

Council

Date: Wednesday 15th September 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 virtual 'informal' meeting of the **Council** on **Wednesday 15th September 2021** in **Zoom - a link will be provided.**

This informal virtual meeting will help to inform the decision-making meeting on 16th September 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 16th September 2021.

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>

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

3. **Recording at Meetings:-**

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control. Some of our meetings are webcast. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. If you would prefer not to be filmed for the webcast, please make yourself known to the camera operators. 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 15th September 2021

at 6.30 pm in the 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. MINUTES - 22ND JULY 2021 (Pages 5 - 10)

To be confirmed as a correct record and recommended for approval to the Council meeting on 16th September 2021.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 11 - 14)
8. POLICY DEVELOPMENT & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21 (Pages 15 - 28)
9. 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.

This page is intentionally left blank

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 22nd July, 2021

Present:- **Councillors** Gerry Curran, Andrew Furse, Shaun Hughes, Matt McCabe, Ruth Malloy, Sarah Moore, Robin Moss, Lisa O'Brien, Vic Pritchard, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Richard Samuel, Alastair Singleton, Karen Walker and Karen Warrington

14 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

16 MINUTES - 4TH MAY 2021

On a motion from Councillor Karen Walker, seconded by Councillor Shaun Hughes, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of 4th May 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

17 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chair made a statement about the status of the meeting, explaining that the meeting was being held as part of the contingency arrangements put in place. She explained that, due to the need to remain cautious and preserve an element of social distancing, there was only a quorum of Councillors in the Chamber. She added that a virtual 'informal' meeting of the full Council had taken place last night to inform this meeting.

18 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

19 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A statement was made by Margaret Vaughan, on behalf of the Friends of the Recreation Ground, Bath. A copy of the statement has been placed on the Minute book and attached to the online minutes. Councillor Shaun Hughes asked Ms Vaughan if she was aware that, of the 1614 responses to the consultation, less than 2% said to delete the policy from the plan. Ms Vaughan replied that she was aware but did not consider this relevant to the points made in her statement.

20 DRAFT B&NES LOCAL PLAN PARTIAL UPDATE

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.

On a motion from Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor Vic Pritchard, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to agree that;

1. 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;
2. That the consultation period should be 27th August to 8th October 2021;
3. 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;
4. Following the public consultation, and subject to any changes made as a result of 3) 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;
5. Grant to the head of planning delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing, to address any issues as they arise during the examination, but to bring any proposed modifications to the Local Plan Partial Update to Full Council to agree and to consult on if required by the Inspector.

21 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2021-22

The Council considered the annual Youth Justice Plan, setting out how services are to be organised and funded and what functions will be carried out to prevent youth offending and re-offending across Bath and North East Somerset.

On a motion from Councillor Dine Romero, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 Adopt the Youth Justice Plan as part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework that can be accommodated within the Council budget.
- 1.3 Note that the Youth Offending Service Management Board is responsible for ensuring delivery and ask the relevant Development and Scrutiny Panel to oversee performance.

22 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2020/21

The Council considered a report giving details of performance against the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Plan for 2020/21.

On a motion from Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor Manda Rigby, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that;

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

23 LGA NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

On a motion from Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to approve the draft Code of Conduct attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

24 APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER

On a motion from Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor Karen Walker, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to approve 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.

25 MOTION FROM LABOUR GROUP - COMMONWEALTH VETERANS

On a motion from Councillor Robin Moss, seconded by Councillor Alastair Singleton, it was

RESOLVED

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.

[Notes;

1. *The above resolution was carried with 14 councillors voting in favour and 1 councillor abstaining.]*

26 MOTION FROM CONSERVATIVE GROUP - MEMORIAL FOR COVID VICTIMS

Councillor Vic Pritchard withdrew this motion.

27 CROSS PARTY MOTION - SAFETY FOR WOMEN

On a motion from Councillor Dine Romero, and seconded by Councillor Karen Walker, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

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.

Council 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.

28 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were no items.

The meeting ended at 6.46 pm

Chair

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Council
MEETING DATE:	16 September 2021
TITLE:	Annual Report of the Charitable Trust Board
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: None	

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the work of the Charitable Trust Board over the past year.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To note the report.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 The purpose of the Charitable Trust Board is to facilitate the management of the charitable trusts for which the Council is the sole trustee; independently, in accordance with their governing documents and in the best interests of the charity. Currently the only charitable trust which the Board oversees is the Alice Park Trust. This is managed by a Sub-Committee consisting of three voting members (elected members of the Council) and two independent non-voting members.

3.2 The Charitable Trust Board is satisfied that the finances of the charity are being managed adequately with the support of the Council's finance team. The Alice Park Trust annual report and accounts for 2019/20 have now been submitted to the Charity Commission. The Commission agreed an extension for the submission this year, following discussions about how the accounts are produced. These issues were satisfactorily resolved, and the accounts were submitted by the required deadline of 31 March 2021.

4 THE REPORT

4.1 Meetings and Membership

4.1.1 The Charitable Trust Board has met once in the last municipal year.

4.1.2 The current membership of the Charitable Trust Board is:

Cllr David Wood (Chair)

Cllr Rob Appleyard

Cllr Sally Davis

Cllr Mark Roper

Cllr Joanna Wright

Graham Page (Independent Member)

4.2 Activities Undertaken

4.2.1 The Charitable Trust Board received the Annual Report of the Alice Park Trust Sub-Committee on 29 June 2021 and is satisfied that the Alice Park Trust is:

- Being managed in pursuit of its charitable purposes.
- Financially solvent.
- Acting within the requirements of its governing documents.
- Dealing with its regulatory and public accountability obligations.

4.3 Finances of the Alice Park Trust Sub-Committee

4.3.1 Expenditure incurred for Alice Park Trust in 2019/20 was £87,820; this was offset by income of £58,628.

4.3.2 The deficit of £29,192 has been subsidised from the Bath & North East Somerset Council Parks revenue budget, to ensure the Trust operates on a going concern basis. This is the same process that has been undertaken in previous years. One of the priorities for the Trust is to become more financially independent of the Council.

4.3.3 Net Assets of the Trust are valued at a historic cost of £189,476. Net assets include investments held, land at Alice Park, car park, cottage number one, tea chalet and storage shed, public conveniences, tennis courts, garden shelter and play equipment.

4.3.4 The accounts for 2019/20 have been prepared by the Council's Finance team and have been independently examined by One West.

4.3.5 The accounts for the Trust are prepared on a cash basis, in line with reporting requirements and guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

4.3.6 An annual report for the Trust has also been prepared for submission to the Charity Commission.

4.3.7 Subject to Covid closures, the park was open for public access throughout the year, including use of the tennis courts and tea chalet, and has been suitably maintained. The cottage property was let, and the income used in the upkeep of the park.

5 RATIONALE

5.1 Under its terms of reference, the Charitable Trust Board is required to submit an annual report to the Council.

6 EQUALITIES

6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been carried out as this report is for information only.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 This is an internal matter, so climate change considerations are not relevant.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 The Section 151 and Monitoring Officer have had opportunity to review and input into this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

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

Contact person	Marie Todd – Democratic Services Officer Email: Marie_Todd@bathnes.gov.uk Tel: 01225 394414
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

This page is intentionally left blank

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Council
MEETING DATE:	16TH September 2021
TITLE:	Policy Development & Scrutiny Annual Report 2020 - 2021
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report:	
1. Policy Development & Scrutiny Annual Report	

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 To consider the Policy Development & Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020-2021.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to;

2.1 Note the work of the Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels, as set out in the Annual Report attached at Appendix 1.

3 THE REPORT

3.1 As part of its statutory duty the Council is required to appoint at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee / Panel that will have sole responsibility to discharge the functions under Sections 9F and 9FA to 9FI of the Local Government Act 2000, as relevant to the Council's statutory duties and responsibilities. The current model includes; 3 Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels. They provide a system of checks and balances implemented by Councillors who monitor the activity of the Cabinet members and assist them in developing policy.

3.2 The Policy Development & Scrutiny Chairs & Vice Chairs Group agreed that it would provide an annual report to the Council summarising the work of Scrutiny over the previous year.

3.3 The PDS Chairs and Vice Chairs Group have an oversight of the work of each of the Panels and responsibility for coordinating the Council's scrutiny activity. Each of the Chairs has provided a synopsis of the work that their committee have carried out this year.

3.4 The Annual Report provides an opportunity to highlight some of the positive work carried out by the Panels and Committee both internally / externally, and particularly with partners and agencies involved with scrutiny throughout the year.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The Policy Development & Scrutiny Chairs & Vice Chairs Group are not required to produce an annual report; however it is good practice to do so.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 There are no direct implications arising from this 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.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 The Corporate Panel includes Equalities within its remit and will consult the Race Equality Panel if relevant to the item being scrutinised.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 The report highlights some of the work carried out by the Climate Emergency & Sustainability Panel

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Monitoring Officer.

Contact person	Cllr Karen Warrington - Chair of the PDS Chairs & Vice Chairs Group
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Policy Development & Scrutiny Annual Report 2020 - 2021



Foreword - Cllr Karen Warrington

I took over as chair of the Policy Development & Scrutiny Chairs & Vice Chairs Group after Cllr Myer's resignation in May this year. As Chair, Cllr Myers has helped to strengthen the future role that Policy Development & Scrutiny Members can make by ensuring that key decisions are scrutinised in forensic detail and ensuring that they meet the needs of the community. The group would like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr Myers for all of the contributions that he has made over the years as a panel member and chair which have resulted in adding significant value and positive outcomes for our local community in B&NES.



May I also take this opportunity to thank everyone who has played a part, no matter how small, in contributing to the work of the Council's three scrutiny Panels 2020/21. It has been a memorable period, during which Members have worked together to tackle the range of conflicting pressures relating to the Coronavirus pandemic that have affected our work and constituents in so many ways. Collectively, Members have risen to the challenge and adapted our procedures and practices to focus scrutiny resources on the areas where we can make the most impact.

One of the positives during these unprecedented times has been the success of our COVID related Task Groups where we took several 'deep dives' into areas that were pressing concerns for residents, particularly surrounding our recovery plans. These groups were set up in a very short period and achieved a demonstrable impact on the Council's response to the pandemic.

To conclude, 20/21 has been an unusual year for so many reasons, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Scrutiny Member colleagues for their support, flexibility, and commitment during this period. This includes my fellow Scrutiny Chairs who have fully played their part in making our work this year so effective. I would also like to extend thanks to Cabinet, residents, businesses who have contributed, and specifically those council officers without whose support we would not be so effective.

I believe that this report provides a flavour of some of the excellent work that the Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels have done this year.

Cllr Karen Warrington
Chair of the PDS Chairs & Vice Chairs Group

Annual Report — Contents

1. Key Information about Policy Development & Scrutiny
2. Key successes & Stats for 2020-21
3. Snapshot of the work of the Climate Emergency & Sustainability Panel
4. Snapshot of the work of the Children, Adult, Health & Wellbeing Panel
5. Snapshot of the work of the Corporate Panel
6. Call-in of decision
7. Community Involvement
8. Contact

1

■ Key information about Scrutiny

The Overview & Scrutiny function is known as Policy Development & Scrutiny (PDS). The function consists of 3 PDS Panels

- Climate Emergency & Sustainability Panel
- Corporate Panel
- Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Panel

Scrutiny's Role

- To make recommendations to the Cabinet or Council
- To act or challenge as a critical friend to the Cabinet
- Panels do not make decisions about council policies and services
- Does not deal with individual queries or complaints; or investigate planning or licensing decisions.

Meetings

- Are open to the public to attend
- Typically last 2-3 hrs
- Meet regularly (during daytime and evenings)
- Have a formal structure, but are run in an accessible way
- Papers published at www.bathnes.gov.uk and at Council information points.

Residents and stakeholders can get involved by

- Attending public meetings
- Giving evidence to one of the panels; and
- Sending in comments about a review.
- Watching the meetings in full on our YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/user/bathnescouncil> – either live or afterwards

2

Key successes and stats for 2020 - 21

Summary of the main achievements of Scrutiny during 20/21

- The style of task and finish groups & briefings adopted has been very successful with the topics selected being priority issues with focussed objectives. The outcomes of these discussions have directly influenced our response to the Pandemic and future planning. For example, the Corporate Panel along with the Chairs & Vice Chairs Group formed a task & finish group to evaluate the Councils position statement on the COVID Pandemic which then informed the Cabinet at its meeting in July 2020. This quick joint working due to the pressure of time and number of questions being asked, demonstrated how scrutiny was able to work effectively in carrying out its critical friend role during expectational circumstances.
- Members have adapted to 'virtual meetings,' which have been rolled out across the Scrutiny function and bring many benefits, most notably in terms of engaging with the wider public.
- Scrutiny has strived to be kept up to date during the COVID Pandemic and have sought to highlight where necessary briefings to inform members when taking a deep dive into topics related to the Pandemic.

Key stats:

- Number of formal Scrutiny meetings - 19
- Task and Finish Groups - 2
 - Special meeting to discuss feedback on Council's position statement
 - Commercial Markets
- Reports to Cabinet/ Council - 3
- Call-in meetings -1
 - E3229— Asset Disposal of 117 Newbridge Hill Bath
- Briefings on key topics - 6
 - Council Position statement—COVID 19
 - Community Contribution Fund
 - Commercial Markets
 - Governance of Local Authority Companies
 - Our Recovery programme of work
 - Procurement

3

Snapshot of the work of the Climate Emergency & Sustainability Panel

The Climate Emergency & Sustainability Panel has had to adapt to the COVID Pandemic and adjust their workplan to accommodate emerging plans. For example, the Panel felt that it was important that they had an overview of the Renewal Programme of workstreams and the transport plans during COVID, which allowed the Panel the opportunity to comment on these plans and inform Cabinet.

The Panel had to balance these time critical items against the priorities that the council is committed to delivering, such as keeping up to date with the Bath Clean Air plans and scrutinising the Air Quality Action plan for Temple Cloud & Farrington Gurney. At the November Panel meeting members listened to an officer's presentation on the result of the Air Quality Action Plan draft public consultation which ran for 12 weeks between February and May 2020. The Panel reviewed the findings and listened to residents' concerns about clean air and raised many questions and concerns based on the consultation. The detailed scrutiny questioning of the plans by Panel members helped to inform the future work planning whilst ensuring that the needs and concerns of the local community were being answered.

Unfortunately, the Panel were unable to receive the Annual Update on the Climate Emergency which was partly due to the impact of COVID and the delay in available data, which left a gap in the CES workplan for this year, however the Panel have scheduled this into their future workplan for 2021 to ensure that the Panel are updated on its progress.

Items Scrutinised by the Panel 2020—2021*

- Liveable neighbourhood
- Bath Clean Air Plan
- B&NES Local plan Partial update— Climate Emergency
- Tree & Woodland Plan
- Transport & The COVID 19 Response
- Air Quality Action Plan for Farrington Gurney & Temple Cloud
- Renewal Programme Workstream
- Corporate Budget & Planning 2021/22
- Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleepers Initiative (response since COVID)

* The Number of items scrutinised is smaller than previous years due to two meetings cancelled during the COVID Pandemic.

4.

Snapshot of the work of the Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Panel

This year the work of the Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Panel (CAHW) has continued to be busy. The impact of COVID has placed pressure on the prioritisation of items coming to Panel which has led to a large number of statutory items, including several annual reports and updates for the members to be kept informed of and which reflected the impact of COVID.

The Panel continued to receive the 6-month updates on the performance of Virgin Care. During each report to Panel, members were asked to identify areas of focus for the next report. At the March 2021 Panel meeting the report focused on Reablement and Finance. Further requests included more information on the 'Workforce' – particularly sickness / morale and further details on monitoring the transformation; with a focus on each of the different locations (MSN, Keynsham, and Bath). The Panel also requested more information on the £1.2 million gap and how this was managed. This has worked well to ensure that the Panel are reflecting on the local changing demands and needs through regularly monitoring and scrutinising the service delivery and will continue for period 2021-22.

Moving forward, consideration will be given to the prioritisation of the Panels workplan, identifying which statutory updates / reports could be circulated for comment outside of the meeting thus allowing a greater capacity for robust scrutiny, ensuring that every item adds value, whilst balancing the items between Children and Adults.

Items Scrutinised by the Panel 2020—2021

- Children Service Improvement Plan
- Bath and North East Somerset Council School Organisation Plan 2019 – 2025
- Adult & Social Care Complaints Annual Report 2020
- Food Poverty (update on work)
- Independent View of Virgin Performance – 6-month update
- Children's Services Annual Complaints Report
- Music Hub
- B&NES Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership
- Youth Forum / In Care Council Update
- Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) Annual Report 2019/20
- Youth Justice Plan 2020 – 21
- Education Updates - Narrowing the Gap /SACRE
- Health Infrastructure Plan 2 (HIP2) Update
- Mental Health Strategy for B&NES, Swindon, Wiltshire (Response to COVID)
- Violent Reduction Unit
- Corporate & Budget Planning 2021/2022
- Virgin Care Commissioner - six-month update report
- Care Home Commissioning
- Suicide Prevention work
- Health Infrastructure Programme 2 (HIP2) Update

5

Snapshot of the work of the Corporate Panel

During the earlier part of 2020 when the Corporate Panel returned to meetings (in virtual form), the work of the Panel focused predominately on the response to the COVID Pandemic. A task & finish group was quickly formed which included members of the Chairs & Vice Chairs Group who scrutinised the Council's position statement and financial recovery plans. This was feedback to the Panel for further comment and then onto Cabinet and lead officers. Members were also presented with the full financial recovery plans at their June meeting, which allowed them to test some of the assumptions contained within the report.

The Panel also requested a briefing on the council's commercial markets, setting up another task & finish group which looked at the future market environment for the Council's three main business sources of income: Heritage & Tourism, Parking and Commercial Estate. The findings from the group discussion with key officers were presented to the September Panel meeting, highlighting several key considerations for future planning. Following this meeting recommendations were forward to the Cabinet members for his consideration in future planning. The Panel also received a briefing in November on the work of the Strategic Procurement Team during the COVID Pandemic and members had the opportunity to scrutinise the annual spend and arrangements currently in place.

Alongside detailed briefings and task & finish group work, the Panel continued to monitor and scrutinise the medium-term financial plans and draft budget setting at its meeting in February. Moving forward to 2021-22 the Panel are looking forward to having a greater understanding of our property review work and of the preparing for the future work programme.

Items Scrutinised by the Panel 2020—2021

- Covid-19 Update Report & Position Statement
- special meeting - Chairs & Vice Chairs Task & Finish Group feedback Covid - feedback on position statement
- COVID -19 Financial recovery plan
- Assessment of the Council's Business Income (Identifying where we are now?)
- Capital Programme Update
- Community Contribution Fund (Briefing)
- Task & Finish Group Report on Commercial markets
- Commercial Estate Plans
- Budget Setting 2021/ 2022
- Outsourcing of our services
- Council Company Accounts
- People Strategy 2020 – 2024 Update
- Draft Budget & Council Tax 2021/ 2022 and Financial outlook
- Briefing on the Governance of Local Authority Companies
- Parental Leave Policy - Casework Options
- Update on the Parish Charter
- Invest in Bath Update

6 ■ Call-in of a decision

What is a call-in?

Scrutiny legislation allows for a Scrutiny Panel to investigate, make reports and recommendations on Cabinet decisions that have been agreed but not yet put into action. Legislation allows for action on these decisions to be suspended pending such a Scrutiny investigation. This process is referred to as a scrutiny 'Call-in'. Following any scrutiny call-in, the Scrutiny Panel may request Cabinet reconsider its decision on the basis of the further evidence gathered.



The Corporate Panel reviewed one Cabinet decision during the period 2020/21.

The call-in meeting took place on February 8th 2021, on 'Asset Disposal- 117 Newbridge Hill Bath' which reviewed the original Approval agreement to:

- Approve the disposal of 117 Newbridge Hill, Bath to ACL for £308k with the voluntary conditions; to ensure that the development meets the wider strategic aims of the Council.
- Authorise the Director of Economy & Growth to enter a Development Agreement with ACL for the redevelopment of the site into 6 apartments
- Council as detailed in the covering report.

The call-in notice received objected to this decision on the following grounds:

- the decision to dispose of the asset at nearly half a million pounds below market value, and on a non-competitive basis, is contrary to the interests of Council Taxpayers in B&NES
- the case has not been made to justify the below market value disposal and so the asset should be listed on the open market, where it will fetch greater returns for the Council

To assist in their deliberations, the Corporate Panel received a range of written and verbal evidence, interviewed the Cabinet Member for Resources, Council officers, and a representative Councillors, on behalf of those Councillors who signed the request to review the decision for the call-in.

However, after a detailed discussion and debate the Panel voted to dismiss the call-in and allow the decision to be implemented.

The minutes of these meetings can be found on our public website.

7

Community Involvement

Our PDS Panels work closely with a wide selection of groups, organisations, and individuals. We welcome the opportunities to hear from members of the public at our Panel meetings whose input is important in understanding the concerns and needs from our community.



In the past individuals, campaign groups and local organisations have been involved in our Call-in meetings, presented at Scrutiny Inquiry Days, fed into scrutiny review work, and provided briefings to inform Panel members on key topics.

Without positive, trusting and mutually beneficial relationships, the work of the PDS Panels and the Select Committee would not be nearly as valuable.

How to get involved in scrutiny

- **Attend meetings** - All our scrutiny meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to come along and listen to the debate and discussion. Please note that reports may be considered in private if they contain confidential information.
- **Ask a question or make a point** - All we ask is that if you want a formal detailed response, please let us have details of the question five days in advance.
- **Present a petition** – You can present a petition to a meeting.
- **Request a review** - If there is something you think scrutiny should look at, then let us know. Contact a Scrutiny Chair or Member of the Panel/ Committee or contact Scrutiny directly.
- **Consultation and participation** - You could be asked for your views on an issue or be invited to provide specialist knowledge you might have by being a witness in a scrutiny review. You are also free to offer your knowledge on any on-going reviews.
- **Watching the meetings in full on our YouTube channel** - <https://www.youtube.com/user/bathnecouncil> – either live or afterwards

8 ■ Contacts

For further information about this document, or to get involved, please contact:

Senior Scrutiny Officer - Donna Vercoe 01225 396053
Donna Vercoe (01225) 396053

For specific Committee enquiries, please contact:

Senior Democratic Services Officer— Michaela Gay (01225) 394411

- Climate Emergency & Sustainability Panel
- Corporate Panel

Democratic Services Officer— Mark Durnford (01225) 394458

- Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Panel

All correspondence to:

Policy Development and Scrutiny
Bath and North East Somerset Council
Keynsham Civic Centre
BS31 1FS

scrutiny@bathnes.gov.uk

If you require this document in a different format (such as Braille, large print etc.) or have any further comments on this report or any aspects of the work of policy development and scrutiny, please contact us.

This page is intentionally left blank