youth Offending Service undertake community reparation projects to help develop their understanding of the harm they have caused others and to make indirect amends. In most years, these projects have included working with local organisations which improve the environment and animal welfare. It is expected that as the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions come to an end, the Service will resume a number of these initiatives. At present, work in underway to improve the Service's allotment.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 This report has been approved by the Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

8.2 The Youth Justice Plan includes feedback from children who worked with the Youth Offending Service during 2020 and from their parents/carers.

8.3 Performance and the Business and Improvement Plan have been discussed with the Youth Offending Service Management Board, the Custody Review Panel, the Youth Crime Prevention Board and members of the Youth Offending Service itself.

Contact person	Sally Churchyard, Head of Young People's Prevention Services and the Violence Reduction Unit Mobile: 07980 998711
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Bath and North East Somerset Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2021 – 2022



Working in partnership to prevent youth offending

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1. Introduction, Vision and Strategy

Youth Offending Services (YOSs) and the partners they work with have a statutory responsibility to prevent offending by children aged 10-17 years. This Plan has been written in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S.40 and national guidance from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to set out how services to prevent youth offending will be provided and funded in Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) in 2021-22. It will be submitted to the YJB and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State.

Children caught up in the justice system, whether directly or indirectly harmed by others' offending behaviour and/or as a consequence of their own behaviour, are amongst the most vulnerable children in this area. Some of them are already known to wider children's services because of the difficulties they face. Throughout their contact with the YOS, those who have offended are viewed primarily as children rather than as 'offenders' and our work to help them make positive changes takes full account of their individual stories including any adverse childhood experiences, discrimination and/or exploitation by others. The YOS has refreshed its own values (appendix 4) to reflect this approach which is consistent with the national YJB vision for a child first youth justice system:

A youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims.

The local ambition in the Children and Young People's Plan for all children including those in the justice system, and a parallel ambition for all parents/carers that underpins the support offered to parents/carers of those in the justice system, is that:

We will work together to help children enjoy their childhood and be well prepared for adult life including achieving these outcomes:

- *Children and young people are safe.*
- *Children and young people are healthy.*
- *Children and young people have fair life chances.*
- *Children and young people are engaged citizens within their own community.*

(We will support) parents to take responsibility for understanding and meeting their children's needs, enjoying their childhood with them and preparing them for adult life.

The work described in this Plan also makes a significant contribution to the Local Authority's focus on prevention.

The past year, under the Covid-19 pandemic, has been challenging for everyone. Many children in the justice system have had limited access to technology and have experienced difficulties maintaining their social and educational relationships as well as their contact with the YOS – although an offer of face to face contact has remained in place for all those with greatest need. There are likely to have been missed opportunities with others to offer them early help support and prevent them having formal contact with the youth justice system altogether. Although reported crime reduced, the local serious violence problem profile¹ demonstrated that violent crime returned to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2020 and whilst comparatively low in this area, is on a continuing trajectory to increase.

This Plan draws on feedback from children, their parents/carers and those harmed by their offending and our learning in delivering youth justice services through a pandemic lockdown. It has been developed and agreed by partners in the YOS and its Management Board and reflects the local commitment to prevent youth offending and support better outcomes for children. Priorities for the year ahead, discussed below in section 4, include continuing to work in partnership to tackle exploitation and serious violence, addressing trauma, re-visiting the needs of girls and how we best help them, supporting parents/carers, and working to address discrimination in all its forms, including racial disproportionality.

2. Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

2.1 Overarching management arrangements

The YOS is situated within the Local Authority, with the Chief Executive holding lead responsibility for delivery of youth justice services and management resting within Children's Services as part of the wider People and Communities Department; the YOS Head of Service reports to the Director of Children and Families and is a member of the Children's Service Management Group.

An annual report is made to the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel and the Youth Justice Plan is presented to Council for authorisation.

2.2 Governance arrangements

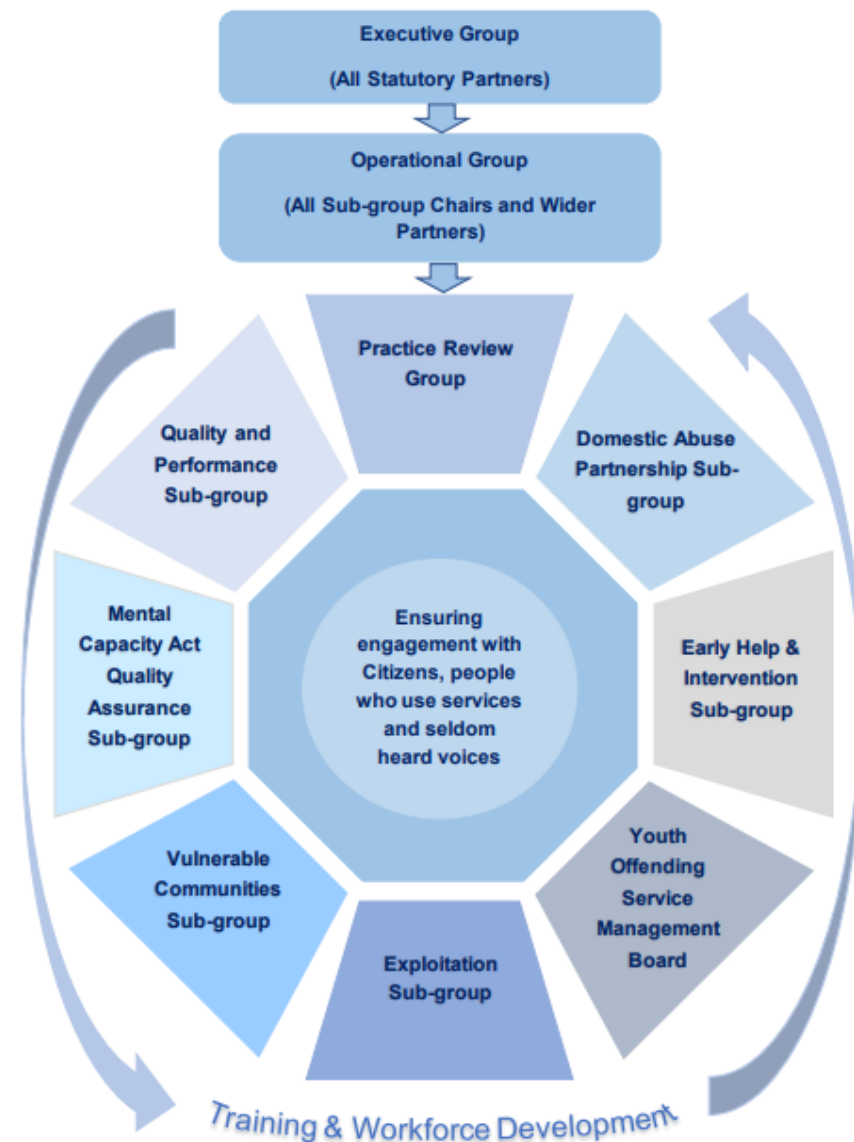
Multi-agency, strategic oversight of youth justice service delivery is provided at several levels. Its dedicated Management Board (see 2.3) operates as a sub-group of the B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP).

¹ Available from the B&NES Violence Reduction Unit

The BCSSP embraces the functions of the previous Local Children's Safeguarding Board, Adult Safeguarding Board and Community Safety Partnership, recognising their shared responsibilities and interfaces. It operates across the age range, being well placed to address the challenges of transition, and encourages a 'think family, think community' approach. The chair of the YOS Management Board provides the BCSSP Operational Group with quarterly updates of key achievements, outcomes, challenges and links the work of the YOS with other initiatives and developments. Specific links include:

- Any serious incidents affecting children known to the YOS are referred to the Quality and Performance Sub Group.
- The YOS contributes to and benefits from the work of the Training and Development Sub Group.
- The YOS Head of Service sits on the Early Help and Intervention Sub Group, the Domestic Abuse Partnership and the Exploitation Sub Group and helps to integrate their work with the work of the YOS and its Management Board.
- She also chairs the Serious Violence Steering Group (the local Violence Reduction Unit) which formally reports to the Exploitation Sub Group and directly to the BCSSP Operational Group and makes regular briefings to the other groups she attends.

The YOS Management Board also reports annually to the Health and Wellbeing Board, contributing to the outcome 'children and young people are safe from crime.'



2.3 The YOS Management Board and its Sub Groups

The YOS Management Board includes all required statutory members from the Local Authority (Social Care and Education), Health (through their new integrated care arrangements), Probation (through its newly unified Probation Service) and Police. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services also attends, together with representatives from the Court, the local Further Education College, the local Health provider and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. It is currently chaired by the Director of Children and Education. Attendance is monitored and is generally very good from all agencies, sometimes including named substitutes, with quarterly business meetings and annual development events continuing online throughout the pandemic. New members are offered induction into the YOS and their responsibilities as members of the Board.

The Board receives annual activity and outcome reports on key areas of service delivery including Speech and Language Therapy, Nursing, Education, the Compass prevention service and Referral Order Panels. It also receives annual reports from its three sub groups. These are the multi-agency Youth Crime Prevention Board and Custody Review Panel, both chaired by the Head of Service and each working to the relevant performance indicator. The Out of Court Disposal Panel, chaired by the YOS Operational Manager, is now formally linked to the Management Board in a similar fashion. Board members participate periodically in file audits and reports of these are also presented to the wider Board. Members of the YOS attend to present case studies to evidence effective practice – and sometimes to illustrate challenges in the work undertaken and seek support in raising issues at a strategic level. The Board maintains Challenge and Risk Registers and receives an annual Assurance Report.

2.4 Partnership arrangements

In accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, professionals from Police, Health, Social Care, Education and the National Probation Service make up the multi-agency YOS and work in an integrated way alongside a dedicated Reparation Worker who facilitates opportunities for children to make amends for their offending and two Assessment and Information Officers. One of these supports the volunteer Referral Order Panel Members and the other co-ordinates return home interviews with children who have returned from a missing episode; they both support use of Early Help Assessments across the Authority, including within the Compass. An organisational chart in the appendices summarises the posts, a number of which are part-time. The smallest post is a Probation Service Officer who supports work in the Courts and seeks feedback from children and parents/carers who have completed their work with the YOS. Case manager staff, including qualified Probation Officers and Social Workers, have key statutory functions, including the assessment and supervision of young people aged 10-17 who are subject to voluntary and conditional Out-of-Court Disposals and community and custodial Court Orders, and supporting parents/carers to strengthen their parenting skills. The Police Constable undertakes a range of tasks including facilitating information sharing but also giving those harmed a voice and an opportunity to become involved in restorative work with children if they wish to do so. This work is supplemented locally by a prevention service, Compass, which works with children aged 8-17 years who are assessed as being at high risk of offending, and with their families.

The YOS works closely with a range of partners. Those most often providing services to children at risk of offending include:

- DHI Project 28 who receive a small annual grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner as part of their Council commission , provide substance misuse services for children subject to Youth Alcohol and Drugs Diversion interventions and programmes for those subject to voluntary and statutory supervision .
- Youth Connect South West, commissioned by the Council provides targeted support and access to universal youth services, together with programmes to support access to training and employment opportunities.
- Social Care's Adolescent and Care Experienced Team which works with children who have been exploited , some of whom are also known to the YOS. Managers in the two services endeavour to co-ordinate their work in the best interests of the children concerned, and usually identify a 'lead' worker who the child best engages with .
- Increasingly, with the Violence Reduction Unit, including a newly appointed Co-ordinator for the Council, a Sergeant and two dedicated Police and Community Support Officers.

3 Resources and Services

The YOS's greatest resource is its staff and all statutory partners play their part in appointing YOS professionals and include the YOS in their recruitment processes. Statutory partners contribute into a pooled budget that pays central running costs and the salary of the Information and Business Manager, responsible for the YOSs case management system, ChildView, and all required reporting and administration. Staff from a range of backgrounds including Police, Health, Social Care, Education , and the Probation Service work in an integrated way alongside other specialists and have key statutory functions. The YJB grant is used in accordance with its terms and conditions and employs staff within the YOS to support statutory colleagues in delivery of the following services:

Prevention - the Youth Offending Service is actively involved in the delivery of the Early Help and Intervention Strategy. Through its Integrated Working staff, it supports the preparation of Early Help Assessments across the workforce and the offer of independent return home interviews to children who have returned from an episode of being missing. This supports identification of those who would benefit from early help, including in prevention of child sexual exploitation or offending. Compass works on a voluntary basis with children aged 8-17 who are assessed as being at high risk of offending, and with their parents/carers, to reduce the risk of individuals offending and entering the youth justice system. Compass is currently reviewing its offer to include some shorter interventions alongside longer-term support for children and families. This work all contributes to the first-time entrants performance indicator.

Diversion - the Youth Alcohol and Drugs (YAAD) diversion scheme is successful in helping to reduce the number of children entering the formal youth justice system. It operates in partnership with Police and Project 28, the local young people's substance misuse service. Children who may have previously been issued with an immediate Youth Caution by the Police are now offered an opportunity to attend a drugs awareness raising workshop with Project 28 and can be dealt with by an informal community resolution. Some then choose to continue working with Project 28. The YOS is also working with YOSs across Avon and Somerset and the Violence Reduction Units to introduce an equivalent diversionary disposal for children under 16 found for the first time in possession of a knife or other weapon in their school or community. This also contributes to the first-time entrants performance indicator.

Out of Court Disposals – for less serious first time offences and where the victim has agreed to this, an immediate Community Resolution can be issued, enabling Police to support restorative activity. Under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, young people who have admitted a minor offence can be dealt with outside of the Courts through a Youth Caution or a Youth Conditional Caution – a Community Resolution is available at this stage as well. The YOS facilitates the process by assessing children, sharing decision making at fortnightly 'Out of Court Disposals Panels' and delivering short-term, generally 16-week, interventions to children and parents/carers to reduce the risk of re-offending. This process and its governance have been the subject of a recent review to assure the YO Management Board of governance arrangements and quality of assessment and interventions. Use of Community Resolutions support the first time entrants performance measure and work undertaken under Cautions contributes to the reducing re-offending performance indicator.

Bail and Court - the YOS provides information and advice and formal reports to the fortnightly Youth Court and occasional attendance at Bristol Crown Court and other Courts when children from Bath and North East Somerset are being sentenced. The Service also supports young people to understand the sentences passed and makes assessments of those who have been remanded or sentenced to custody. Whilst decisions are being made by Police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Courts about charging, conviction and sentencing, the Youth Offending Service can provide voluntary or statutory support and/or undertake formal assessments. This may include Bail Support and Supervision for those who need specific support to avoid offending and ensure they attend Court on the next occasion. Courts can order that children who do not have a satisfactory home address are Looked After by the Local Authority. They are entitled to the same level of support as other children in Care.

Supervision of children in the community – most children who are sentenced in the Courts are supervised by the YOS in the community and most remain living with their parents/carers or foster carers although occasionally they may be living in a residential setting. The Service works with them to assess their needs and vulnerability and their likelihood of re-offending and where relevant, of causing serious harm to others. They then work with them, their parents/carers, and other agencies to agree plans to address these concerns. The level of contact with the Service is determined by the assessed level of risk and the

interventions delivered include specific offence-focussed work, raising victim awareness, encouraging positive activities, and supporting engagement in education training or employment.

The Service also supports children subject to Intensive Supervision and Surveillance requirements made by the Court as an alternative to custody or as part of resettlement arrangements after a custodial sentence. These require children to engage with a 25 hour per week programme of education, training and employment, supervision, and activities and an electronically monitored curfew. The Service also supervises children subject to Reparation and Unpaid Work requirements. A significant offer to children and the Courts is now the Enhanced Case Management programme which takes a trauma-recovery approach to supporting children involved in more serious and/or prolific offending.

Work with children in custody – very few are remanded or sentenced to custody, usually because of the seriousness of their offending, but sometimes because of repeated failure to co-operate with the requirements of Court Orders. The YOS provides risk assessments to the Youth Justice Board to ensure children are safely placed in the most appropriate establishment and plans support and supervision of children when they return to the community. The most common youth custodial sentence is the Detention and Training Order, lasting for up to two years. Longer sentences apply for more serious offences. B&NES YOS is part of a sub-regional Resettlement Consortium which shares best practice in supporting children whilst they are in custody and when they return to the community. This includes maintaining positive relationships with voluntary sector organisations who support children through the key transition back to the community.

Work with parents/carers and families - this is usually undertaken on a voluntary basis but can sometimes be within a Parenting Order. The interventions include individual parenting skills sessions, family mediation and joint work with the parents/carers and the child. Staff have been trained to deliver the Family Links parenting programme and further training in its programme for parents/carers of teenagers, Talking Teens, is planned for this autumn.

Restorative Justice and Work with Victims - through its Police Constable, the Service endeavours to contact all known victims of children in contact with the YOS to seek their views to reflect in formal assessments and reports and offer an opportunity to be involved in a restorative work. This can be agreement to receive a letter of explanation of apology, facilitating 'shuttle mediation,' where questions and related matters can be answered, or, where the person harmed and the child are willing to do this, supporting a face to face meeting.

Volunteer Panel Members take on a key statutory function in chairing Referral Order meetings with young children and, where they are willing, those harmed by their offence, to agree how they will make amends and what work they need to undertake to reduce their risk of re-offending.

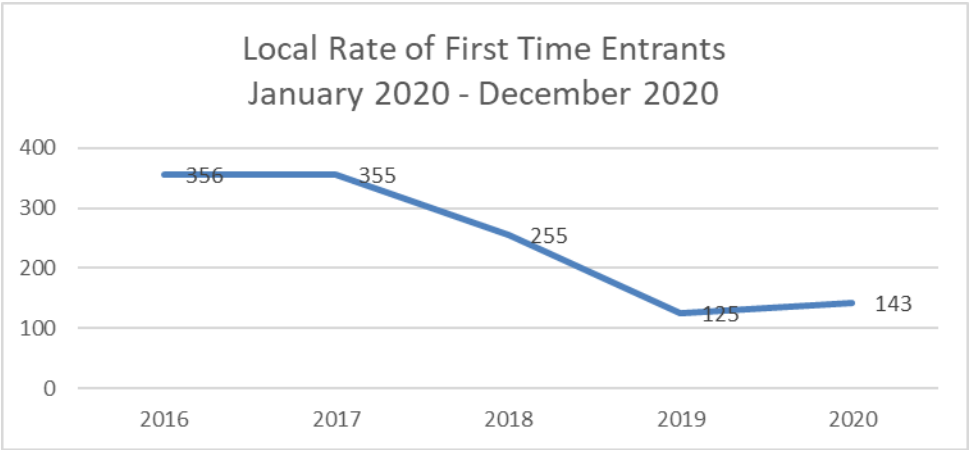
4 Performance and Priorities

National Indicators

There are three national indicators for youth justice. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, local data has continued to be provided to the Youth Justice Board as required but no national comparison data has been published for re-offending and first-time entrants. Therefore, the data provided here is drawn from the YOS database, ChildView, rather than provided by the Police National Computer as in recent years.

a. First Time Entrants

This indicator is the number of children aged 10-17 who received their first substantive outcome following an offence (Caution, Conditional Caution or Conviction) shown as a rate per 100,000 children in the general population. In recent years, the number and rate have reduced significantly, reflecting the positive impact of youth crime diversion and prevention and wider early help services which can address children's needs and behaviour before they become problematic. The concern is that during the pandemic, opportunities to offer preventative support may have been missed and more children may enter the formal justice system in the future as a result. That said, the numbers are very low and the increase may not be significant. However, despite the pandemic, there was a slight rise in the number and rate of first-time entrants in 2020 and no data is available to compare with other areas to see whether this is part of a wider pattern

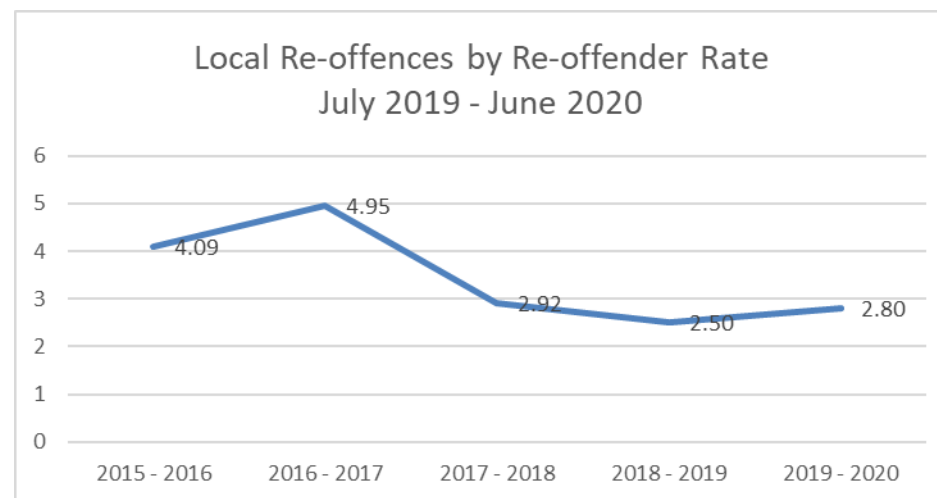
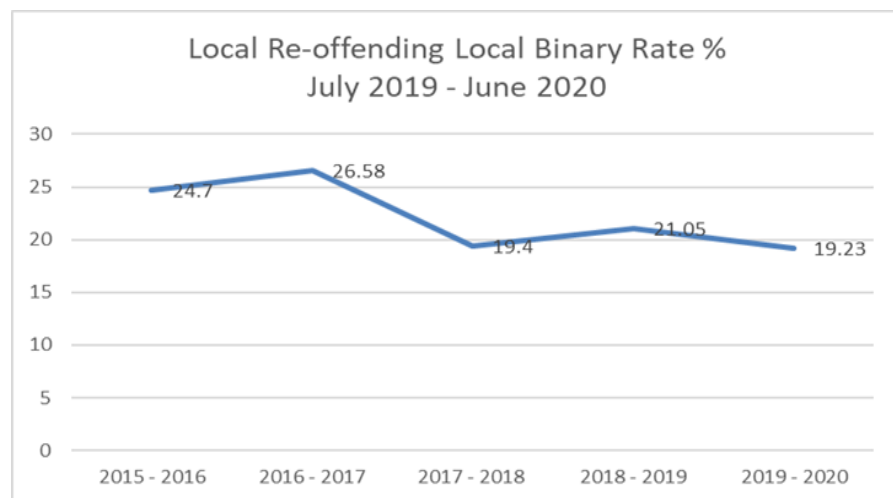


This data is shared with the Youth Crime Prevention Board, together with a commentary on the characteristics of the children who have entered the justice system, to inform planning and targeting. It has been identified that younger children are getting involved in violence, often in the context of groups of children, and it appears that more girls may be becoming involved. Ethnicity is proportionate within this sample, although there is wider disproportionality and participants are reflecting on how they ensure services are always accessible and meet children's individual needs.

b. Re-offending

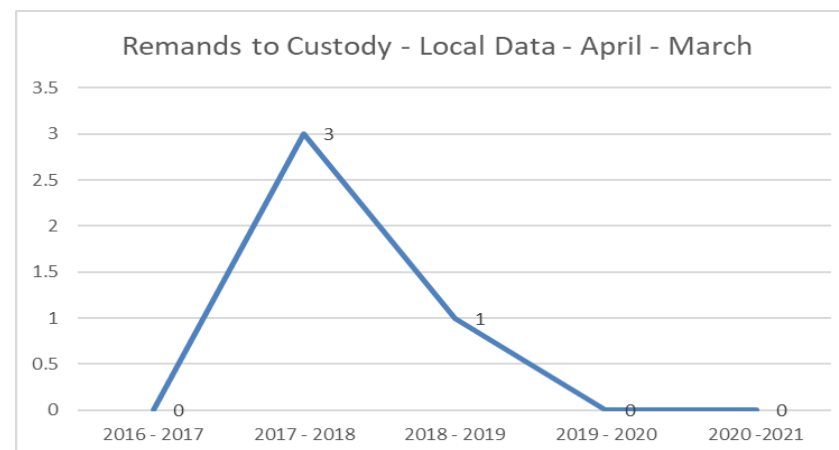
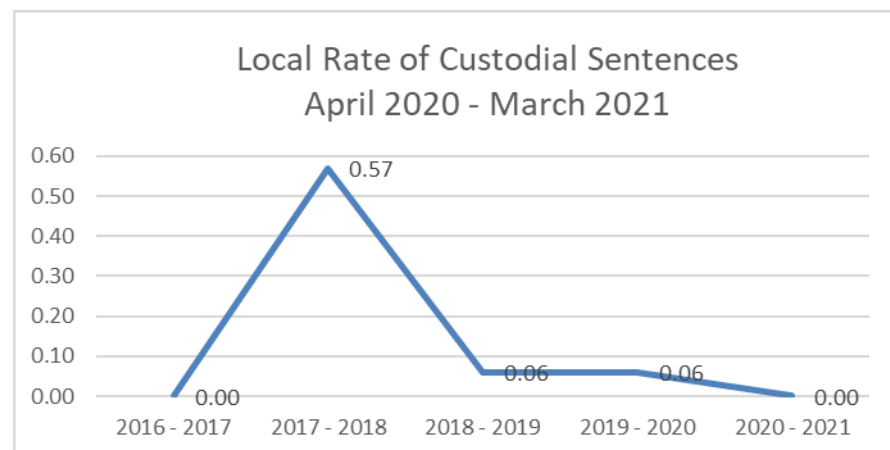
This indicator is the rate of re-offending after 12 months of a cohort of children who received a substantive outcome (Caution, Conditional Caution or Conviction). This is shown as a binary rate (the overall percentage of children who re-offended) and as the average rate of new offences committed by each child who re-offended. The latest local data shows a slight overall reduction in re-offending and an increase in the rate of re-offending amongst those who did re-offend. Again, the numbers are now low and small changes may not be significant.

A high proportion of this cohort have experienced adverse childhood experiences and suffer a level of trauma as a result. There is also increasing recognition of the experience of exploitation by adults or older children into drug dealing and other illegal activity, often related to being harmed by and harming others. It is a complex picture and they benefit from continuity of worker and programmes tailored to their individual needs including intensive supervision and inclusion in a trauma recovery initiative (the Enhanced Case Management approach). Increasingly, children are being notified to the National Referral Mechanism when there is evidence of exploitation and if they are registered, this is shared with the Crown Prosecution Service and Courts to consider when reviewing and hearing cases and in sentencing. This is an important aspect of recognising their status as a child who has been groomed into offending, at the same time as understanding the impact of their behaviour on others.



c. Custody

This indicator is the number of custodial sentences passed by the Courts, presented as a rate per 1000 children aged 10-17 in the general population. The local ambition remains to keep children out of custody wherever it is safe to the public to do so because outcomes for children in custody tend to be poorer than for those sentenced within the community. The multi-agency Custody Review Panel monitors outcomes, identifies learning and recommends actions in respect of children at risk of custody as part of its standard agenda. The YOS works closely with other children's services to develop community proposals wherever it is considered safe to do so. There were no custodial sentences in the period April 2020 – March 2021 and the last custodial sentence passed on a child in B&NES was in July 2019. This means the local rate of custodial sentencing is amongst the lowest in England and Wales.



d. Training and employment

Particular attention is paid to education, training, and employment because poor engagement is a considerable risk factor for offending and re-offending – and re-engagement can provide stability and a route out of offending. At the time of preparing this Plan, there were 12 post-16 children known to the YOS of whom 9 were in education, training, and employment. Some were on roll at Bath College and their attendance had been impacted by the lock down; also, some programmes remained part-time. The YOS has offered a significant level of support to these children, including providing (Covid-19 secure) lifts to College. Those not in training or employment face significant barriers and will require longer-term support to access training and employment.

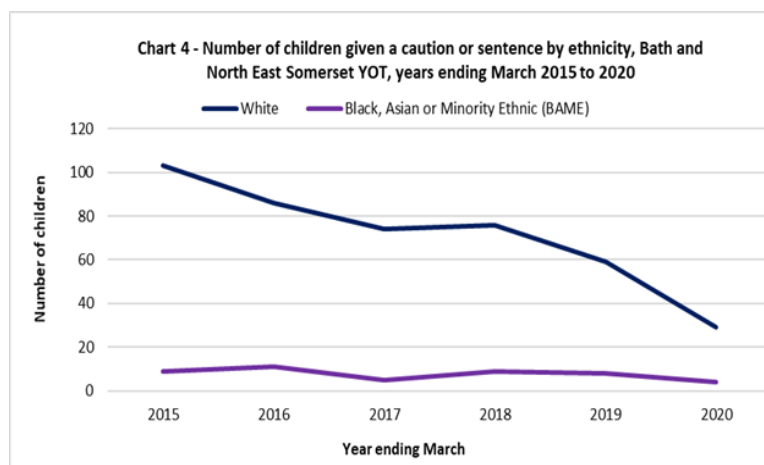
Post 16 status YOS Cases Open on 31.03.2021 - ETE and NEET



e. Ethnic Disproportionality

The latest population data available is from the 2011 census, which showed there were 15,764 children in B&NES, 1,047 (7%) of whom were from Black and Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. Of the 33 cautioned or sentenced in the latest period to be analysed by the YJB, 88% were from a White background and 12% were from a BAME background, an over-representation, although numbers are low. Analysis shows White children are most likely to commit serious offences (gravity score 5-8) and to be sentenced at Court.

Since 2015, the number of White children receiving a caution or conviction has reduced by 72%. Due to the low ethnicity population, percentage change for BAME children in the same period cannot be calculated, but it does not appear to have changed so markedly.



Although the numbers are too low for data about BAME children to be statistically significant, it is presented against a wider backdrop of BAME children being over-represented in the youth justice system in England and Wales (particularly in the custodial population) and therefore, we cannot be complacent about the experiences of children living in B&NES. The YOS has participated in the Avon and Somerset Lammy Review, considering the data and experiences of BAME people across the justice system, but with particular work streams about children's experiences. This has included a review of fixed term and permanent exclusions from school, in recognition of how this can render children vulnerable to anti-social behaviour and offending, including to being groomed into county lines drug dealing and other illegal activity. This is considered primarily as a safeguarding concern but directly contributes to offending as well. The Review is due to report in July and its recommendations will be considered by the YOS Management Board as well as by the wider BCSSP to identify learning and respond to recommendations. Timescales mean it has not been possible to include specific recommendations in this Business and Improvement Plan below and so the Management Board intends to review it in a development event in the autumn.

5 Responding to the Pandemic and Recovery from COVID-19

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the year began and ended with offices open to restricted numbers of frontline staff only and most staff working from home. The key challenge was to maintain a statutory service that met the expectations of the Courts and played a part in wider community safety, whilst ensuring that children and staff were kept safe from Covid-19. Initially, the priority was to maintain contact with children at greatest risk and to understand and support them with any safeguarding and mental health needs. The Service took early steps to 'RAG'-rate its statutory and voluntary caseloads in order to also identify those with the greatest likelihood of offending and/or with welfare or safeguarding need. In practice, the most vulnerable children have continued to receive a consistent and responsive service throughout this period. This has meant practitioners have been able to assess and respond to the emerging needs of children and their families as lockdown continued and more recently, has eased. This has been a frightening time for children and their families and many engaged well with different ways of working and particularly appreciated the contact and someone outside their immediate families to talk to about what was happening.

A few families were 'shielding' and their children were reluctant to meet and so they, and those rated lower risk, together with some parents / carers, were contacted and supported by telephone. This means of communicating had mixed responses and practitioners reported that some children felt anxious and uncomfortable talking on the telephone and so it was difficult to gain an accurate understanding of how well they were coping. For most children, especially where there was already a good relationship established with their worker, weekly sessions were usually conducted through socially distanced walks in their local neighbourhood or parks. Some meetings took place on doorsteps or within young people's gardens and although this was considered adequate, it raised difficulties with privacy and so limited the scope of conversation and children's engagement. Where practitioners were able to have frank discussions with young people about the challenges they had been facing in the lockdown, they could provide support and understanding and assess their overall wellbeing. It was also an opportunity to discuss how they had been engaging in home schooling and seek to address the difficulties they encountered with this. Having face-to-face contact and an ability to have confidential conversations has been invaluable in supporting children and has, in many instances, strengthened relationships with their worker. Practical support was offered to families across the RAG-rating, sharing information and signposting on to other support and some food and medical deliveries.

For the first few weeks, children appear to have remained indoors and there were reports of pressure on families and concern about an increase in domestic abuse. As they started to venture outdoors again, there were reports of anti-social behaviour and some violent and vehicle-related offending. The YOS has worked alongside wider partnership initiatives to tackle domestic abuse and serious violence and has also tailored its contact with individual children. Several common issues have been identified with children including access to education, employment and training, social isolation, mental health issues, difficulties in adhering to lockdown restrictions and access to information technology.

Volunteers, administrative staff, managers and practitioners alike have remained committed to the task in hand and have overcome many individual challenges to ensure the YOS has remained fully functioning throughout the pandemic. There have been excellent examples of the staff team adapting to the new working environment to meet the requirements of Out of Court Disposals and Court Orders. They have supported children's access to school and post-16 provision, used technology to deliver interventions, addressed social isolation, and supported parents/carers. New reparation opportunities have been developed including letter-writing (and continued correspondence in some instances) with people living in care homes and with refugees.

Much continues to be learned about how to deliver this service during the pandemic and some innovative practice will remain into the future. The wider network of YOSs and partner agencies as well as internal colleagues within Children's Services provide ideas and learning and strengthen the Service's ability to continue to work with children even if there are further restrictions on people's movements. The Violence Reduction Unit has also been collecting examples of innovative practice and is planning a multi-agency event to share what has been learned.

6 Challenges, Risks, and Issues

The following risks have been identified for delivery of the Youth Justice Plan and the statutory purpose of preventing youth offending; many of these are ongoing risks.

Challenges, Risks and Issues	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to reduce/manage the risk
1. Longer-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown on staff, including 'long Covid,' and staff emotional and physical wellbeing	Medium across the YOS but High for some individuals	High	The YOS is actively involved in Public Health briefings and Recovery Planning within the Council. All staff have had individual risk assessments undertaken in order that needs can be identified and addressed and the Occupational Health Service is available to advise. Additional support is available to staff and some have made an early return to office-based working. Face to face supervision is offered to all staff and small meetings are encouraged where they can be Covid-19 secure. The YOS has a Health and Wellbeing Champion who keeps colleagues abreast of information and resources through team meeting briefings and email.
2. Changes to use of office buildings and possible continued social distancing leading to loss of the co-located, multi-agency way of working that is a feature of YOSs	Medium	Medium	The main YOS office base is being re-designed and refurbished in 2021. The Head of Service is a member of the staff consultation group and designs and proposals have been circulated for feedback. The YOS has fed back the importance of co-located working to uphold the YOS model and provide oversight and support for staff undertaking challenging work.

3. Exploitation of children, including into offending	High	High	YOS staff have all received relevant training and understand indicators to look out for in their assessments. The Service participates in the Exploitation Operational Group, giving opportunity to raise concern about individuals and work with colleagues to address risks and seek assurance about how the partnership is working together to keep people safe. The YOS was actively involved in the first complex (contextual) strategy on a group of 5 children and their peers and a local contextual safeguarding audit is being undertaken to help take practice forward. Reflective groups and individual supervision provide opportunity for debrief and support to staff working with distressing situations.
More serious youth offending, including serious violence	Medium/High	High	A small number of children, often those who are being exploited, are at risk of committing violent and drug dealing offences. Those who carry knives are at heightened risk of committing serious violent offences. The Service has reviewed the interventions it uses and is working with the wider partnership through the Serious Violence Operational and Steering Groups, to ensure that support to young people is 'joined up,' with a key focus on prevention. Continued participation in the enhanced case management pilot also presents opportunities for more structured, trauma recovery, work.
Increase in girls involved in serious violence	Medium	High	This was flagged by practitioners across the Local Authority as part of the Violence Reduction Unit's needs assessment. It is not yet borne out by the data on substantive outcomes but there are children under investigation for serious violence. A piece of work is underway to quantify issues, needs and responses.
Increase in Looked After Children offending	Medium	High	Looked after children are generally over-represented in the justice system and the YOS monitors this and utilises a local protocol to prevent their unnecessary criminalisation. There is an interest in extending the use of restorative responses and the YOS is participating in a local initiative with the Head of the Virtual School to introduce trauma-informed and restorative responses and practices in several local schools.
Increase in ethnic minority background disproportionality	Medium	High	Young people from BAME backgrounds are often over-represented in the population of children offending in this area but the number remains low. The Service draws on a national toolkit to improve understanding of this issue and is working with the Avon and Somerset Lammy Review to understand how best to tackle this. Staff access support from local services including Stand against Racist Incidents (SARI) and the Black Families Education Service attends the

			Youth Crime Prevention Board.
Insufficient readiness for Inspection	Low	High	The Youth Offending Service management and team are actively preparing for Inspection, using the national framework, and identifying learning from published area and thematic inspection reports. It is a standing item at Management Board meetings.
Inability to deliver the Business and Improvement Plan	Low	High	Regular review in management meetings and Management Board oversight together the Council's Scrutiny arrangements hold everyone to account and provide support. Quarterly reporting through the BCSSP provides another opportunity to escalate issues that need a more strategic response.
Maintaining staff and business continuity	Medium	Medium	The relatively small Service is vulnerable to fluctuations in staffing levels when people leave or are Sick, exacerbated under the current pandemic when people sometimes need to self-isolate with no notice. The Service has reviewed its business continuity plan, risk assessments and operating models and is keeping these under careful review in light of the latest government, Public Health and Council advice. Commitment to staff well-being and provision of good quality Supervision and training support staff in this difficult time as well as maintaining its reputation and ability to attract good candidates. Delays in partner agency recruitment are reported to the Management Board.
Maintaining two office bases	Medium	Medium	Use of the central Bath reporting office depends on having additional staff available for cover and is linked with staffing levels as above. This is kept under careful review.
Securing funding for continuation of the Enhanced Case Management pilot beyond March 2022	Medium	Medium/ High	Loss of this trauma recovery initiative would diminish the quality of work undertaken with some of the most traumatised and prolifically re-offending children. Current staff are trained in these approaches but the model depends on also having access to a Clinical Psychologist. The Head of Service is on the Steering Group for this pan-Authority work and is working with them to identify future funding streams.

7 Feedback from Children and their Parents/Carers



What has been good about working with the YOS? What has been most helpful?

It was someone to talk to who wouldn't judge me.

I was happy that they explained the consequences of what would happen if I went down the wrong path. They were always available to me.



The people I worked with were good and professional and realistic. I felt that this gave my son a chance to get back on the straight and narrow and also gave him a second chance.

They seem to be able to calm my son down. She was a lovely lady. Really good to talk to.

I was there for every appointment and I built up a good relationship with F and A. They supported the whole family and made referrals for us. I feel that they have given me hope.



What has been good about working with the YOS? What has been most helpful? (Continued)

They were great. They listened and were friendly and understanding. Also, I didn't feel like I was being patronised.

They helped me a lot. They made me understand my mistakes and where I went wrong and pointed me in the right direction.



The contact seems to have stopped my daughter from offending. I thought it would be just for my daughter but it is really good that I was included as well. I feel like I was kept in the loop of what was happening.

They let me get a lot of stuff off my chest.

I said I didn't want to meet them and they asked me what I would like them to bring and I said a trifle so they bought me a trifle when they saw me. Also they were good at listening.



How could the YOS improve their services in the future? E.g. was there something you wanted to do that the YOS did not provide?

Nothing.

It would be good if they could teach people how to calm down.

Not really.

They did everything they could.

I think that they did everything that they could to help. I am really pleased with the support I was given.



I feel that maybe there could be better communication around appointments with maybe written appointments on a calendar.

It would have been good to have had more group activities for my son that could be enforced so he was made to do them.

Not really except quarterly follow ups would be helpful afterwards. I know that this would probably not be practical because of funding but maybe some kind of safety net that could be used on a voluntary basis.



Is there anything else
you would like to add?

Police were also really
good with us and I
have nothing but praise
and thanks for the YOS
team.

Just to say that the work
has had an impact on my
daughter's offending and
behaviour.



I liked that they just worked with
my grandson. He was the one
who needed the help.

I think that they have taught my son the
consequences of his actions and taught
him right from wrong. Also I am more
aware of the warning signs now and I am
grateful that he didn't have to go to court.
Also he seems more confident now.

8 Service Business and Improvement Plan

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1. Prevention and Diversion - remember the 'children first' principle and provide support outside the formal justice system wherever possible			
Links with BCSSP Commitment 3: Recognising the importance of prevention and early intervention			
Action	Key Links	Owner	Target date
a. Complete work on membership, process, and governance of the Out of Court Disposal Panel	National Standard 1: Out of Court Disposals Avon and Somerset Lammy Review	Head of Service	June 2021
b. Introduce Outcome 22 diversion with intervention for first time, low level knife and other weapon offences	National Standard 1: Out of Court Disposals Violence Reduction Unit	Head of Service (with Heads of Service across Avon and Somerset) and Police	September 2021
c. Complete pathway to show integration of youth crime preventative activity with a focus on serious violence	Youth Crime Prevention Board, Early Help and Intervention Board and Violence Reduction Unit	Head of Service	September 2021
d. Review how we measure effectiveness of all local youth crime prevention activity	Youth Crime Prevention Board and Early Help and Intervention Board	Head of Service	September 2021
2. Tackle exploitation and support the Violence Reduction Unit's ambition that children lead lives free of serious violence at home and in their communities			
Links with BCSSP Commitments 2: Learning from experience to improve how we work and 3: Recognising the importance of prevention and early intervention			
Action	Key Links	Owner	Target date
a. Clarify practice re use of National Referral Mechanism registration	Exploitation Sub Group	Operational Manager	September 2022

b. Support the development of multi-agency information sharing arrangements in order to identify and address individual children's vulnerability	VRU and Exploitation Operational Groups	Head of Service	March 2022
c. Support readiness for YOS compliance with the anticipated new 'serious violence duty'	Violence Reduction Unit Policy and Development Scrutiny Panel	Head of Service	March 2022
d. Participate in developing responses to children's contextual safeguarding needs	Exploitation Sub Group Violence Reduction Unit	Head of Service	March 2022
3. Support children not to re-offend			
Links with BCSSP Commitment 2: Learning from experience to improve how we work			
Action	Key Links	Owner	Target date
a. Clarify the interface between the YOS and the Violence Reduction Unit in the work undertaken with individual children	Violence Reduction Unit	Head of Service	September 2022
b. Continue to develop use of the re-offending toolkit including the live tracker to inform work with children	YJB	Business and Performance Manager	March 2022
c. Support developments in service delivery arising from learning under the pandemic e.g. addressing digital poverty	HMI Report	Operational Manager	March 2022
d. Continue to participate in the Enhanced Case Management pilot	Pan Authority Steering and Operational Groups	Operational Manager	March 2022
e. Strengthen the offer of parenting support	Early Help and Intervention Strategy	Operational Manager	March 2022
4. Work towards the elimination of disproportionate outcomes and meet individual need			

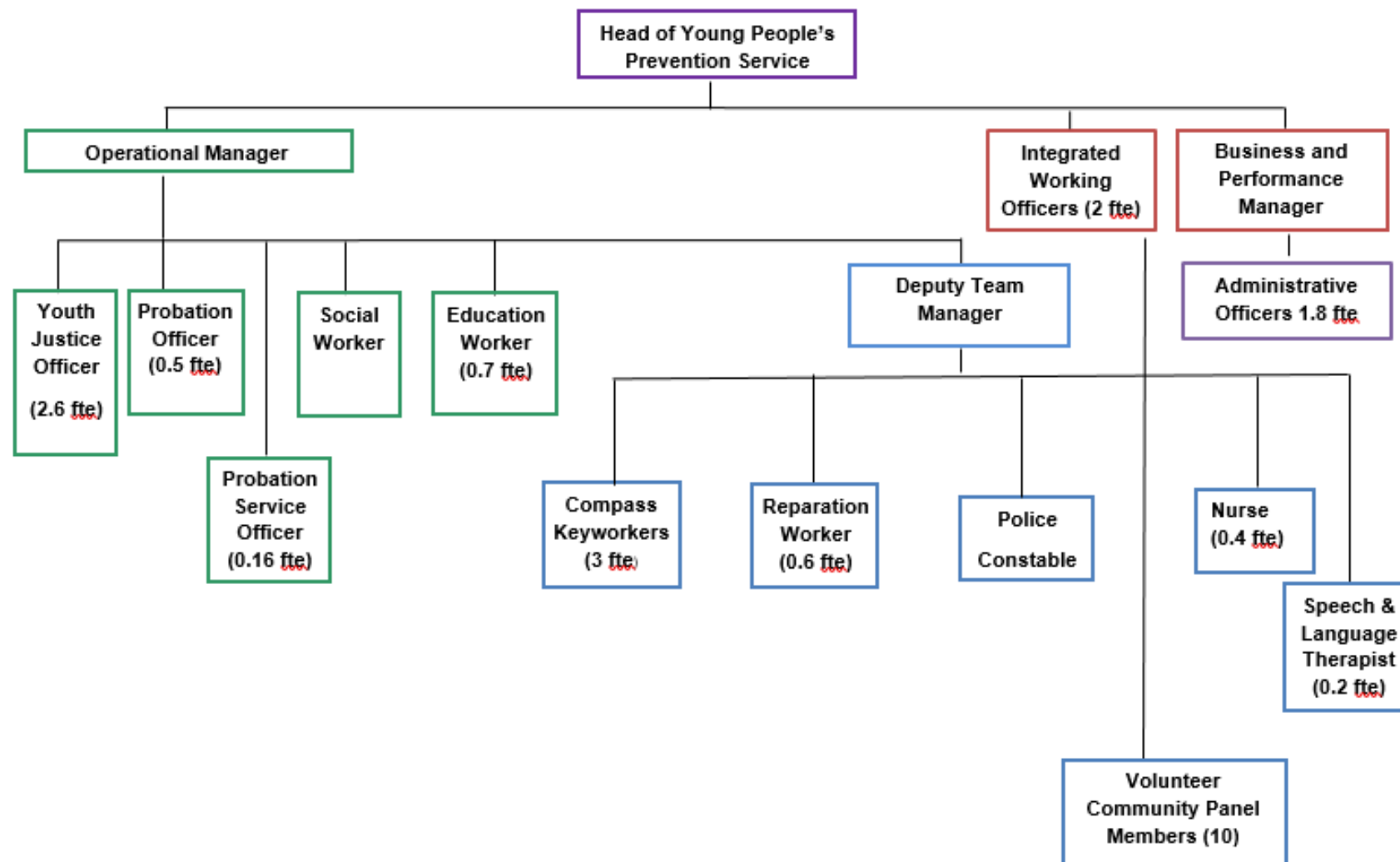
Links with BCSSP Commitment 4: Providing executive leadership for an effective partnership			
Action	Key Links	Owner	Target date
a. Improve understanding of disproportionality in the youth justice system and identify opportunities to address it	Feedback from children YJB Disproportionality Toolkit	Head of Service	December 2022
b. Share learning from and respond to the recommendations of the Avon and Somerset Lammy Review due to be published in July 2021.	Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice Board	Chair of Management Board and Head of Service	December 2022
c. Review available data and the experience of girls in the youth justice system and ensure their individual needs can be met	Violence Reduction Unit	Head of Service	December 2022
5. Support children to successfully negotiate individual and organisational changes and transitions			
Links with BCSSP Commitment 1: Develop a 'Think Family, Think Community' approach			
Action	Key Links	Owner	Target date
a. Review wellbeing and re-offending of children who have transferred to the National Probation Service, incorporating their feedback on the experience of transition, and identify how practice can be improved to reduce the number of young adults who are sentenced to custody shortly after their transition.	National Standards	National Probation Service Board member with Operational Manager	December 2022
b. Scope other key transitions for children working with the Youth Offending Service	National Standards	Operational Manager	March 2022

and identify with partner agencies how to strengthen support			
c. Work with regional Health and other partners to address access to support for 16-25 year olds	Violence Reduction Unit	Head of Service	March 2022
6. Equip the Youth Offending Service to meet its statutory purpose of preventing offending			
Action	Key Links	Owner	Target date
a. Review operation of the Management Board to ensure it reflects the revised Youth Justice Board guidance and expectations of the local Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership	Revised YJB Guidance BCSSP Commitment 4: Providing executive leadership for an effective partnership	Chair of Youth Offending Service Management Board	September 2021
b. Support staff to adjust to changes as the pandemic lockdown comes to an end and ensure their access to suitable and safe working conditions and a return to as much co-located working as possible.	Recovery Plan	Head of Service	March 2022
c. Continue to access training and development opportunities for staff to strengthen their use of AMBIT, incorporate systemic and trauma recovery practice into their work, increase the pool of staff trained to address harmful sexual behaviour (AIM3) and address parenting needs. Ensure training is also available for volunteer Panel Members, including through the TRM	Initiatives within CAMHS Roll out of systemic practice across Children's Services Enhanced Case Management pilot Early Help and Intervention Strategy YOS Training Plan	Head of Service	March 2022
d. Incorporate systemic practices into staff Supervision	Roll out of systemic practice across Children's Services	Operational Manager	March 2022

d. Refresh working practices and meetings arrangements in light of learning from the pandemic lockdown	YOS Recovery Plan	Operational Manager	March 2022
d. Revisit recruitment practices to promote appointment of staff from a more diverse range of backgrounds	Anticipated findings of the Lammy Review	Head of Service	March 2022

Appendix 1: YOS Organisational Chart

At the time of preparing this Plan, the YOS was carrying a Speech and Language Therapist vacancy and one of its Social Workers was newly recruited, but there was a stable group of volunteer Referral Order Panel Members. The overall staff make-up of the YOS was 79% female; 5.9% were from ethnic minority backgrounds but this did not include any frontline practitioners.



Appendix 2 - YOS Staff by Gender and Ethnicity as of 1st April 2021

	Strategic Manager		Team Manager		Practitioner		Administrator		Student		Volunteers		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Asian or Asian British												1		1
Black or Black British											1		1	
Mixed														
Chinese or Other														
White or White British		1	1	1	2	14		4		1	3	5	6	26
Preferred not to say														
Total		1	1	1	2	14		4		1	4	6	7	27

Appendix 3 - Budget summary

Source	Pooled budget £	Staffing costs £	Other costs £	Comments	Total £
Avon and Somerset Police	5,000	58,345	0	Full-time Police Constable plus in-kind use of Police National Computer	63,345
National Probation Service	5,000	24,007	0	0.5 fte Probation Officer plus 0.16 of PSO time	29,007
Bath and North East Somerset Council	18,685	387,525	20,231	Uncosted office accommodation, Financial, IT and Human Resources	426,441
Bath and North East Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group	14,885	31,109	0	0.4 fte Nurse. Speech and Language Therapy is delivered separately	45,994
Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner	N/A	10,217	0	Contributes to Compass. Another £7,902 goes towards substance misuse services	10,217
Youth Justice Board for England and Wales	N/A	155,712	43,662	Core grant goes directly to the Youth Offending Service	199,374
Youth Custody Service	N/A	0	23,446	Remand bed grant goes directly to the Youth Offending Service	23,446
Total	43,570	666,915	87,339		797,824

Appendix 4 - YOS Values

At the Youth Offending Service
we work as a team to:

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives



EMPOWER

Recognise and value diversity.
Challenge social inequality.
Listen to children and young people and take
their views into account.

UNDERSTAND

Understand wider causes of offending
behaviour.
Everyone affected by crime has their individual
story and has been impacted in different ways.

COLLABORATE

Support children, young people and
families to make positive changes.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Create trusting relationships with children and
young people.



OUR
VALUES



AMBIT	Adaptive Mentalisation-Based Integrative Treatment was developed by the Anna Freud Centre for Children and Families. It is used locally as a framework for learning and development, to support staff working with young people who have experienced trauma.
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
‘Child first’ approach	A principle endorsed in the National Standards for Youth Justice that clarifies that young people who offend are to be treated as children first and offenders second
Compass	A local youth crime prevention initiative for 8-17-year olds, managed within the Youth Offending Service and working with children and their families on a voluntary basis to address risks of offending
Contextualised safeguarding	Emerging practice that takes full account of the nature of risk to young people outside their family environment and seeks to keep them safe from exploitation
Custody Review Panel	A sub group of the Youth Offending Service Management Board that meets quarterly to address the local custody rate by undertaking multi-agency audits and promoting awareness of the use of custody for young people as a safeguarding issue. (a sub group of the Youth Offending Service Management Board)
Enhanced Case Management pilot	A YJB funded initiative across B&NES, North Somerset, Bristol, and South Gloucestershire and building on a previous pilot in Wales, to incorporate trauma-informed approaches into statutory youth justice work. A Clinical Psychologist will oversee the development of interventions that take full account of what has happened to young people.
Early Help	Support for young people and their families before difficulties become entrenched
Harmful Sexual Behaviour	Sexual behaviours expressed by children that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self or others, and/or be abusive towards another child, adult, or animal
National Standards	Minimum standards for the youth justice system, published by the YJB
Out of Court Disposal Panel	Decision-making process for children whose behaviour warrants a more serious response than a Police-only community resolution but which may not be serious enough for a charge to Court.

Reparation	Making amends to someone harmed. This can be doing something of direct benefit to the victim of an offence or could be undertaking work that benefits the wider community, ideally suggested by the victim. Examples include working for Bath City Farm, the National Trust, Bath Cat and Dogs' Home and the Swallow Café in Radstock.
Restorative Justice	A range of approaches to resolving a situation where harm, often an offence, has been caused. It focuses on victim satisfaction, offering a range of services by which the victim can gain an understanding of the offence, have a chance to be fully heard, and agree to or even participate in any suitable reparation.
Serious Youth Violence	Drawing on the national Serious Violence Strategy (April 2018), this is youth violence caused through the spread of exploitation linked to drug dealing through 'county lines.' Children can be groomed into this activity and sometimes go on to groom and exploit others. Serious youth violence can include homicide, robbery, violence against the person and possession of drugs and/or weapons, particularly knives.
Trauma informed Practice	Factors in some young people's lives that combine to reduce the likelihood of life turning out well for them (including experience of abuse, neglect, parental mental health, domestic violence, parental imprisonment etc.). Children with four or more of these factors may benefit from work to address the trauma they have experienced
Violence Reduction Unit	Local response to the national Serious Violence Strategy, delivered in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner and local partner agencies, with the ambition that residents can lead lives free of serious violence at home and in their community.
Youth Crime Prevention Board	A sub group of the Youth Offending Service Management Board that meets twice each year to oversee work to reduce the rate of first-time entrants by analysing first time entrants' data, identifying areas of concern , and sharing good practice.
Youth Justice Board or YJB	The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales is responsible for overseeing the youth justice system, including performance monitoring, providing advice , and disseminating good practice. It receives and endorses Youth Justice Plans and issues the Youth Justice Grant on behalf of the Ministry of Justice.

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING	Council
MEETING DATE:	22nd July 2021
TITLE:	Treasury Management Outturn Report 2020/21
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 – Performance Against Prudential Indicators Appendix 2 – The Council's Investment Position at 31st March 2021 Appendix 3 – Average monthly rate of return for 2020/21 Appendix 4 – The Council's External Borrowing Position at 31st March 2021 Appendix 5 – Arlingclose's Economic & Market Review Q4 of 2020/21 Appendix 6 – Interest & Capital Financing Budget Monitoring 2020/21 Appendix 7 – Summary Guide to Credit Ratings	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Treasury risk management at the Authority is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the CIPFA Code), which requires the Council to approve a Treasury Management Strategy before the start of each financial year, review performance during the year, and approve an annual report after the end of each financial year.
- 1.2 This report gives details of performance against the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Plan for 2020/21.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Council agrees that;

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

3 THE REPORT

Summary

- 3.1 The average rate of investment return for 2020/21 is 0.41%, which is 0.43% above the benchmark rate.
- 3.2 The Council's Prudential Indicators for 2020/21 were agreed by Council in February 2020 and performance against the key indicators is shown in **Appendix 1**. All indicators are within target levels.

Summary of Returns

- 3.3 The Council's investment position as at 31st March 2021 is given in **Appendix 2**. The balance of deposits as at 31st December 2020 and 31st March 2021 are also set out in the pie charts in this appendix.
- 3.4 Gross interest earned on investments totalled £332k. **Appendix 3** details the investment performance, showing the average rate of interest earned over this period was 0.41%, which was 0.43% above the benchmark rate of average 7 day LIBID +0.05% (-0.02%). This excess is mainly due to the £5m investment held in the CCLA Local Authority Property Fund, which is a long term strategic investment earning a higher rate of interest (3.69% for 2020/21).
- 3.5 The level of return in 2020/21 was significantly lower than the previous financial year (0.41% in 2020/21 compared to 1.02% in 2019/20), which is due to decreases in interest rates across the globe resulting from the global pandemic. However as can be seen by the margin over the benchmark, actual performance against the benchmark of 0.43% in 2020/21 has remained similar to the 2019/20 rate of 0.44%.

Summary of Borrowings

- 3.6 The Council's external borrowing as at 31st March 2021 totalled £243.5 million and is detailed in **Appendix 4**. On 1st April 2020, the Council borrowed £15.0m short term from a local authority for general cashflow requirements, and to lower liquidity risks arising from uncertainties surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic at that time. No further borrowing was taken during the remainder of the year as cash balances remained high.
- 3.7 The Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as at 31st March 2021 was £326.9 million. This represents the Council's underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure and demonstrates that the borrowing taken to date relates to funding historical capital spend.
- 3.8 The CFR represents the underlying need to borrow and the difference from the current borrowing of £243.5 million represents re-investment of the internal cash balances and reserves, reducing the in-year borrowing costs in excess of the potential investment returns.
- 3.9 Following Local Government Reorganisation in 1996, Avon County Council's residual debt is administered by Bristol City Council. All successor Unitary Authorities make an annual contribution to principal and interest repayment, for which there is a provision in the Council's revenue budget. The amount of residual debt outstanding as at 31st March 2021 apportioned to Bath & North

East Somerset Council is £10.9m. Since this borrowing is managed by an external body and treated in the Council's Statement of Accounts as a deferred liability, it is not included in the borrowing figures referred to in paragraph 3.6.

- 3.10 The borrowing portfolio as at 31st March 2021 is shown in **Appendix 4**.

Strategic & Tactical Decisions

- 3.11 As shown in the charts in **Appendix 2**, the investment portfolio is diversified across Money Market Funds, Local Authorities, the CCLA Property Fund and highly rated UK Banks to maintain very short term liquidity and had overall investments of £72.5m invested as at 31st March 2021.

- 3.12 The Council does not hold any direct investments with banks in countries within the Eurozone reflecting both on the underlying debt issues in some Eurozone countries and the low levels of interest rates.

- 3.13 The Council's investment portfolio as at 31st March 2021 includes a total of £5m invested longer term in the CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund. Given the difficult economic climate and uncertainty over future cashflows, the Council did not make any additional longer-term investments this year.

- 3.14 The Council has reviewed its current investment holdings with its Treasury Management advisors to assess whether any of the investments placed are directly related to companies involved in fossil fuel activities. It was confirmed that the Council does not currently invest directly in equities or certificates of deposits that were not issued by banks or building societies and does not have any direct investments in fossil fuel companies.

- 3.15 The Council commissioned Arlingclose to undertake a review of possible ESG (Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance) funds into which the Council could invest surplus treasury assets. The report has been received and due diligence is being undertaken into specific funds for potential investment during 2021/22. The potential for making future ESG focussed investments is included in the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy, approved by Council in February 2021.

- 3.16 The Council's average investment return of 0.41% was below the budgeted level of 1.10%, although the impact of this is offset by the Council investment balances being higher than forecast and additional interest received from non-treasury activity.

Future Strategic & Tactical Issues

- 3.17 Our treasury management advisors full economic and market review for the year 2020/21 is included in **Appendix 5**.

- 3.18 The coronavirus pandemic dominated 2020/21, leading to almost the entire planet being in some form of lockdown during the year. The start of the financial year saw many central banks cutting interest rates as lockdowns caused economic activity to grind to a halt. The Bank of England cut Bank Rate to 0.1% and the UK government provided a range of fiscal stimulus measures, the size of which has not been seen in peacetime.

- 3.19 The Bank of England (BoE) held Bank Rate at 0.1% throughout the year but extended its Quantitative Easing programme by £150 billion to £895 billion at its November 2020 meeting. In its March 2021 interest rate announcement, the BoE noted that while GDP would remain low in the near-term due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, the easing of these measures means growth is expected to recover strongly later in the year. Inflation is forecast to increase in the near-term and while the economic outlook has improved there are downside risks to the forecast, including from unemployment which is still predicted to rise when the furlough scheme is eventually withdrawn.
- 3.20 After contracting sharply in Q2 (Apr-Jun) 2020 by 19.8% q/q, growth in Q3 and Q4 bounced back by 15.5% and 1.3% respectively. The easing of some lockdown measures in the last quarter of the calendar year enabled construction output to continue, albeit at a much slower pace than the 41.7% rise in the prior quarter. When released, figures for Q1 (Jan-Mar) 2021 are expected to show a decline given the national lockdown.
- 3.21 The 5-year UK benchmark gilt yield began the financial year at 0.18% before declining to -0.03% at the end of 2020 and then rising strongly to 0.39% by the end of the financial year. Over the same period the 10-year gilt yield fell from 0.31% to 0.19% before rising to 0.84%. The 20-year declined slightly from 0.70% to 0.68% before increasing to 1.36%.
- 3.22 The benefits of the Council's current policy of internal borrowing are monitored regularly against the likelihood that long term borrowing rates are forecast to rise in future years. The focus remains on the rate of increase and the medium-term peak.
- 3.23 The borrowing that took place in 2020/21 is therefore driven by a need to maintain an appropriate working cash balance rather than any immediate changes to interest rates.
- 3.24 Due to the high cash balances held by the Council at the end of 2020/21, a decision was made to repay the £15m one-year loan taken at the start of 2020/21 from the London Borough of Bromley upon its 1st April 2021 maturity date.
- 3.25 The Council is seeking advice from its treasury advisors on the potential option to make an early repayment of a £10m LOBO loan during 2021/22 as part of a debt rescheduling approach. This provides potential to make revenue savings and reduce risk by replacing the LOBO debt with a PWLB loan at a lower interest rate with the replacement loan duration more aligned to the Council's future borrowing profile. A financial appraisal is being undertaken into the restructuring options and the decision whether to proceed will be taken by the S151 Officer in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

Borrowing update

- 3.26 In November 2020 the PWLB published its response to the consultation on 'Future Lending Terms'. From 26th November, the margin on PWLB loans above gilt yields was reduced from 1.8% to 0.8%, provided that the borrowing Authority can confirm that it is not planning to purchase 'investment assets primarily for yield' in the current or next two financial years. Authorities that are purchasing or intending to purchase investment assets primarily for yield will not be able to

access the PWLB, except to refinance existing loans or externalise internal borrowing. As part of the borrowing process, Authorities will now be required to submit more detailed capital expenditure plans with confirmation of the purpose of capital expenditure from the Section 151 Officer.

- 3.27 Acceptable use of PWLB borrowing includes service delivery, housing, regeneration, preventative action, refinancing and treasury management. Misuse of PWLB borrowing could result in the PWLB requesting that the Authority unwinds problematic transactions, suspending access to the PWLB and repayment of loans with penalties.
- 3.28 Competitive market alternatives may be available for authorities with or without access to the PWLB. However, the financial strength of the individual authority and borrowing purpose will be scrutinised by commercial lenders.
- 3.29 As the Council is not currently planning to purchase any investment assets primarily for yield within the next three years, it is able to continue to access funding from the PWLB.
- 3.30 As of 6 April 2021, the 25 year PWLB certainty rate for annuity loans was 1.93% (2.44% as at 2 April 2020).
- 3.31 In line with the Council's Treasury Management advisor's advice, the Council will continue to consider borrowing rates offered by alternative lenders, including other Local Authorities, alongside PWLB rates in order to minimise, where possible, its costs of borrowing.

Budget Implications

- 3.32 A breakdown of the revenue budget showing interest and capital financing and the year end position based on the period April to March is included in **Appendix 6**. An overall underspend of £2,323k is reported towards the Council's net revenue outturn, mainly related to the re-phasing of capital spend. This is following the review of the capital programme in response to the Covid 2020/21 financial recovery plan, leading to lower than forecast borrowing costs and minimum revenue provision (MRP) requirement.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 This report is for information only.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 The financial implications are contained within the body of the report.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

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

6.2 The Council's lending & borrowing list is regularly reviewed during the financial year and credit ratings are monitored throughout the year. All lending/borrowing transactions are within approved limits and with approved institutions. Investment and Borrowing advice is provided by our Treasury Management consultants Arlingclose. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the frequency of updates and recommended actions from Arlingclose has increased, the Council has been acting on all recommendations in a timely manner.

6.3 The CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice requires the Council nominate a committee to be responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies. The Corporate Audit Committee carries out this scrutiny.

6.4 In addition, the Council maintain a risk register for Treasury Management activities, which is regularly reviewed and updated where applicable during the year.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 The Council will continue to avoid any direct treasury management investments in fossil fuel related companies and will engage with its advisors to explore and assess the potential for any future investment opportunities in funds with a Renewable Energy & Sustainability focus as these products continue to be developed by the market in response to the Climate & Nature Emergency agenda.

7.2 An ESG section has been added to the Treasury Management Strategy document for the 2021/22 period and the treasury team will actively consider investment options permitted under the new guidelines.

7.3 The Council commissioned Arlingclose to undertake a review of possible ESG (Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance) funds the Council could invest in. The report has been received and due diligence is being undertaken into specific funds for potential investment during 2021/22.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Resources, Section 151 Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer.

Contact person	<i>Gary Adams - 01225 47 7107; Jamie Whittard - 01225 47 7213 Gary_Adams@BATHNES.GOV.UK ; Jamie_Whittard@BATHNES.GOV.UK</i>
Background papers	<i>2020/21 Treasury Management & Investment Strategy</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

APPENDIX 1

Performance against Treasury Management Indicators agreed in Treasury Management Strategy Statement

1. Authorised limit for external debt

These limits include current commitments and proposals in the budget report for capital expenditure, plus additional headroom over & above the operational limit for unusual cash movements.

	2020/21 Prudential Indicator	Actual as at 31 st March 2021
	£'000	£'000
Borrowing	457,000	243,457
Other long term liabilities	4,000	0
Cumulative Total	461,000	243,457

2. Operational limit for external debt

The operational boundary for external debt is based on the same estimates as the authorised limit but without the additional headroom for unusual cash movements.

	2020/21 Prudential Indicator	Actual as at 31 st March 2021
	£'000	£'000
Borrowing	427,000	243,457
Other long term liabilities	4,000	0
Cumulative Total	431,000	243,457

3. Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure

This is the maximum amount of total borrowing which can be at fixed interest rate, less any investments for a period greater than 12 months which has a fixed interest rate.

	2020/21 Prudential Indicator	Actual as at 31 st March 2021
	£'000	£'000
Fixed interest rate exposure	427,000	223,457*

* The £20m of LOBO's are quoted as variable rate in this analysis as the Lender has the option to change the rate at 6 monthly intervals (the Council has the option to repay the loan should the Lender exercise this option to increase the rate).

4. Upper limit for variable interest rate exposure

While fixed rate borrowing contributes significantly to reducing uncertainty surrounding interest rate changes, the pursuit of optimum performance levels may justify keeping flexibility through the use of variable interest rates. This is the maximum amount of total borrowing which can be at variable interest rates.

	2020/21 Prudential Indicator	Actual as at 31 st March 2021
	£'000	£'000
Variable interest rate exposure	214,000	20,000

5. Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days

This is the maximum amount of total investments which can be over 364 days. The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments.

	2020/21 Prudential Indicator	Actual as at 31 st March 2021
	£'000	£'000
Investments over 364 days	50,000	5,000

6. Maturity Structure of borrowing

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk.

	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual as at 31 st March 2021
	%	%	%
Under 12 months	50	Nil	16.4%
12 months and within 24 months	50	Nil	2.1%
24 months and within 5 years	75	Nil	0.0%
5 years and within 10 years	100	Nil	6.2%
10 years and above	100	Nil	75.4%

* The CIPFA Treasury management Code now requires the prudential indicator relating to Maturity of Fixed Rate Borrowing to reference the maturity of LOBO loans to the earliest date on which the lender can require payment, i.e. the next call date (which are at 6 monthly intervals for the £20m of LOBO's).

7. Average Credit Rating*

The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. A summary guide to credit ratings is set out at **Appendix 7**.

	2020/21 Prudential Indicator	Actual as at 31 st March 2021
	Rating	Rating
Minimum Portfolio Average Credit Rating	A-	AAA-

* The calculation excludes the strategic investment in the CCLA Local Authority's Property Fund which is unrated.

APPENDIX 2

The Council's Investment position at 31st March 2021

The term of investments is as follows:

Term Remaining	Balance at 31 st March 2021
	£'000's
Notice (instant access funds)	47,500
Up to 1 month	5,000
1 month to 3 months	5,000
3 months to 6 months	0
6 months to 12 months	10,000
CCLA Property Fund (Strategic)	5,000
Total	72,500

The investment figure is made up as follows:

	Balance at 31 st March 2021
	£'000's
B&NES Council	70,593
Schools	1,907
Total	72,500

The Council had a total average net positive balance of £82m during the period April 2020 to March 2021.

Chart 1: Council Investments as at 31st March 2021 - £72.5m

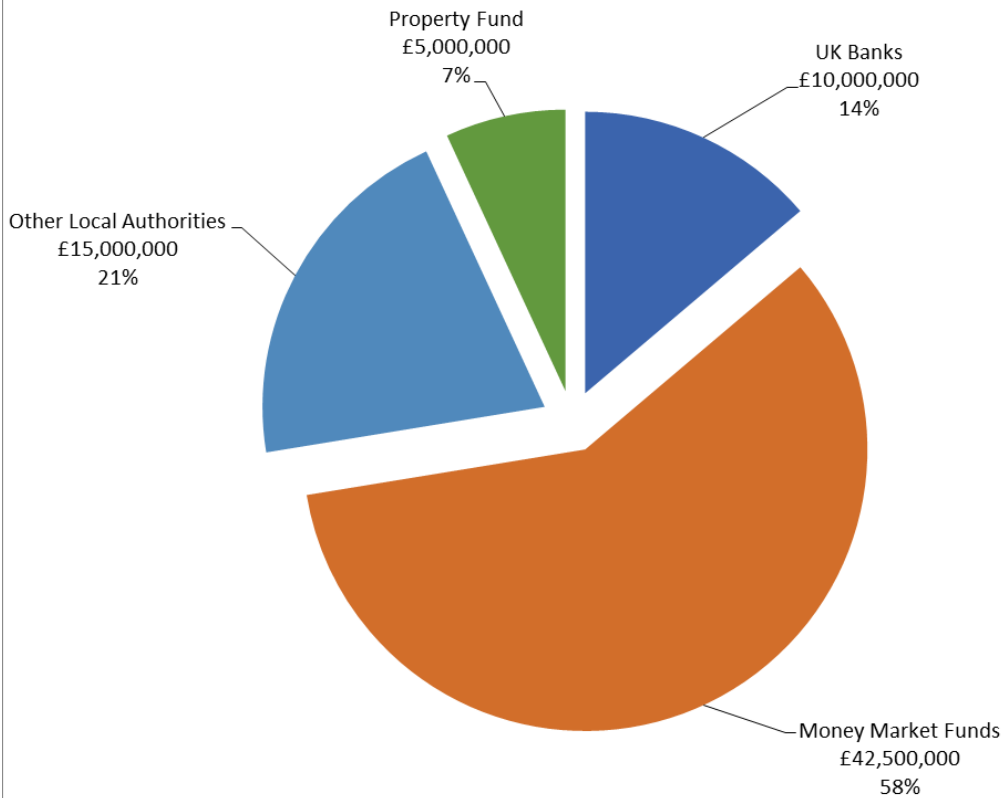


Chart 2: Council Investments as at 31st December 2020 - £81.5m

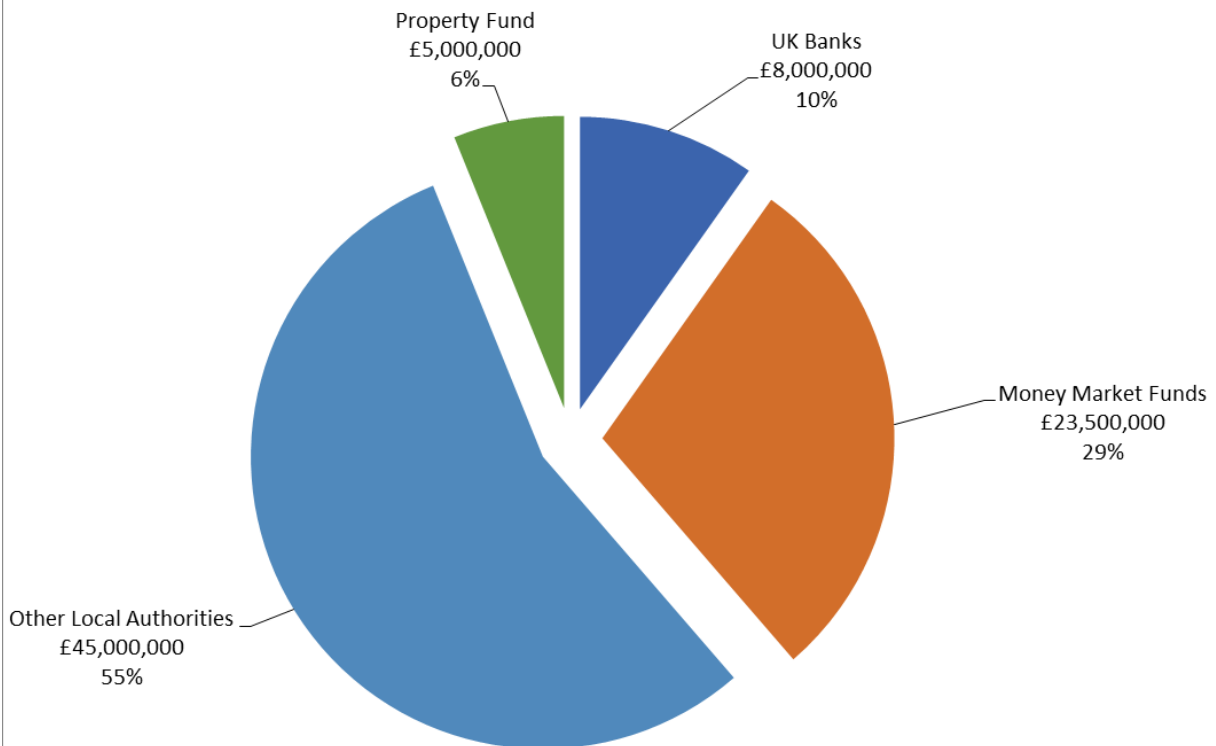


Chart 3: Council Investments Per Lowest Equivalent Long Term Credit Rating as at 31st March 2021 - £72.5m

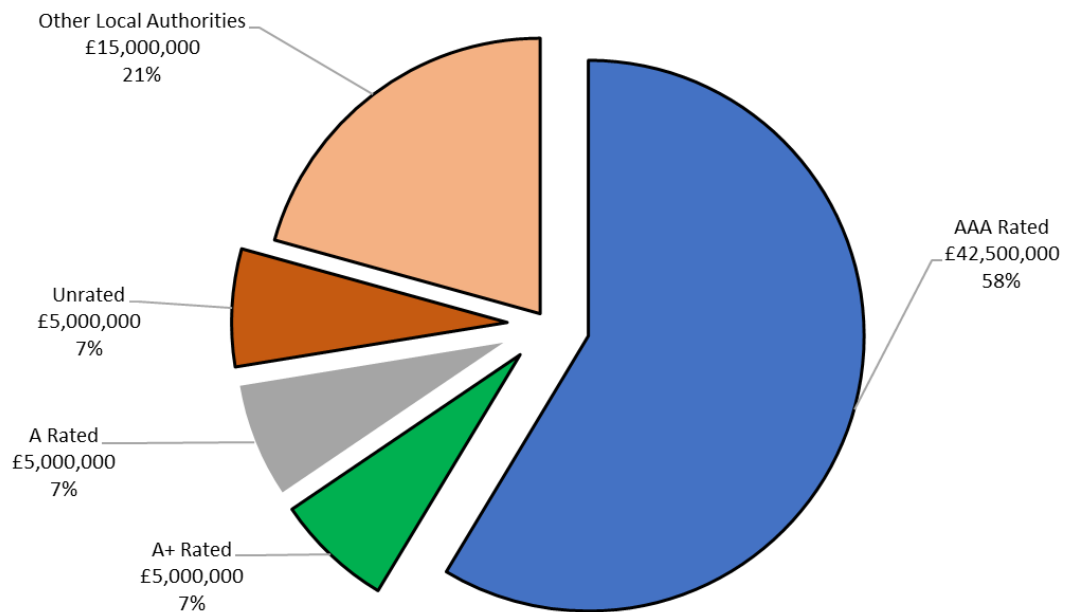
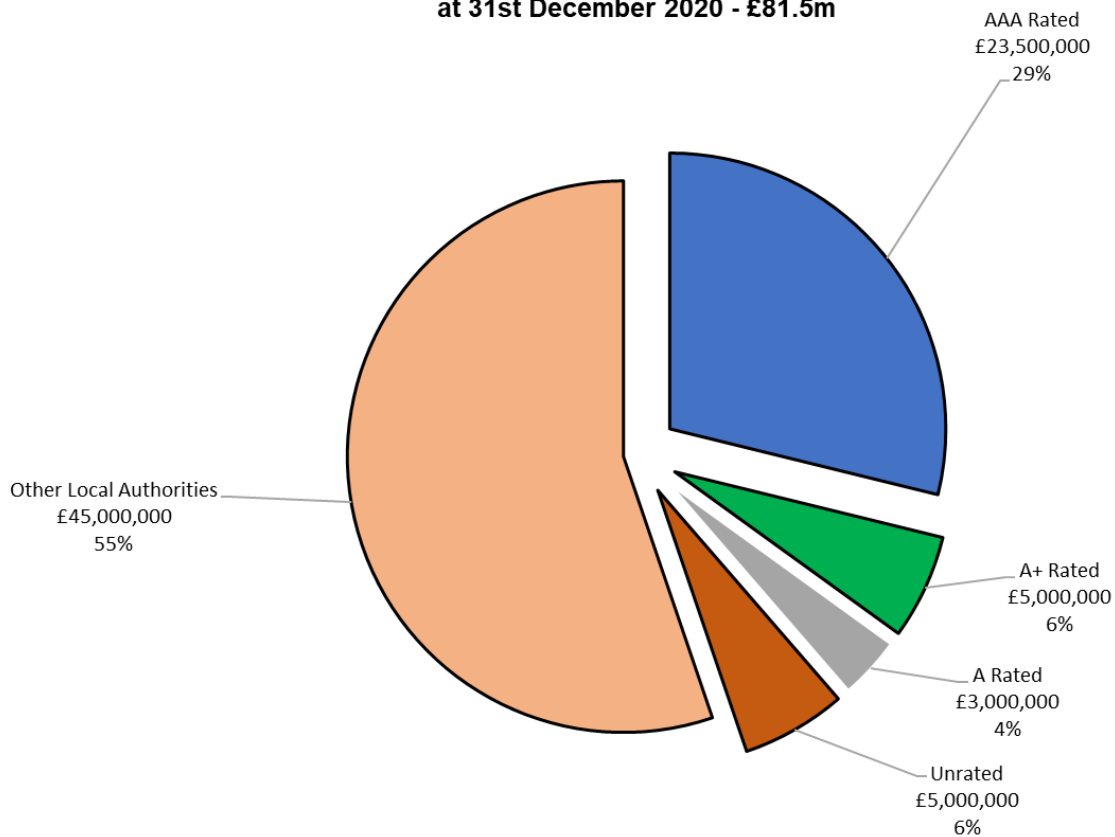


Chart 4: Council Investments Per Lowest Equivalent Long Term Credit Rating as at 31st December 2020 - £81.5m



APPENDIX 3

Average rate of return on investments for 2020/21

	Av return	Benchmark = Average 7 Day LIBID rate +0.05% (source: Arlingclose)	Performance against Benchmark %
April	0.46%	0.03%	+0.43%
May	0.60%	0.00%	+0.60%
June	0.58%	-0.02%	+0.60%
July	0.54%	-0.01%	+0.55%
August	0.51%	-0.02%	+0.52%
September	0.45%	-0.02%	+0.47%
October	0.36%	-0.03%	+0.39%
November	0.33%	-0.03%	+0.36%
December	0.32%	-0.04%	+0.36%
January	0.23%	-0.04%	+0.27%
February	0.28%	-0.04%	+0.32%
March	0.32%	-0.03%	+0.35%
Average	0.41%	-0.02%	+0.43%

APPENDIX 4

Council's External Borrowing at 31st March 2021

Lender	Amount outstanding	Start date	End date	Interest rate
Long term				
PWLB489142	10,000,000	15/10/2004	15/10/2034	4.75%
PWLB497233	5,000,000	12/05/2010	15/08/2035	4.55%
PWLB497234	5,000,000	12/05/2010	15/02/2060	4.53%
PWLB498834	5,000,000	05/08/2011	15/02/2031	4.86%
PWLB498835	10,000,000	05/08/2011	15/08/2029	4.80%
PWLB498836	15,000,000	05/08/2011	15/02/2061	4.96%
PWLB503684	5,300,000	29/01/2015	08/04/2034	2.62%
PWLB503685	5,000,000	29/01/2015	08/10/2064	2.92%
PWLB505122	17,208,385	20/06/2016	20/06/2041	2.36%
PWLB508126	9,244,638	06/12/2018	20/06/2043	2.38%
PWLB508202	9,746,453	12/12/2018	20/06/2068	2.59%
PWLB508224	4,616,238	13/12/2018	20/06/2043	2.25%
PWLB505744	8,573,560	24/02/2017	15/08/2039	2.28%
PWLB505966	8,752,361	04/04/2017	15/02/2042	2.26%
PWLB506052	7,438,286	08/05/2017	15/02/2042	2.25%
PWLB506255	6,751,779	10/08/2017	10/04/2067	2.64%
PWLB506729	9,084,826	13/12/2017	10/10/2042	2.35%
PWLB506995	9,103,440	06/03/2018	10/10/2042	2.52%
PWLB506996	9,313,693	06/03/2018	10/10/2047	2.62%
PWLB507749	9,248,353	10/09/2018	20/07/2043	2.42%
PWLB508485	19,581,457	11/02/2019	20/07/2068	2.52%
PWLB509840	9,493,281	04/09/2019	20/07/2044	1.40%
KBC Bank N.V *	5,000,000	08/10/2004	08/10/2054	4.50%
KBC Bank N.V *	5,000,000	08/10/2004	08/10/2054	4.50%
Commerzbank AG Frankfurt*	10,000,000	27/04/2005	27/04/2055	4.50%
Medium term				
Gloucestershire C.C.	5,000,000	25/11/2019	25/11/2021	1.50%
Portsmouth C.C.	5,000,000	19/12/2019	19/12/2022	1.65%
Short term				
London Borough of Bromley	15,000,000	01/04/2020	01/04/2021	1.50%
Total Borrowing	243,456,749			

*All LOBO's (Lender Option / Borrower Option) have reached the end of their fixed interest period and have reverted to the variable rate of 4.50%. The lender has the option to change the interest rate at 6 monthly intervals. Should the lender use the option to change the rate, then at this point the borrower has the option to repay the loan without penalty.

APPENDIX 5

Economic and market review for April to March 2021

Economic background:

The coronavirus pandemic dominated 2020/21, leading to almost the entire planet being in some form of lockdown during the year. The start of the financial year saw many central banks cutting interest rates as lockdowns caused economic activity to grind to a halt. The Bank of England cut Bank Rate to 0.1% and the UK government provided a range of fiscal stimulus measures, the size of which has not been seen in peacetime.

Some good news came in December 2020 as two COVID-19 vaccines were given approval by the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The UK vaccine rollout started in earnest; over 31 million people had received their first dose by 31st March.

A Brexit trade deal was agreed with only days to spare before the 11pm 31st December 2020 deadline having been agreed with the European Union on Christmas Eve. The Bank of England (BoE) held Bank Rate at 0.1% throughout the year but extended its Quantitative Easing programme by £150 billion to £895 billion at its November 2020 meeting. In its March 2021 interest rate announcement, the BoE noted that while GDP would remain low in the near-term due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, the easing of these measures means growth is expected to recover strongly later in the year. Inflation is forecast to increase in the near-term and while the economic outlook has improved there are downside risks to the forecast, including from unemployment which is still predicted to rise when the furlough scheme is eventually withdrawn.

Government initiatives supported the economy and the Chancellor announced in the 2021 Budget a further extension to the furlough (Coronavirus Job Retention) scheme until September 2021. Access to support grants was also widened, enabling more self-employed people to be eligible for government help. Since March 2020, the government schemes have helped protect more than 11 million jobs.

Despite the furlough scheme, unemployment still rose. Labour market data showed that in the three months to January 2021 the unemployment rate was 5.0%, in contrast to 3.9% recorded for the same period 12 months ago. Wages rose 4.8% for total pay in nominal terms (4.2% for regular pay) and was up 3.9% in real terms (3.4% for regular pay). Unemployment is still expected to increase once the various government job support schemes come to an end.

Inflation has remained low over the 12 month period. Latest figures showed the annual headline rate of UK Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) fell to 0.4% year/year in February, below expectations (0.8%) and still well below the Bank of England's 2% target. The ONS' preferred measure of CPIH which includes owner-occupied housing was 0.7% year/year (1.0% expected).

After contracting sharply in Q2 (Apr-Jun) 2020 by 19.8% q/q, growth in Q3 and Q4 bounced back by 15.5% and 1.3% respectively. The easing of some lockdown measures in the last quarter of the calendar year enabled construction output to continue, albeit at a much slower pace than the 41.7% rise in the prior quarter. When released, figures for Q1 (Jan-Mar) 2021 are expected to show a decline given the national lockdown.

After collapsing at an annualised rate of 31.4% in Q2, the US economy rebounded by 33.4% in Q3 and then a further 4.1% in Q4. The US recovery has been fuelled by three major pandemic relief stimulus packages totalling over \$5 trillion. The Federal Reserve cut its main interest rate to between 0% and 0.25% in March 2020 in response to the pandemic and it has remained at the same level since. Joe Biden became the 46th US president after defeating Donald Trump.

The European Central Bank maintained its base rate at 0% and deposit rate at -0.5% but in December 2020 increased the size of its asset purchase scheme to €1.85 trillion and extended it until March 2022.

Financial markets: Monetary and fiscal stimulus helped provide support for equity markets which rose over the period, with the Dow Jones beating its pre-crisis peak on the back of outperformance by a small number of technology stocks. The FTSE indices performed reasonably well during the period April to November, before being buoyed in December by both the vaccine approval and Brexit deal, which helped give a boost to both the more internationally focused FTSE 100 and the more UK-focused FTSE 250, however they remain lower than their pre-pandemic levels.

Ultra-low interest rates prevailed throughout most of the period, with yields generally falling between April and December 2020. From early in 2021 the improved economic outlook due to the new various stimulus packages (particularly in the US), together with the approval and successful rollout of vaccines, caused government bonds to sell off sharply on the back of expected higher inflation and increased uncertainty, pushing yields higher more quickly than had been anticipated.

The 5-year UK benchmark gilt yield began the financial year at 0.18% before declining to -0.03% at the end of 2020 and then rising strongly to 0.39% by the end of the financial year. Over the same period the 10-year gilt yield fell from 0.31% to 0.19% before rising to 0.84%. The 20-year declined slightly from 0.70% to 0.68% before increasing to 1.36%. 1-month, 3-month and 12-month SONIA bid rates averaged 0.01%, 0.10% and 0.23% respectively over the financial year.

The yield on 2-year US treasuries was 0.16% at the end of the period, up from 0.12% at the beginning of January but down from 0.21% at the start of the financial year. For 10-year treasuries the end of period yield was 1.75%, up from both the beginning of 2021 (0.91%) and the start of the financial year (0.58%).

German bund yields continue to remain negative across most maturities.

Credit review: After spiking in March 2020, credit default swap spreads declined over the remaining period of the year to broadly pre-pandemic levels. The gap in spreads between UK ringfenced and non-ringfenced entities remained, albeit Santander UK is still an outlier compared to the other ringfenced/retail banks. At the end of the period Santander UK was trading the highest at 57bps and Standard Chartered the lowest at 32bps. The other ringfenced banks were trading around 33 and 34bps while Nationwide Building Society was 43bps.

Credit rating actions to the period ending September 2020 have been covered in previous outturn reports. Subsequent credit developments include Moody's downgrading the UK sovereign rating to Aa3 with a stable outlook which then impacted a number of other UK institutions, banks and local government. In the last quarter of the financial year S&P upgraded Clydesdale Bank to A- and revised Barclay's outlook to stable (from negative)

while Moody's downgraded HSBC's Baseline Credit Assessment to baa3 whilst affirming the long-term rating at A1.

The vaccine approval and subsequent rollout programme are both credit positive for the financial services sector in general, but there remains much uncertainty around the extent of the losses banks and building societies will suffer due to the economic slowdown which has resulted due to pandemic-related lockdowns and restrictions. The institutions and durations on the Authority's counterparty list recommended by treasury management advisors Arlingclose remain under constant review, but at the end of the period no changes had been made to the names on the list or the recommended maximum duration of 35 days.

APPENDIX 6

Interest & Capital Financing Costs – Budget Monitoring 2020/21 Outturn

April 2020 to March 2021	YEAR END POSITION			ADV/FAV
	Budgeted Spend or (Income) £'000	Actual Spend or (Income) £'000	Actual over or (under) spend £'000	
Interest & Capital Financing				
- Debt Costs	8,789	7,433	(1,355)	FAV
- Internal Repayment of Loan Charges	(9,001)	(9,501)	(500)	FAV
- Ex Avon Debt Costs	1,060	1,027	(34)	FAV
- Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)	7,296	6,894	(402)	FAV
- Interest on Balances	(466)	(498)	(32)	FAV
Total	7,678	5,355	(2,323)	FAV

APPENDIX 7

Summary Guide to Credit Ratings

Rating	Details
AAA	Highest credit quality – lowest expectation of default, which is unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.
AA	Very high credit quality - expectation of very low default risk, which is not likely to be significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.
A	High credit quality - expectations of low default risk which may be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.
BBB	Good credit quality - expectations of default risk are currently low but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.
BB	Speculative - indicates an elevated vulnerability to default risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time.
B	Highly speculative - indicates that material default risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Capacity for continued payment is vulnerable to deterioration in the business and economic environment.
CCC	Substantial credit risk - default is a real possibility.
CC	Very high levels of credit risk - default of some kind appears probable.
C	Exceptionally high levels of credit risk - default is imminent or inevitable.
RD	Restricted default - indicates an issuer that has experienced payment default on a bond, loan or other material financial obligation but which has not entered into bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other formal winding-up procedure, and which has not otherwise ceased operating.
D	Default - indicates an issuer that has entered into bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other formal winding-up procedure, or which has otherwise ceased business.

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Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING	Council	
MEETING DATE:	22 July 2021	
TITLE:	Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 draft Code of Conduct		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Following discussions with the Standards Committee members, to present to Council a draft code of conduct for approval.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to;

- 2.1 Approve the draft Code of Conduct attached at Appendix 1.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The final Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life 'Local Government Ethical Standards - A Review by the Committee in Public Life' was published on 30 January 2019.

- 3.2 The Report covered a number of issues regarding behaviours and governance in public life, but there was a recommendation that the Local Government Association should create an updated model Code of Conduct which should be produced in consultation with representative bodies of Councillors and Officers of all tiers of Local Government and their representatives.

- 3.3 The Local Government Association consulted widely on the proposed new Code. The consultation ran between the 8 June 2020 until the 17 August 2020.

- 3.4 The final Code was presented to the Local Government Association board on 3 December 2020 and was issued to Local Authorities on the 23rd December 2020. The New Model Code can be found here:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/local-government-association-model-councillor-code-conduct-2020>

The LGA have committed to reviewing the code on an annual basis and will shortly issue guidance to support the use of the code which will also be updated annually.

- 3.5 The draft Code of Conduct attached to this report has been the subject of consideration by the Standards Committee. It recommends adopting the new model code in its entirety save for very minor changes. These are:

3.5.1 The addition of an obligation that members should have regard to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Finance Officer. This is an obligation retained from the existing code

3.5.2 Retaining the current £25 limit on Gifts & Hospitality rather than the £50 limit proposed by the New Model Code. The Standards Committee had discussed previously and at length, the threshold for gifts and hospitality and had decided on £25 as a suitable threshold and felt that should be maintained.

3.5.3 The gifts and hospitality threshold of £25 should retain the existing obligation for a member to register a series of gifts or hospitality from the same source that add up to £25 or more as an accumulation in any municipal year.

The proposed amendments are made in schedule 1 at the end of Appendix 1.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority. In discharging this duty the Council must, in particular, adopt a code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the authority when they are acting in that capacity

- 4.2 The new model Code is non-statutory and can be adopted in whole or in part by the Council

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 There are no resource implications in adopting a new code.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

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

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 It is a specific requirement of the Code proposed that elected and co-opted members should comply with Equalities Law requirements and treat all members of the community equally.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 There are no climate change implications in adopting a new code

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The Council could choose to retain its existing code.

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 The LGA consulted widely prior to producing the Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020.

- 10.2 The Standards Committee as well as the Monitoring Officer and S.151 Officer were also consulted.

Contact person	Michael Hewitt, Interim Monitoring Officer.
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Council adopted this version of the code on 22 July 2021 with the amendments made in Schedule 1



Local Government Association

Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020

Joint statement

The role of councillor across all tiers of local government is a vital part of our country's system of democracy. It is important that as councillors we can be held accountable and all adopt the behaviors and responsibilities associated with the role. Our conduct as an individual councillor affects the reputation of all councillors. We want the role of councillor to be one that people aspire to. We also want individuals from a range of backgrounds and circumstances to be putting themselves forward to become councillors.

As councillors, we represent local residents, work to develop better services and deliver local change. The public have high expectations of us and entrust us to represent our local area, taking decisions fairly, openly, and transparently. We have both an individual and collective responsibility to meet these expectations by maintaining high standards and demonstrating good conduct, and by challenging behaviour which falls below expectations.

Importantly, we should be able to undertake our role as a councillor without being intimidated, abused, bullied, or threatened by anyone, including the general public.

This Code has been designed to protect our democratic role, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public's trust in local government.

Introduction

The Local Government Association (LGA) has developed this Model Councillor Code of Conduct, in association with key partners and after extensive consultation with the sector, as part of its work on supporting all tiers of local government to continue to aspire to high standards of leadership and performance. It is a template for councils to adopt in whole and/or with local amendments.

All councils are required to have a local Councillor Code of Conduct.

The LGA will undertake an annual review of this Code to ensure it continues to be fit-for-purpose, incorporating advances in technology, social media and changes in legislation. The LGA can also offer support, training and mediation to councils and councillors on the application of the Code and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the county associations of local councils can offer advice and support to town and parish councils.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, a “councillor” means a member or co-opted member of a local authority or a directly elected mayor. A “co-opted member” is defined in the Localism Act 2011 Section 27(4) as “a person who is not a member of the authority but who

- a) is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or;
- b) is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the authority;

and who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee”.

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, “local authority” includes county councils, district councils, London borough councils, parish councils, town councils, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, joint authorities, economic prosperity boards, combined authorities and National Park authorities.

Purpose of the Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to assist you, as a councillor, in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. It is also to protect you, the public, fellow councillors, local authority officers and the reputation of local government. It sets out general principles of conduct expected of all councillors and your specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct. The LGA encourages the use of support, training and mediation prior to action being taken using the Code. The fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government.

General principles of councillor conduct

Everyone in public office at all levels; all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, councillors and local authority officers; should uphold the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#), also known as the Nolan Principles.

Building on these principles, the following general principles have been developed specifically for the role of councillor.

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:

- I act with integrity and honesty
- I act lawfully
- I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and
- I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.

In undertaking my role:

- I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community
- I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person
- I avoid conflicts of interest
- I exercise reasonable care and diligence; and
- I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my local authority's requirements and in the public interest.

Application of the Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to you as soon as you sign your declaration of acceptance of the office of councillor or attend your first meeting as a co-opted member and continues to apply to you until you cease to be a councillor.

This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor which may include when:

- you misuse your position as a councillor
- Your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a councillor;

The Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:

- at face-to-face meetings
- at online or telephone meetings
- in written communication
- in verbal communication
- in non-verbal communication
- in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments.

You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a councillor.

Your Monitoring Officer has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and you are encouraged to seek advice from your Monitoring Officer on any matters that may relate to the Code of Conduct. Town and parish councillors are encouraged to seek advice from their Clerk, who may refer matters to the Monitoring

Standards of councillor conduct

This section sets out your obligations, which are the minimum standards of conduct required of you as a councillor. Should your conduct fall short of these standards, a complaint may be made against you, which may result in action being taken.

Guidance is included to help explain the reasons for the obligations and how they should be followed.

General Conduct

1. Respect

As a councillor:

1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

In your contact with the public, you should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in councillors.

In return, you have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidatory or threatening you are entitled to stop any conversation or interaction in person or online and report them to the local authority, the relevant social media provider or the police. This also applies to fellow councillors, where action could then be taken under the Councillor Code of Conduct, and local authority employees, where concerns should be raised in line with the local authority's councillor-officer protocol.

2. Bullying, harassment and discrimination

As a councillor:

2.1 I do not bully any person.

2.2 I do not harass any person.

2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) characterises bullying as offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipient. Bullying might be a regular pattern of behaviour or a one-off incident, happen face-to-face, on social media, in emails or phone calls, happen in the workplace or at work social events and may not always be obvious or noticed by others.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 defines harassment as conduct that causes alarm or distress or puts people in fear of violence and must involve such conduct on at least two occasions. It can include repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and

contact upon a person in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person.

Unlawful discrimination is where someone is treated unfairly because of a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined by the Equality Act 2010. They are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on local authorities. Councillors have a central role to play in ensuring that equality issues are integral to the local authority's performance and strategic aims, and that there is a strong vision and public commitment to equality across public services.

3. Impartiality of officers of the council

As a councillor:

3.1 I do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the local authority.

Officers work for the local authority as a whole and must be politically neutral (unless they are political assistants). They should not be coerced or persuaded to act in a way that would undermine their neutrality. You can question officers in order to understand, for example, their reasons for proposing to act in a particular way, or the content of a report that they have written. However, you must not try and force them to act differently, change their advice, or alter the content of that report, if doing so would prejudice their professional integrity.

4. Confidentiality and access to information

As a councillor:

4.1 I do not disclose information:

- a. given to me in confidence by anyone**
- b. acquired by me which I believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, unless**
 - i. I have received the consent of a person authorised to give it;**
 - ii. I am required by law to do so;**
 - iii. the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or**
 - iv. the disclosure is:**
 - 1. reasonable and in the public interest; and**
 - 2. made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the local authority; and**
 - 3. I have consulted the Monitoring Officer prior to its release.**

4.2 I do not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of my role as a councillor for the advancement of myself, my friends, my family members, my employer or my business interests.

4.3 I do not prevent anyone from getting information that they are entitled to by law.

Local authorities must work openly and transparently, and their proceedings and printed materials are open to the public, except in certain legally defined circumstances. You should work on this basis, but there will be times when it is required by law that discussions, documents and other information relating to or held by the local authority must be treated in a confidential manner. Examples include personal data relating to individuals or information relating to ongoing negotiations.

5. Disrepute

As a councillor:

5.1 I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

As a Councillor, you are trusted to make decisions on behalf of your community and your actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public. You should be aware that your actions might have an adverse impact on you, other councillors and/or your local authority and may lower the public's confidence in you or your local authority's ability to discharge your/its functions. For example, behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring your local authority into disrepute.

You are able to hold the local authority and fellow councillors to account and are able to constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the council whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this Code of Conduct.

6. Use of position

As a councillor:

6.1 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else.

Your position as a member of the local authority provides you with certain opportunities, responsibilities, and privileges, and you make choices all the time that will impact others. However, you should not take advantage of these opportunities to further your own or others' private interests or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.

7. Use of local authority resources and facilities

As a councillor:

7.1 I do not misuse council resources.

7.2 I will, when using the resources of the local authority or authorising their use by others:

- a. act in accordance with the local authority's requirements; and**
- b. ensure that such resources are not used for political purposes unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the local authority or of the office to which I have been elected or appointed.**

You may be provided with resources and facilities by the local authority to assist you in carrying out your duties as a councillor.

Examples include:

- office support
- stationery
- equipment such as phones, and computers
- transport

- access and use of local authority buildings and rooms.

These are given to you to help you carry out your role as a councillor more effectively and are not to be used for business or personal gain. They should be used in accordance with the purpose for which they have been provided and the local authority's own policies regarding their use.

8. Complying with the Code of Conduct

As a Councillor:

8.1 I undertake Code of Conduct training provided by my local authority.

8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.

8.3 I do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings.

8.4 I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct.

It is extremely important for you as a councillor to demonstrate high standards, for you to have your actions open to scrutiny and for you not to undermine public trust in the local authority or its governance. If you do not understand or are concerned about the local authority's processes in handling a complaint you should raise this with your Monitoring Officer.

Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority

9. Interests

As a councillor:

9.1 I register and disclose my interests.

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of members of the authority.

You need to register your interests so that the public, local authority employees and fellow councillors know which of your interests might give rise to a conflict of interest. The register is a public document that can be consulted when (or before) an issue arises. The register also protects you by allowing you to demonstrate openness and a willingness to be held accountable. You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting, but it can be helpful for you to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise. It is also important that the public know about any interest that might have to be disclosed by you or other councillors when making or taking part in decisions, so that decision making is seen by the public as open and honest. This helps to ensure that public confidence in the integrity of local governance is maintained.

You should note that failure to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as set out in **Table 1**, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.

Appendix B sets out the detailed provisions on registering and disclosing interests. If in doubt, you should always seek advice from your Monitoring Officer.

10. Gifts and hospitality

As a councillor:

- 10.1 I do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on my part to show favour from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the local authority or from persons who may apply to the local authority for any permission, licence or other significant advantage.**
- 10.2 I register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 within 28 days of its receipt.**
- 10.3 I register with the Monitoring Officer any significant gift or hospitality that I have been offered but have refused to accept.**

In order to protect your position and the reputation of the local authority, you should exercise caution in accepting any gifts or hospitality which are (or which you reasonably believe to be) offered to you because you are a councillor. The presumption should always be not to accept significant gifts or hospitality. However, there may be times when such a refusal may be difficult if it is seen as rudeness in which case you could accept it but must ensure it is publicly registered. However, you do not need to register gifts and hospitality which are not related to your role as a councillor, such as Christmas gifts from your friends and family. It is also important to note that it is appropriate to accept normal expenses and hospitality associated with your duties as a councillor. If you are unsure, do contact your Monitoring Officer for guidance.

Appendices

Appendix A – The Seven Principles of Public Life

The principles are:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must disclose and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Appendix B Registering interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in “The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012”. You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

“Disclosable Pecuniary Interest” means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

"Partner" means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A ‘sensitive interest’ is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a ‘sensitive interest’ you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a ‘sensitive interest’, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.
5. [Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it]

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a ‘sensitive interest’, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.
8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –
 - a. your own financial interest or well-being;
 - b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or
 - c. a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2**

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied

9. Where a matter (referred to in paragraph 8 above) **affects** the financial interest or well-being:
 - a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
 - b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

10. [Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it]

Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the [Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012](#).

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the

	councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and Property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. ‘Land’ excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licenses	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor’s knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor’s knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were

	spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.
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* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2: Other Registrable Interests

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest :

- a) any unpaid directorships
 - b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
 - c) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)
- of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

Appendix C – the Committee on Standards in Public Life

The LGA has undertaken this review whilst the Government continues to consider the recommendations made by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in their report on [Local Government Ethical Standards](#). If the Government chooses to implement any of the recommendations, this could require a change to this Code.

The recommendations cover:

- Recommendations for changes to the Localism Act 2011 to clarify in law when the Code of Conduct applies
- The introduction of sanctions
- An appeals process through the Local Government Ombudsman
- Changes to the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012
- Updates to the Local Government Transparency Code
- Changes to the role and responsibilities of the Independent Person
- That the criminal offences in the Localism Act 2011 relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests should be abolished

The Local Government Ethical Standards report also includes Best Practice recommendations. These are:

Best practice 1: Local authorities should include prohibitions on bullying and harassment in codes of conduct. These should include a definition of bullying and harassment, supplemented with a list of examples of the sort of behaviour covered by such a definition.

Best practice 2: Councils should include provisions in their code of conduct requiring councillors to comply with any formal standards investigation and prohibiting trivial or malicious allegations by councillors.

Best practice 3: Principal authorities should review their code of conduct each year and regularly seek, where possible, the views of the public, community organisations and neighbouring authorities.

Best practice 4: An authority's code should be readily accessible to both councillors and the public, in a prominent position on a council's website and available in council premises.

Best practice 5: Local authorities should update their gifts and hospitality register at least once per quarter, and publish it in an accessible format, such as CSV.

Best practice 6: Councils should publish a clear and straightforward public interest test against which allegations are filtered.

Best practice 7: Local authorities should have access to at least two Independent Persons.

Best practice 8: An Independent Person should be consulted as to whether to undertake a formal investigation on an allegation, and should be given the option to

review and comment on allegations which the responsible officer is minded to dismiss as being without merit, vexatious, or trivial.

Best practice 9: Where a local authority makes a decision on an allegation of misconduct following a formal investigation, a decision notice should be published as soon as possible on its website, including a brief statement of facts, the provisions of the code engaged by the allegations, the view of the Independent Person, the reasoning of the decision-maker, and any sanction applied.

Best practice 10: A local authority should have straightforward and accessible guidance on its website on how to make a complaint under the code of conduct, the process for handling complaints, and estimated timescales for investigations and outcomes.

Best practice 11: Formal standards complaints about the conduct of a parish councillor towards a clerk should be made by the chair or by the parish council, rather than the clerk in all but exceptional circumstances.

Best practice 12: Monitoring Officers' roles should include providing advice, support and management of investigations and adjudications on alleged breaches to parish councils within the remit of the principal authority. They should be provided with adequate training, corporate support and resources to undertake this work.

Best practice 13: A local authority should have procedures in place to address any conflicts of interest when undertaking a standards investigation. Possible steps should include asking the Monitoring Officer from a different authority to undertake the investigation.

Best practice 14: Councils should report on separate bodies they have set up or which they own as part of their annual governance statement and give a full picture of their relationship with those bodies. Separate bodies created by local authorities should abide by the Nolan principle of openness and publish their board agendas and minutes and annual reports in an accessible place.

Best practice 15: Senior officers should meet regularly with political group leaders or group whips to discuss standards issues.

The LGA has committed to reviewing the Code on an annual basis to ensure it is still fit for purpose.

Schedule 1

Version Control

	LGA Version	Amendments		Date Council adopted
V.1	May 2021	Para 10.2	Replace reference to £50 with £25 and add the following wording at the end of that sentence. “The £25 threshold applies to a series of gifts or hospitality from the same source that add up to £25 or more as an accumulation in any municipal year”	
		New Provision 8.1A	I take into account advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Finance Officer.	

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Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Council
MEETING DATE:	22 July 2021
TITLE:	Appointment of Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: None	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report seeks Council's approval of the appointment to the new position of Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Restructuring Implementation Committee is recommending that the Council approves:

- 2.1 The appointment of Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer to Michael Hewitt on a salary of £80,108 per annum from 23 July 2021.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The recurring costs associated with the post of Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer will be met from within the existing Budget provision for pay and related employer on-costs.

4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 4.1 The Council's senior management structure is designed to provide the strategic leadership and oversight to enable the Council the maximum opportunity to deliver on its corporate plan.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Our financial challenge, both short and medium term is significant. This, along with our new ways of working requires us to overhaul our organisational structure, operations and culture. The change needs to start at the top with a cohort of senior officers committed to delivering the change required.
- 5.2 We now have a clear corporate strategy and with a reconfigured and streamlined senior management structure, the council will be prepared for the future and well placed to deliver the outcomes required.

- 5.3 In early October 2020, Cabinet and Group Leaders agreed that a new post of Chief Operating Officer should be created and that the Director portfolios should be reviewed and reorganised to enable delivery of the corporate plan. The new structure took effect from 1 April 2021. Appointments to new and vacant Director posts were completed by the end of April.
- 5.4 The new post of Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer reports to the Director of People & Policy. The post was advertised externally during the end of May/early June. Three candidates (all male) were invited to attend a virtual selection process including interviews with key team members and the Restructuring Implementation Committee on 30 June 2021. Two candidates were invited to a final interview in person with the Restructuring Implementation Committee on 8 July 2021. One Liberal Democrat member was in attendance, along with the Chief Executive and the Director of People & Policy.
- 5.5 The Committee was impressed by the standard of the shortlisted candidates. After careful consideration of all assessment information as well as the final interviews, its decision is to recommend the offer of appointment of Mr Michael Hewitt, current Interim Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, whom it considered demonstrated the necessary vision, leadership skills and experience to meet the future needs of the Council and challenges ahead. Mr Hewitt is a qualified solicitor with over 20 years' legal practice in local government, much of which is at a senior level.
- 5.6 It further recommends that the appointment be offered on a starting salary of £80,108 per annum (Grade 14) with other conditions of employment being in accordance with those determined by the National Joint Council.
- 5.7 Subject to Council agreeing the Committee's recommendations in this report, it is anticipated that Mr Hewitt will take up the appointment on 23 July 2021.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has not been undertaken. Section 4 of the The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires all local authorities to appoint a Monitoring Officer.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 7.1 The Monitoring Officer will have delegated responsibility for ensuring the Council rises to the strategic leadership challenge of responding to the climate and ecological emergencies and enables Bath and North East Somerset to achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. This will include ensuring that the Council leads by example in all its activities, making the radical changes needed, as well as taking a lead role in influencing and working with partners across all sectors locally, regionally and nationally and ensuring wide and deep citizen engagement.

8 EQUALITIES

- 8.1 An impact assessment has not been carried out. The recruitment and selection process was conducted fairly in accordance with the Council's recruitment and selection procedures and taking account of its Equalities Policy.

9 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Recognised trade unions have been consulted on the detail and implementation of the new senior management structure.

10 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

- 10.1 All issues have been addressed in the body of this report.

11 ADVICE SOUGHT

- 11.1 The Council's Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) has had the opportunity to input to this report and has cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Will Godfrey, Chief Executive tel 01225 477203
Background papers	N/A
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Council 22 July 2021

Commonwealth Veterans

Labour Group to move:

Council notes that:

- 1 Commonwealth veterans have a long and proud history of service in the British military. From older conflicts such as World War II to more recent service such as in Iraq and Afghanistan, Commonwealth veterans have served with distinction alongside British-born veterans.
- 2 While serving across the Armed Forces, Commonwealth citizens are exempt from UK immigration controls. However, this exemption is removed as soon as they leave the military.
- 3 Personnel who have served for four years are eligible to apply for indefinite leave to remain in the UK but must pay visa application fees that have risen from £155 to £2,389 since 2003. This figure does not include associated legal fees. Many Commonwealth veterans face spiralling debt and uncertain immigration status.
- 4 Whilst their applications are ongoing, Commonwealth veterans are unable to seek employment or claim benefits.
- 5 The Government has undertaken a consultation on proposals to waive fees for non-UK military personnel applying for indefinite leave to remain. The consultation ran for six weeks and closed on 7 July 2021.

Council believes that:

- 6 It is wrong that, unlike, their UK national colleagues, Commonwealth personnel and their families can only continue to live in the country they've served at significant financial cost. This is unfair and should end.

Council agrees therefore:

- 7 To make our lead officers aware of the difficulties experienced by Commonwealth veterans and to ensure that those who are currently experiencing financial or immigration problems, are not disadvantaged whilst their applications are ongoing.
- 8 To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Defence Secretary and the Home Secretary outlining this Council's support for all Commonwealth veterans who have served a minimum of 4 years being granted automatic and free of charge leave to remain in the UK and that any veteran who completes 12 years of service be automatically given British Citizenship.
- 9 To ask the Leader of the Council to write to our local MPs asking them to press the Government for a change in the legislation affecting those that have served diligently and honourably for this country.

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Bath and North East Somerset Council

Full Council meeting – 22 July 2021

Conservative Group Motion on a memorial to those who have died of COVID-19 in Bath and North East Somerset

To be proposed by Cllr Vic Pritchard

Council:

1. This Council notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the country, and on residents here in Bath and North East Somerset. Since the start of the pandemic, more than 290 people in Bath and North East Somerset have died of COVID-19.
2. This Council recognises that several authorities across the country are using blossom trees as a memorial to those who have lost their lives due to COVID and to remember the NHS staff, carers and key workers who have done so much for their communities during the pandemic.

Council therefore:

3. Requests that the Leader of the Council creates a cross-party working group to find a way for a blossom tree memorial, or other suitable memorial, to be created at an appropriate location in Bath and North East Somerset. This will help the community remember all those who have lost their lives to COVID and give thanks to those who have cared for the vulnerable during the pandemic.

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

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Bath and North East Somerset Council

Full Council meeting 22 July 2021

Cross-Party Motion on Safety for Women and Girls in Public Places

To be proposed by Dine Romero, Seconded by Liz Hardman

Council:

1. Believes everyone should have the right to be safe from violence and harassment on our streets.
2. Recognises that the killing of Sarah Everard has, again, brought the issue of behaviour towards women and girls and their safety to the forefront.
3. Acknowledges it's not just women who are at risk but that any individual may be vulnerable to attack for various reasons.

It also notes:

4. There are already many excellent initiatives and campaigns by local and national organisations aimed at safeguarding the welfare of individuals e.g. 'Got Ya Back' and 'Ask Angela'
5. Violent incidents are thankfully rare in B&NES and our police force already work closely with Council officials to combat sexual harassment and other types of aggression.
6. However, every occurrence of intimidation or attack is one too many.

Council therefore:

7. Resolutely rejects behaviour and actions which may cause women and girls from any background to have to modify their activities in order to feel safe.
8. Champions the right of women and girls to be protected from violence and harassment in public places within B&NES.
9. Believes that this principle should be embedded in our Council strategies going forward.
10. Supports schemes such as 'Ask Angela' and calls on licensed businesses to participate and to take active steps to ensure harassment and sexual intimidation is taken seriously through participation in this scheme.
11. Calls on Council departments and other bodies responsible for public spaces e.g. housing associations, parish councils, transport providers, to improve the security of public spaces by encouraging them to review lighting (in streets, car parks and parks) CCTV provision and other pertinent means to improve safety.
12. Calls on schools, colleges, universities and youth organisations to renew their efforts to promote a 'safety and respect for all' agenda amongst their students.
13. Requests an update on progress on these matters to Council on 18 November 2021.

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

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