

# **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday, 16th March, 2023

Present:- **Councillors** Tim Ball, Sarah Bevan, Colin Blackburn, Alison Born, Shelley Bromley, Neil Butters, Vic Clarke, Sue Craig, Paul Crossley, Gerry Curran, Chris Dando, Jess David, Tom Davies, Sally Davis, Winston Duguid, Michael Evans, Andrew Furse, Kevin Guy, Liz Hardman, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Dr Eleanor Jackson, Dr Kumar, Matt McCabe, Hal MacFie, Ruth Malloy, Paul May, Sarah Moore, Robin Moss, Michelle O'Doherty, Lisa O'Brien, Bharat Pankhania, June Player, Vic Pritchard, Manda Rigby, Mark Roper, Richard Samuel, Bruce Shearn, Brian Simmons, Alastair Singleton, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Karen Walker, Sarah Warren, Karen Warrington, Andy Wait, Ryan Wills, David Wood and Joanna Wright

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Douglas Deacon, Mark Elliott, Alan Hale, Steve Hedges, Grant Johnson, Paul Myers and Dine Romero

### **84 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair asked the Democratic Services Manager to read out the emergency evacuation procedure.

### **85 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Dave Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 as Director of Avon Needs Trees. [This disclosure was made at the start of that item.]

### **86 MINUTES - 21ST FEBRUARY 2023**

On a motion from Councillor Vic Pritchard, seconded by Councillor Karen Warrington, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **87 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chair made the following two announcements about recent Council successes;

'We were informed in early March that our 'preparing for the future programme', changing how we worked and the refurbishment of Keynsham Civic Centre, has been shortlisted for the national PPMA Excellence in People Management Awards 2023. Congratulations to all involved! It's great to see the hard work of the many teams who contributed to this successful project being recognised.

Last week the Council found out that the Roman Baths has been shortlisted as a finalist in the Museums and Heritage Awards for Learning Programme of the Year.  
<https://awards.museumsandheritage.com/2023-shortlist/>

This is such wonderful recognition for our learning and participation team and workshop leaders who have created a truly unique experience for schools in the new Clore Learning Centre and Investigation Zone. The award ceremony will take place in May.'

And finally, in the light of some councillor colleagues not standing again, including some after many years, the Chair took this opportunity to say thank you on behalf of Bath and North East Somerset for their service to our community. And as this was the last Council meeting for this electoral term, the Chair explained that he had arranged for a photographer to take a photo of members in the Chamber. Some members will recall this was last done in 2017.

## **88 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

There were no items of urgent business.

## **89 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The following members of the public had registered to address Council;

Deborah Collins made a statement about Active travel, a copy of which has been placed on the Minute book and is attached to these minutes. Councillor Vic Pritchard asked Ms Collins whether she agreed that an acceptable balance was needed between car travel and other forms of travel. Ms Collins agreed that a balance was needed but the problem is that moving to car friendly policies in the short-term may be convenient, but this means traffic then increases and it becomes harder for everyone.

Onkar Saini made a statement about community engagement with regard to the Voter ID item later on the agenda, a copy of which has been placed on the Minute book and is attached to these minutes. Councillor Vic Pritchard checked which ward Mr Saini was standing in, and was informed it was Combe Down.

Naomi Johns, Director of the West of England Falconry centre, made a statement regarding the ecological emergency item and how that aligns with the work of the centre, a copy of which has been placed on the Minute book and is attached to these minutes. She briefly outlined the work of the charity and explained that they were forming relationships with key groups, looking for funding opportunities and to share research and raise awareness and would love to align with the Council too. Councillor Guy asked if she would like to meet with a Cabinet member to take this further, to which Ms Johns replied that she would.

Fiona Gourley had registered to make a statement about the Village Agents' scheme. As Fiona had tested positive for covid and was unable to attend the meeting, David Harding presented the statement on Fiona's behalf. A full copy of the statement has been placed on the Minute book and is attached to these minutes.

Bob Goodman made a statement about this Administration's approach to residents, a copy of which has been placed on the Minute book and is attached to these minutes. In reference to comments made during his statement, Councillor Richard Samuel asked Mr Goodman if he was aware that this Administration had followed all

financial procedures and policies that were in place when Mr Goodman was a councillor, and further whether he was aware that the Council deferred millions of pounds to the business community during the covid period, without a single complaint. Mr Goodman did not agree with this position. Councillor Colin Blackburn referred to Mr Goodman's comment regarding inept consultation and asked if he had any examples of that, to which Mr Goodman referred to the recent Parks department consultation on Backstones Open Space.

Dana Lazarevic made a statement about institutional discrimination, a copy of which has been placed on the Minute book and is attached to these minutes. Councillor Eleanor Jackson asked Ms Lazarevic if she was aware that only 15% of senior academic posts are held by women, to which Ms Lazarevic responded that she was aware and added that she had applied for non-academic positions too, and had still been rejected.

David Harding made a statement about public transport within the Chew Valley and specifically the supported bus service 672 which had not been funded by WECA and would shortly lose its funding from the Council. He outlined the reasons why this service was so vital and potential problems with the Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) proposals and asked if the Council would consider a further extension of the financial support while the DRT service was being established. Councillor Richard Samuel asked Mr Harding if he was aware that, due to the specific circumstances around public transport in the Chew Valley and the untested nature of the DRT service, he had today approved further finances, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel to extend the support to the 672 service to the end of July 2023. Mr Harding responded that he had not been aware, and greatly welcomed this news. Councillor Liz Hardman asked Mr Harding if he was aware that all the supported bus services subsidised by B&NES Council were in Bath and none in North East Somerset, to which Mr Harding responded that he was aware and was also aware that the proposal to WECA included a spine service and a Chew Magna to Bristol service being retained.

Angela Goldson made a statement about HGV traffic. A full copy of the statement has been placed on the Minute book and is attached to these minutes. Councillor Vic Pritchard asked Ms Goldson if she was saying that a chicane road layout was against public opinion, to which Ms Goldson replied that she was. Councillor Robin Moss asked if residents were consulted on the parking model, to which Ms Goldson replied that the original model they were consulted on had a continuous line of parking on both sides of the road, using inaccurate measurements. When residents pointed out this would not work, the alternatives presented were for residents to keep parking on the east side of the road which currently works well, or the chicane so residents were only consulted on an unworkable model.

David Redgewell had submitted a statement about the public transport network. As David was unable to attend due to the train strike, Councillor Hardman summarised the main points. A full copy of the statement has been placed on the Minute book and is attached to these minutes.

Andy Stewart made a statement regarding the Climate & Ecological emergency item on the agenda. A full copy of the statement has been placed on the Minute book and is attached to these minutes. Councillor Sarah Warren asked if Mr Stewart was

aware how many trees the Council had planted, to which Mr Stewart responded that he had planted a considerable amount and thought that the Council had planted over 11 thousand. Councillor Vic Pritchard asked Mr Stewart if he was aware that the Clean Air zone was introduced by the Conservative Administration and Mr Stewart responded that it was implemented by the Liberal Democrat Administration. Councillor Robin Moss asked if Mr Stewart shared his hope that the Administration's tree planting figures were more accurate than its house building figures, to which Mr Stewart responded that he was acutely aware of the need for social and affordable housing in the city and commended the Council for all it was doing to try and increase that.

Chad Allen made a statement about English ivy and its negative effect on trees' ability to photosynthesise. He called on the Council to consider this in its tree planting programme and take steps to remove this invasive weed which is destroying our natural habitat. Councillor Karen Walker asked if Mr Allen thought the Council should do more to stop the invasion of English ivy, to which he responded that he thought we all should be doing more.

The Chair thanked all speakers for their statements which would be considered by the relevant Cabinet Member.

## **90 CLIMATE ANNUAL REPORT & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**

The Council considered a report which set out the progress on the climate and ecological emergencies work over the past year and described future work plans.

On a motion from Councillor Sarah Warren, seconded by Councillor Jess David, it was

### **RESOLVED to**

1. Note the positive progress and achievements over the last year on implementation of the council's Climate Strategy. This is summarised in the Climate Progress Report, at Annex 1, which includes a range of climate and nature case studies and the annual carbon performance dashboard for the whole area;
2. Note the particular progress made in understanding renewable energy in Bath and North East Somerset and in the development of the delivery pipeline shown in the renewables section of the Climate Progress Report, at Annex 1.
3. Note the Climate Action Plan and Route-map to 2030, at Annex 2.
4. Note the updated Climate Strategy, at Annex 3.
5. Note the development of the Ecological Emergency Action Plan, at Annex 4.
6. Note that the ambition on nature recovery contained in the Ecological Emergency Action Plan will only be fully realised with external investment and through working in partnership; and

7. Approve the Climate Annual Report and the new Ecological Emergency Action Plan.

*[Notes;*

- 1. The above resolution was carried with 48 Councillors voting in favour, and 1 Councillor abstaining.]*

## **91 JOINT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN**

The Council considered a report setting out the current position on the Council's draft Joint Community Safety Plan.

On a motion from Councillor Alison Born, and seconded by Councillor Vic Pritchard, it was then unanimously

**RESOLVED** to agree the Joint Plan.

## **92 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2023: ELECTION FEES**

The Council considered a report which set out the proposed fees to be paid to the Returning Officer and the staff he employs to undertake various duties in connection with these elections.

On a motion from Councillor Kevin Guy, and seconded by Councillor Karen Walker, it was then unanimously

**RESOLVED** to

1. Agree the scale of fees payable to the Returning Officer and his staff as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

## **93 CONSTITUTION REFRESH - PART 2**

The Council considered a report recommended to them from the Constitution working group who had met on 24<sup>th</sup> February. This picked up the further rationalisation work needed on the Financial Regulations, Contract Standing orders and picked up a few glitches identified since the new Constitution was adopted in July 2022.

On a motion from Councillor Tim Ball, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** to

1. Agree to move the whole of Section 3.9 - Financial Regulations and Budget Management Scheme - to the Library and amend section 3.7 as set out in Appendix 1, and described in paragraphs 3.1 – 3.5 of the report;

2. Agree with the small amendment to the Code of Conduct to reinstate the link to the Councillor role descriptions, in line with Council's earlier wishes, as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report;
3. Agree the wording in paragraph 3.7 of the report be added to the public speaking rules within the Constitution (and the guidance) to clarify deadlines when a meeting is adjourned after the agenda has been published;
4. Agree the necessary constitutional and scheme of delegation changes for approval regarding the statutory officers disciplinary process, as set out in paragraphs 3.9 – 3.11 and that the Director of People & Policy be given delegated authority to take all steps necessary to implement these;
5. Agree the revised Contract Standing Orders, as explained in paragraph 3.12 and appendices 2 and 3 of the report;
6. Note that the full review of the Contract Standing Orders will be brought back to Council once the legislation is in place;
7. Agree the delegations to the Chief Executive as Electoral Registration Officer and Returning officer for those powers described in paragraphs 3.15 - 3.17 of the report; and
8. Agree that these changes take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

#### **94 'FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT' WITH THE CITY OF OLEKSANDRIYA, UKRAINE**

Following the formation of a new local group, the Friends of Oleksandriya, this report sought to further develop the relationship with the city of Oleksandriya by putting in place a formal friendship agreement between B&NES Council and the city of Oleksandriya.

On a motion from Councillor Kevin Guy, and seconded by Councillor Chris Dando, it was unanimously

#### **RESOLVED to**

1. Pursue and agree a friendship agreement between B&NES Council and the city of Oleksandriya;
2. Agree to establish a working group to work with the Friends of Oleksandriya and Oleksandriya City Council to draft a friendship agreement; and
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to negotiate, agree and sign the finalised friendship agreement on behalf of B&NES Council.

#### **95 MOTION FROM LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP - VOTER ID**

On a motion from Councillor Matt McCabe, seconded by Councillor Joel Hirst, it was

## **RESOLVED** that

### Council:

1. Notes that new Voter ID requirements, introduced by the Elections Act 2022, involve voters having to show photo ID before being issued with a ballot paper at all elections from May 2023 onwards.
2. Notes with concern that this new requirement creates a new barrier to residents exercising their democratic right to vote and may lead to some Bath and North East Somerset residents being disenfranchised.
3. Notes that a list of 'accepted' forms of photo ID has been published and that this includes fewer forms of ID held by younger and marginalised people.
4. Notes that voters can obtain a 'Voter Authority Certificate' from the Council if they do not have an 'accepted' form of photo ID.
5. Notes with concern the additional costs and administrative burden this will place on Electoral Services, and the risk of abuse towards poll workers from anyone denied a vote due to lack of ID.
6. Believes that this legislation is unnecessary, undemocratic and an egregious example of attempted voter suppression.

### Council therefore:

7. Calls on Cabinet members and Council services to make every effort to communicate these new requirements, to avoid any resident being disenfranchised.
8. Calls on the government to urgently expand the list of 'accepted' forms of photo ID and to fully fund the costs to Councils of implementing this policy; and
9. Requests that the Leader communicate Council's views to government and to our local MPs.

### *[Notes;*

1. *During debate, an amendment was moved by the Independent group, to remove point 6 of the recommendation. This was lost, with 8 Councillors voting in favour, 38 Councillors voting against and 1 Councillor abstaining.*
2. *During debate, an amendment was moved by the Conservative group, welcoming the strengthening of the electoral process but acknowledging this could discourage some voters. This was lost, with 11 Councillors voting in favour and 36 Councillors voting against.*
3. *The successful resolution was carried with 37 Councillors voting in favour, 10 Councillors voting against and 1 Councillor abstaining.]*

## 96 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR WRIGHT - HGV TRAFFIC

On a motion from Councillor Joanna Wright, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was unanimously

### **RESOLVED** that

Council notes that:

1. Government figures show that HGV traffic nationally is increasing. The most recent figures (September 2021) show that whilst car traffic had decreased, there was an 8.9% increase in HGV traffic in just one year.
2. The growth of HGV traffic on many of our local roads generates noise and air pollution and undermines residential safety. It can have a real impact on the quality of life of residents living on affected streets, including sleepless nights and mental health problems. It affects cyclists and pedestrians, especially older or vulnerable people and families with small children.
3. One significant cause of HGV traffic along unsuitable roads is the use by lorry drivers of Google Maps and/or sat navs that are only intended for car use. In extreme cases, HGVs are routed up narrow, unsuitable routes and become stuck (one example is Brooklyn Road, Lambridge).
4. Locally, a large volume of HGV traffic is caused by new development. Residents frequently report frustration that the appropriate routing of construction traffic is not given sufficient care and attention as part of the planning process, and may feel like an afterthought, when from their perspective it should be front and centre.
5. Bath and North East Somerset Council does not require a 'Construction Traffic Management Plan' to be submitted at the same time as a planning application for major development.

Council resolves to:

6. Ask the Cabinet Member for Transport to write to Government Transport Minister Mark Harper asking for his view on the Local Government's Association's call for HGVs to be required to use commercial satnavs; and expressing this Council's support for such a measure.
7. Ask officers to review the 'National and Local Information Requirements – Planning Applications (including Outline, Reserved Matters and Variation of Condition)' document and to **pass this matter to the relevant Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel to consider the value of** making the submission of a 'Construction Traffic Management Plan' a mandatory validation requirement for planning applications for major developments *that should be accompanied by appropriate enforcement*. This will allow our officers, councillors and the public to have access to more information when determining the suitability of planning applications.



8. Subject to the **PDS review and** funding being identified, produce a 'Construction Traffic Management Plan' guidance document for developers that highlights the importance of routing construction traffic away from narrow, unsuitable and residential roads in order to ensure that this is an integral feature of any planning applications and is actively considered at the earliest possible stage in the planning process.

[Notes;

1. *The above successful resolution contains wording proposed by the Conservative group – the italicised section in point 7 “that should be accompanied by appropriate enforcement” – which was accepted into the substantive by Councillor Wright.*
2. *The above successful resolution contains additional wording proposed by the Liberal Democrat group to refer this matter to Scrutiny – the bold wording in points 7 and 8 – which was accepted into the substantive by Councillor Wright.]*

## 97 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The Chair made reference to the public and councillor questions and responses which had been circulated prior to the meeting and will be added to the Council's Minute book and online record.

Councillors Richard Samuel, Andy Furse and Gerry Curran made farewell statements to Council, in the light of this being the last Council meeting for each of these councillors, highlighting significant moments and thanking staff and their councillor colleagues for their support.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm

Chair .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

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## COUNCIL MEETING 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023

### STATEMENTS FROM PUBLIC

#### Public

1. Deborah Collins - Active travel
2. Onkar Saini - Community engagement
3. Naomi Johns - Ecological emergency
4. Fiona Gourley - Village Agents' scheme (*Fiona has tested positive for covid so David Harding will present the statement*)
5. Bob Goodman - How this Administration has no respect for residents
6. Dana Lazarevic - Discrimination
7. David Harding - Chew Valley to Bristol supported bus service 672
8. Angela Goldson - HGV traffic
9. David Redgewell - Public transport network (*David is unable to attend due to the train strike so Cllr Hardman will cover his points*)
10. Andy Stewart - Climate & Ecological emergency
11. Chad Allen - Bath CAZ and pollution

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC**

P	01	Question from:	Anne Coghlan
Can the Council explain why the proposed amendment by Councillor Wright for a School Street was rejected. We have to legislate to change behaviour. School Streets are for the benefit of everyone and would significantly reduce car usage and provide safer streets for the community. Can the Council look into this as a matter of urgency?			
Answer: Cllr Stephenson-McGall, Chair of Council			
Council does not speak with one voice. The debate reflected the views of individual Councillors, with their own individual reasons, who then voted as follows on the amendment; 10 in favour, 32 against, 9 abstentions. The full debate, and the reasons given by councillors for voting the way they did, can be viewed on the webcast - <a href="https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=272&amp;MId=6154&amp;Ver=4">https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=272&amp;MId=6154&amp;Ver=4</a>			
P	02	Question from:	Anne Coghlan
The Nolan Principles for Standards in Public Life that all Councillors sign up to when elected expect "selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership". The recent behaviour at Full Council on 21st February 2023 of Cabinet Members clearly showed that many of these principles were not in place and brought the Council as an institution into disrepute. What actions will the Council be undertaking to ensure a transparent process is undertaken to investigate this conduct?			
Answer: Cllr Stephenson-McGall, Chair of Council			
In accordance with the requirements of section 27 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council has established a Standards Committee (with Independent members), which has the responsibility for considering and determining any allegations of misconduct against Members of the Council in accordance with the arrangements set out here; <a href="https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/make-complaint-about-councillors">https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/make-complaint-about-councillors</a>			

## **Deborah Collins statement**

Two major problems facing us today are the climate emergency and the chaos in NHS and social care.

### **Climate emergency**

The Council is discussing the climate emergency tonight. We must reduce carbon emissions, 29% of which come from transport, in order to tackle this.

### **NHS and social care crisis**

Our NHS has spent a terrible winter; our social care has been damaged by years of Tory cuts. This is made worse by demand caused by diseases like type 2 diabetes. Public health recommends 150 minutes of moderate activity a week; but studies show that even a little extra activity helps tackle heart disease, obesity and even dementia. But walking on streets with high pollution can worsen respiratory diseases, like asthma. So we need to make our streets places where people can enjoy walking and activity safely.

### **Some inconvenient facts**

We live in and around a beautiful city set in lovely countryside. But our narrow streets and hilly, winding roads give us very limited space for transport. So it has to be shared out between the different uses.

Our population and economy continue to grow. We are desperately short of places for our young people to live, so we need more housing and community facilities. That means increased pressure on transport.

### **What can be done?**

Today, there is a real challenge with the amount of traffic on our roads. Most of us walk and find the noise and pollution stressful; some of us are cyclists, or would be if we felt safer; and many of us drive and get frustrated by sitting in traffic jams.

The old policies of giving more space to motor vehicles encouraged people to use those while walking and cycling were squeezed out. If we take action to increase traffic, that is precisely what we will get again: maybe a short term boost in convenience for us as drivers - quickly replaced by increased traffic and jams.

So it makes sense to support active travel, so that those who can walk or cycle feel that is a safe and pleasant choice. Of course, sometimes we all need to use a car or a van. But if, at the margins, more people can make a choice that supports the climate and their own health, then that will lead to less traffic and easier journeys for drivers.

Widcombe Parade is a good example. It used to be a noisy, smelly place to be avoided. But the residents association had the vision to see how it could be improved by sharing space differently, and the council had the vision to support them. People had real, genuine fears that this would ruin businesses and make life impossible for elderly residents; but now most people prefer it and businesses are thriving.

I congratulate all the councillors in the current administration for their bravery in looking beyond short term political gain to act to reduce emissions and support healthier travel choices. I ask the opposition to draw on their best selves and support the long term health of the planet and our people over short term policies that will make traffic worse for everyone.

If we work together, we can make transport work for everyone.

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## **Onkar Saini statement**

Hello, thank you for allowing me to address council this evening...for the sake of full disclosure, I intend to be a candidate for the Liberal Democrats in the upcoming election'

I trust the below does what it needs to do, and will leave it to you to finesse it!

### Community engagement :

One of the major ways a community involves itself in indicating what they want for their area is by expressing a preference at the ballot box. There are also many other ways including everything from joining litter picks, community campaigning and activism, setting up local groups etc, all of which contribute to a vibrant and thriving local area.

But concentrating on the democratic right to vote, two elements are very necessary to ensure this right is protected...a system which allows all those with the right to vote to do so fairly and equally, and an agreement that the data on which they make their voting decisions is rooted in fact, not in disinformation.

Later in the meeting the LibDems are proposing a motion on the introduction of voter ID and outside we saw a demonstration about how iniquitous this proposal is as it clearly discriminates between voters with "acceptable" photo id, and those without. I fully support their stance and will resist most vigorously any attempt to disenfranchise those who are eligible to vote, and regret that those willing people who have manned polling stations up till now will be put in the position of ballot box bouncer "you havent got the right ID, you aren't coming in"

But I'm equally concerned with disinformation.

Everyone has the right to their own opinions, everyone doesnt have the right to their own facts.

Communities must engage with the local government's proper channels to avoid falling victim to false information, primarily through mediums like social media. Unfortunately, we live in a world where social media has become a primary source of information and quickly falls victim to misinformation. More often, these pieces of information come across through unrecognised / non-verified social media handlers, resulting in distress.

We have seen quite a few examples lately and I'd hope that everyone here would agree we want our residents to vote based on facts, not rumours.

And it is more important than ever that local communities find a suitable medium of local information and source to engage with local government so they can rely on the authenticity of any local information and engage effectively to get an accurate response.

As we enter the election period, I'd like to wish all those putting themselves forward for election a good campaign, it takes courage to want to do this and being in the firing line. In the end, the electorate will decide, lets ensure they are enabled to do so by making it as accessible as possible at the ballot box, and by ensuring they can access the right information on which to base their choice.

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## Thankyou Chair

My name is Naomi Johns and I am the Director of West of England Falconry, bird of prey conservation centre and registered Charity.

We moved to Newton St Loe in 2017, subsequently becoming Bath's first licensed zoo, and now manage local conservation projects, support international species protection, have collected 13 tourism awards in 5 years, and continue to grow our online presence on social media and with YouTube micro-documentaries.

I am Pleased to see the Ecological Emergency Action Plan on your agenda today, for what we do aligns closely with it.

Enhancing biodiversity and improving access to nature is core to what we do.

Firstly, we are striving to lead the way for green tourism, with awards for international tourism we are immensely passionate about celebrating the natural environment as heritage.

To conserve a species, or to conserve our environment, we must first be inspired. Our education programme is dedicated to inspiring a passion for conservation – and this inspiration should be available to all of BANES varied community.

Through the close experience of free-flying a bird of prey, or building a wildlife habitat, we are providing nature-based activities for children or those facing daily challenges.

After piloting this work through children's workshops and seeing the valuable impact it brings, we are looking for funding and opportunity to expand our capacity to offer these experiences to disadvantaged groups in the BANES community.

I was pleased to see the improvement of evidence-based monitoring stated as an action priority in the plan.

As predators at the head of their food chains, birds of prey are often keystone species providing vital information about wider ecosystem health.

Working on the Biomagnification Project, we are looking to share research and raise awareness for the chemical health of the environment that is exposed by wild raptors.

Wild bird of prey rehabilitation also enables us to monitor raptor injury cases.

And finally, a collaborative approach is key to our work. For example, with our Nest box breeding programme we are forming working relationships with farmers, landowners, falconers, scientists and conservationists – and without each of these groups working together, the results would not be viable.

We would love to align and collaborate with the Council, local businesses, charities and community organisations to deliver the action plan, and look forward to supporting positive environmental change in the bath and north east somerset area.

With the national outbreak of Avian Influenza and the cost of living crisis affecting the nature of our income, the centre is facing challenging times. But we are looking ahead to the future – to inspire a positive change. Sharing our passion for British wildlife, protecting raptor habitats in the BANES area and inspiring young minds for a future focussed on wider environmental sustainability.

**In Praise of Village Agents**

**Speech for Full Council 16 March 2023 (3mins)**

**The Problem**

As a Lib Dem candidate for Bathavon South, I am privileged to meet residents and understand how I could help as their Councillor. Whilst the image is of bucolic and beautiful villages full of large houses and close communities, I meet people who are struggling which does not fit that picture. These include older people who no longer drive so the threat to rural transport is a real worry. They have become more isolated and lonelier, with families moving away, and they don't know their new neighbours. Or they have never really taken to the internet so can't access information. Or they are on a fixed income and cannot afford the price rises. Or they are struggling to care for partners and need more support. Or they have been hit with bereavement which really impacts their health and wellbeing. Or a combination of several factors.

In the past, these residents would have relied on information from the newspaper, friendly neighbours, the WI, the church, the doctor's surgery and so on. But now many of these traditional supports have disappeared or are less accessible. Covid made this so much worse.

**The Solution**

But help is at hand. The wonderful Village Agents scheme, which has been in the Chew & Somer Valley areas for over a decade, was extended in early 2022, to cover most of rural North East Somerset. Providing a free, confidential and face to face service.

The Village Agents role is to be a "matchmaker" to provide information on a whole range of services. In some cases, specialist advice is needed for housing, finances, carer support, employment or mental health, and an introduction to The Community Wellbeing Hub is best. But alongside those major issues are the important things like finding local cleaners, carers, practical help, volunteers and social clubs. Or setting up new groups because Covid has left many gaps.

People mostly refer themselves after they have heard about the service, or are referred by GPs and others. In recent months there has been a significant increase in calls from people needing financial assistance for food and fuel and claiming benefits.

## **Why It Matters**

From Oct-Dec 2022, 161 clients accessing their services and 70 new referrals made across B&NES, from Bishop Sutton to Batheaston, Combe Down to Midsomer Norton. The demand is growing.

In that period there were over 1,000 contacts with clients, representing nearly 400 hours of work, with 244 onward referrals to other agencies. Village Agents often work with other organisations. This collaborative approach benefits the clients and saves money – one example is a couple with complex life-changing needs which cost the combined services around £900 to deliver and saved the NHS and other statutory services around £95,000.

Run by the West of England Rural Network, there are 9 Village Agents, all working part-time with a project manager. 4 are funded within the HCRG Care Group contract until March 2024. The remaining 5 staff, now covering Peasedown St John, Bathavon North and South, Combe Down and Foxhill were funded by B&NES Public Health and Section 106 money with an end date of December 2023.

## **How B&NES Can Help**

And this is the crux. We can see that this is a valued and growing service, to support, advise and connect an increasing elderly and vulnerable population. It is better to support people in situ rather than leaving them to face a devastating crisis alone. Village Agents can help in the stage before that happens. Therefore, I would ask B&NES to continue funding this valuable service beyond 2023 as one whole service and consider including areas not yet covered, providing much needed equal access for all.

## **Thank you**

Additional extra points -

As a charity WERN has year on year match -funded their Core Contract with money raised from charitable sources and always invested in community development, new groups, wellbeing projects and recovery after Covid lockdowns.

The Village Agent team have always responded to unmet needs:

2020 - provided direct support and funding for a network of community led Mutual Aid groups to ensure local people had what they needed to survive.

2022 - Homes 4 Ukraine - stepped up to help deliver Welfare Checks and support for hosts as guests arrived in B&NES.

2022-23 - Cost of Living crisis- increased capacity and response to the urgent need for support for fuels and food.

2023 - Now in partnership with Age UK - delivering the Community Wellbeing Hub offer to the RUH and Community Hospitals to facilitate shorter hospital stays

## Bob Goodman statement

In the last few years and to fair to Cllr Romero it is mostly in the last 2 years that this administration has shown little or NO respect to residents, they have behaved in a truly despicable way.

Where does one start with what was to be a new dawn ..which has turned into the darkest of all nights.

The giving away in the manner you have of Bathampton Meadows is where it started with the almost give away of the Ransome strip at Bath Cricket club worth I suspect several millions following hot on its heels.

But wait it didn't stop there ...Doing a deal with the Guinness Trust to give them close to half a million and then to let them off a million pound dilapidation liability made no sense at all .. they should have enforced the repairing covenants and social tenants could have remained.

These are just some of the poor financial judgement we have had to accept.

Increasing staff costs by £ 20 m and allowing the millions of pounds of reduction in the commercial income is not something to be proud of, your support to tenants was pitiful during Covid and did little to help our independent shops unless of course you were Jolly's...

The closing of the Fashion Museum is a legacy few would be proud of, and the chances of it reopening in the style that it should is practically nil if this administration was to return, The smoke screen of making Bath the Fashion Capital is fooling no one.

We were promised a listening Council but when residents started to criticise they introduced censorship, with speakers having to submit their speeches and have it altered if they did not agree with what one was saying.

WELL Gary Lineker BANES beat the BBC to censorship how appalling is that. They too had to relent..Democracy must be at the forefront of our lives and it is clear this. Our Cll has failed Time and Time again.

The inept way that Consultations have been adopted is beyond belief. To think it is right to say just because some one has accessed a consultation that it is assumed they support it... shameful doesn't come into it.

This has resulted in a group of residents uniting to Save Bath ..Cllrs these residents aren't right wing or anti Vacers , they are concerned residents and when Cabinet members won't even meet them to discuss the issues it says it all .

How pleasing it was at Monday's Scrutiny panel to finally hear some honesty from 2 Cabinet Members.

Firstly an admission that this Council has not helped the business community enough but secondly to hear the truth that this council have not built 100 or is it 133 social affordable houses... it only 7 and he did inflate the figures by 20 which were not new social units just a refurbishment of Guinness Trust social units. The lies really do have to stop..

At least John Darvall of Radio Bristol now's the truth but I don't expect the leader of the Council will go back on his programme now.

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Council Statement – Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dana Lazarević

Ladies and gentlemen, honourable members of this Council!

Thank you for letting me speak about the most disturbing matter of institutional discrimination which has been an ongoing plague of this society, despite the existence of legislation aimed at addressing the issue. My name is Dr Dragana Lazarevic, I am a naturalised British citizen and a resident of Bath since 2005. By education, I have two Master degrees: in Structural Engineering (University of Belgrade) and Conservation of Historic Buildings (University of Bath). I also hold a PhD in Heritage Studies (Cardiff University). Since my arrival to the United Kingdom, I faced unprecedented level of discrimination when trying to obtain professional work from a range of companies and institutions, including the BANES Council. Never **ONCE** over this long period had I managed to get employment through standard process of application.

In the past I tried to address this issue through various agencies and institutions, but was always met with denial, distrust, a certain dose of hostility and ostracism. When trying to identify what was wrong with my applications or skills, I was patronised and dismissed. One common denominator in all rejections of my applications was that my skills were insufficient and/or that I lack UK experience. Another common denominator was that no highly skilled or professional job was available without possessing an intricate network of important connections. As a foreign-born woman, I did not have any, which meant that despite my high qualifications, I was never given a chance to obtain work in this society without cronyism and nepotism. I have evidence of such practices elsewhere, but for the clarity of this address, I will focus on those exercised by the Council in the past 16 months. Over the period in question, I applied for four roles advertised by the Council for which I was educated or had previous experience, albeit abroad.

After a painful inquiry, the Council admitted that 3 out of 4 roles have been offered to the Internal Candidates, whilst the fourth was given to an external candidate from a different Council. This practice, massively repeated across the job market, puts us, the “aliens” (to use a correct anthropological term) in a severely disadvantaged position and keeps us permanently away from the job market which, so we hear, screams for highly skilled workers. And, yet, available highly-skilled people are constantly denied entry to the job-market because of their background. “Closing doors” to the “aliens” by knowing in advance that jobs will be given to pre-selected persons directly discriminates against highly-skilled individuals actively looking for work. Hiding behind an excuse that it is a legal requirement to advertise jobs “as widely as possible, so the best candidate could be chosen for the role” wastes time and energy of those who remain outside the “chosen” circle. Furthermore, it has a far-reaching damaging impact on individual’s mental health and sense of acceptance by the society.

I am aware that speaking to the Council like this is Don Quixotian fight against the windmills which will probably forever shatter my prospects of obtaining a job in this country. Nevertheless, **I would like to urge the Council to reconsider its practices of pre-meditated**

**employment of people and address the unconscious bias against non-domicile born candidates.** By maintaining current standing, the Council, as well as the society as a whole, denies themselves blue-sky thinking and influx of new ideas.

**What is the percentage of offering jobs to Internal Candidates? What does that percentage indicate in terms of fairness?**

I would also like to point out to another consequence of such practices: **What are the messages which nepotistic recruitment is sending to the younger generation?**

My children, Sophia and Alexander Holms, are both excellent Y5 pupils of Bathwick St Mary's CofE Primary School. They have been born here and half of their heritage is English. As a single mother who has always been driven by desire to learn and achieve more, I am thoroughly concerned that I may not represent the best role-model for them. Whilst I strive to install in them the importance of education and learning, the only message they are currently receiving is that education is not important, since their highly-skilled mother is not even considered for work? **What kind of message my daughter receives if her mother, trained in the field in which the government wants to encourage young women to choose for their careers, is constantly being denied an entry?**

**Is this not a case of gender-discrimination, as well as that of ethnicity?**

After my experience, I am led to believe that this is the case.

To summarize my plea: **Is there a mechanism in the Council which controls that the fairness is exercised during the recruitment process and jobs are indeed offered to the best, rather than pre-selected candidates?**

**Who is monitoring how the jobs are offered?**

**Who is observing that the anti-discriminatory laws are justly applied?**

I would very much appreciate if the Council could provide answers to my questions.

Thank you.



### 3-minute statement by Angela Goldson

In support of [Councillor Joanna Wright's motion](#) to reduce "HGV traffic on narrow, unsuitable roads" on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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In advance of Cllr Wright's motion to reduce "HGV traffic on narrow, unsuitable roads", I'm here to share my experience as a resident of Grosvenor Villas on Claremont Road.

We're exasperated, so please listen. Our road has become an HGV 'rat-run'.

Increasingly, and on a daily basis, we observe:

- Massive vehicles which - when unable to turn the bottom corner into St Saviour's Road - reverse all the way back up the hill to find another route
- Some persist to make the left turn. They mount the pavements and repeatedly hit the metal bollards
- Or, realising the left turn is impossible, they turn right - the wrong way down the one-way street - and drive onto the London Road into on-coming traffic

We have provided over twenty photos and video clips as evidence:

[https://share.icloud.com/photos/0f3WVNR-Rye6\\_Xrx6HBMS0KyQ](https://share.icloud.com/photos/0f3WVNR-Rye6_Xrx6HBMS0KyQ)

Here's an example...

Beaufort Lodge, the Grade 2 listed corner property has had its 8ft wall knocked down twice by HGVs.

- Thankfully, no-one has been injured - yet.
- However, the planning permission repair process was lengthy, and expensive.
- BANES' council have installed bollards, but they're no match for an HGV and have been knocked down 5 times.
- Both corner walls at the junction are now unprotected, as only 2 out of 5 bollards remain

In the meantime - and against our wishes - BANES' officials have unilaterally decided without adequate consultation to forcefully implement a CHICANE-based RPZ on our road. The result will be chaotic traffic flow.

In good faith, we asked to have the RPZ only on the **east** side of Grosvenor Villas - which is how we successfully park at present. This was seen as viable by the council, but later rejected because they would prefer to use **our** cars as a traffic calming measure. With HGVs reversing and weaving around our cars, we will each face thousands of pounds of repairs.

On 7th March, we met on site with council officials and partially mocked-up the proposed chicane model. Everyone - officials included - witnessed driver confusion, an immediate increase in car fumes, and increased difficulty moving in and out of driveways.

We believe that no coherent, integrated business or safety case has been produced or independently reviewed. BANES' officers are implementing a flawed and dangerous solution which has not been systematically thought through.

However, we believe our road can return to being a liveable neighbourhood, if the council:

- A) Stop large HGVs using Claremont Road
- B) LISTEN to us by implementing the RPZ on the residents' side of the road.

## **David Redgewell South west transport Network and Railfuture Severnside**

### **Public statement.**

We are very concerned about the bus service Network.

From April 2023 and June 2023

With the following main line services being withdrawn in the Banes council and south Bristol area .

Service 636 Whitchurch to Keynsham.

516 Whitchurch estate Hengrove hospital Knowle.

To connect with main line 376 Bristol to wells bus and coach station Glastonbury and street through Hengrove ,Whitchurch Pensford, Clutton, Farrington Gurney Chewton Mendip, wells bus and coach station Glastonbury and street.

172 Bath spa bus and coach station Peasdown st john Radstock Westfield Midsomer Norton, Paulton, Clutton Pensford Whitchurch Hengrove Knowle Bristol Temple meads station Bristol bus and coach station.

The 96 St Anne's park Brislington Knowle Hengrove Hartcliffe Hengrove South Bristol hospital also provides a link to the hospital from

A4 Bus service to Keynsham Salford Newbridge Weston and Bath. 349 ,522

39 x39

Service down the A37 from Knowle Hengrove, Whitchurch Pensford Clutton Paulton,Midsomer Norton, Westfield Radstock peasdown st john and Bath spa bus and coach station.

This service along with Keynsham town service 663 ,664 ,665 .

Brislington Town service. 513, 514

Links to the chew valley from Bath all finish on the 3rd of April 2023 .

Service 17 Keynsham town centre railway station Hanham kingswood corsham hospital Hillfield staple hill Fishponds Eastville park Horfield Southmead hospital bus station.

Evening service s withdrawn from to and from Southmead hospital bus station.

Make the link to the main Region hospital very difficult for staff and patients.

349 Bristol bus and coach station Arno vale Brislington, Keynsham ,park estate.

Evening service withdrawn.

The Question is what level of Demand responsive bus services will run from the 3rd April 2023 .

In Keynsham, Whitchurch ,Hengrove

And the chew valley from that date from we DRT and via / E-zec medical services.

That a very important issue for passenger and residential.

The problem is still the shortages of bus drivers But big lemon bus company is helping the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council on this issue.

In june 2023, the following main line Bus service are being withdrawn by the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority due to lack of subsidies from Bristol city council Banes and South Gloucestershire council.

179 Bath spa bus and coach station Timbury Paulton,Midsomer Norton.

672 Bristol city centre Bedminster South Bristol Dundry chew valley Blagdon .

82 Radstock Westfield Midsomer Norton Paulton town service.

768 Bath spa bus and coach station Timbury Paulton, Midsomer Norton Westfield Radstock.

Evening service.

Service 172 Bath spa bus and coach station, Peasdown st john Radstock Westfield, Midsomer Norton, Paulton wells bus and coach station.

The problem that need to be addressed retain theses bus service from june 2023 or school college term ends

And on going funding with Banes council and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority and North Somerset council.

The only new bus services improvement plan service being 522 Bristol bus and coach station Bristol Temple meads Arnos vale Brislington Keynsham marksbury Timbury Paulton,Midsomer Norton Westfield Radstock peasdown st john Bath spa bus and coach station.

The other link Bristol to the chew valley have not been let 527 .

Or wells bus and coach station chew valley link which could run as through service to Bristol city centre via the chew valley.

As a through service.

521 Brislington to Hengrove hospital.

Could replace 96 a bus services Brislington Knowle Hengrove Hartcliffe hospital.

We need to look at bigger vehicles for Demand responsive bus working with local bus companies like big lemon.

CTC coaches Abus citistar and libra travel.

To provide bigger bus for Demand responsive bus services.

With fixed timing points like Wiltshire council between Devize and Pewsey.

The can carry school children like on service 82 Radstock, Westfield, Midsomer Norton Paulton town service.

Libra travel could provide such a s

179 Bath spa bus and coach station to Timbury and Farmborough Paulton,Midsomer Norton. CTC coach a Demand response buses service.

We need to maintain our main line bus service of secondary and main line bus routes after june 2023 with the may elections.

Buses are very important to the community for access to school colleges university, Hospitals, medical facilities shopping and leisure facilities

On Bath spa bus and coach station.

We have Doors not working again to the

Buses railway information displays not working in the bus and coach station.

Broken toilets seats in the disabled toilets, seating is missing from Dorchester street platform area .

The travel centre need bringing back into use Bath bus company Rapt may be interested for their Tourist bus service and Airport flyer service or a Tourist information centre that required in Bath Somerset.

On Tourist the bus and coach station has out of date Tourist posters for Christmas in Bath Somerset.

Bath spa bus and coach station and Transport interchange need investment.

And maintenance the station is only leased by First group plc from the southgate shopping centre company

And Network rail western.

But the land is owned by Banes council.

But public transport infrastructure need transferring to the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority with bus stops and shelters.

We also welcome the half hourly metro west railway service from may 2023 .

Bristol Temple meads station Keynsham oldfield park Bath spa station , Freshford Avoncliff Bradford on Avon ,Trowbridge Westbury. Some services to Frome Dilton

Marsh, warminster and Salisbury.

Bristol Temple meads station, Filton Abbey wood ,Bristol parkway station Yate cam and Dursey and Gloucester central.

Some service to Cheltenham spa Ashchurch and Tewkesbury and Worcester shrubb hill / Forgate street.

Is to be welcomed with new station at Ashley Down under construction and charfield station has planning permission granted.

We must also look at Salford station.

On mass transit system we wish to see the light rail system developed between Bristol, Bristol Temple meads station Arncliffe Brislington Brislington Keynsham Salford Newbridge Weston Bath .

Corridor with the other 3 routes proposed in west of England mayoral combined Authority budget for transport

At the meeting on 17 th March 2023.

We must fund our bus Network past june 2023 .

This need discussion between Banes council and the west of England mayoral combined transport Authority.

## **Statement on the record of this Council's progress tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies**

Thank you Chair. This is the last Full Council meeting before the coming elections in May and I wanted to commend the progress you have made over the last 4 years in all areas of the Council's work, in incredibly challenging times, most especially on the pressing issue of tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies.

I was born and brought up in Bath, I've lived in the City most of my life and I'm active in lots of areas including on the southern slopes which is where I now live, in Southdown ward, but on the boundary with Odd Down & Kingsway and Englishcombe Parish in Bathavon South with Twerton and Whiteway just down the road; All areas of Bath that were completely neglected by previous Tory administrations. All of the Ward Councillors in my area are active in their local communities, supportive and engaging and everything you'd want them to be. Dine Romero and Paul Crossley will definitely be getting my vote in May.

On that point, over the last month, I have been increasingly upset that a right-wing national lobby group has come to Bath to try to create division and spread lies and disinformation I was disappointed but sadly not surprised that the local Tory opposition has jumped on their band-wagon.

The Council has made real progress reducing emissions, improving green infrastructure and helping to restore nature. Including for example doubling renewable energy generation capacity since 2019 with solar panels being installed on homes like mine, as well as businesses and Council owned buildings including schools.

The Council is leading the way, creating the first Clean Air Zone outside London, but accepting that there are issues beyond the Council's direct control, where regional and national action is needed from WECA and the Government, we still aren't on track to deliver net zero or reverse the decline in wildlife by 2030.

Another example, and another controversial issue, is the need to decarbonise transport and reduce the impact of travel on the climate, where again the Council has made progress but more still needs to be done. Road traffic accounts for 29% of carbon emissions and unless there's a rapid shift to more sustainable ways of travel the council won't meet its 2030 net zero target. I walk, cycle, scoot or use the bus, trains or taxis more than I drive. We all need to make big changes and fundamentally rethink how we get around. Liveable Neighbourhoods, more bike parking and storage, active travel schemes, loan bikes and cycle training, more electric vehicle charge points and more e-scooters all help but we all need to do more.

The Tories again, have come out in opposition to so much of this – including the Liveable Neighbourhood trial in Southlands in Weston and the new cycling infrastructure on the Upper Bristol Road. The Council needed to be brave and bold taking action to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, and has been, but much more needs to be done. I hope that Members will support that aim tonight and vote to approve the action update report before you and that you and voters across Bath and North East Somerset will do the same when they vote in May. Thank you.

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## **COUNCIL MEETING 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

### **STATEMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

#### Councillors

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Cllr Samuel | - Farewell statement |
| 2. Cllr Furse  | - Farewell statement |
| 3. Cllr Curran | - Farewell statement |

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS**

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<b>M</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Cllr Kumar</b>
Did the council receive emails from Jinan municipal government multiple times with several reminders and some of which were forwarded by me with a request to at least acknowledge the emails. Did our council reply to the emails? If not, why? Does this bode well for our (Including our county and country's) reputation?			
<b>Answer: Cllr Guy</b>			
The e-mail forwarded by you from the Jinan municipal government made a request of the Mayor of Bath to extend an invitation to visit the city and this has been left to the Mayor's office to respond.			
<b>M</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Cllr David</b>
What is the council doing to respond to WHO Air Quality Guidelines and what steps will the council take to improve air quality monitoring and public access to data?			
<b>Answer: Cllr Rigby</b>			
Whilst the aim has been to achieve compliance with the annual average objective level for of 40 µg/m <sup>3</sup> , the council is fully aware of the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines published in 2021 which propose more ambitious targets for both nitrogen dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ) and particulate matter in recognition of the serious health risk pollution can have upon global health. In the <a href="#">Cabinet Report E3339 Bath Clean Air Plan Annual Report 2021</a> , the council referenced its ambition to create its own reducing target to adhere to these guidelines in future years,			

reinforcing the aspiration that reducing pollution should be an aim in all decision-making. By introducing a local NO<sub>2</sub> objective level for example, where all monitoring locations would aim to achieve an annual average level of at, or below, 36 µg/m<sup>3</sup> by 2025, it demonstrates a will to be aspirational in further protecting public health.

Great strides have been paid in the past 12-months to improve transparency and the public access to data. We monitor air quality using two methods, diffusion tubes for NO<sub>2</sub> and automatic analysers for both NO<sub>2</sub> and particulate matter. All historic data from our diffusion tube sites, dating back from 2017, can be viewed on the following webpage: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/pollution-noise-nuisance/air-quality/air-quality-data-long-term>

All live monitoring data, from our automatic analyser network can be viewed on the following webpage: <https://www.ukairquality.net/> Additionally, all Annual Status Reports can be accessed from the council's website, these include officer interpretation in addition to the monthly raw data sets.

<b>M</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Cllr David</b>
What steps is the council taking to support schools to address air quality including through school transport initiatives as well as monitoring of air quality, and screening from traffic?			
<b>Answer: Cllr Rigby</b>			
<p>Launched in 2019, and refreshed in 2022, the Schools' 'Clean Air Tool Kit' is a resource available to all schools across B&amp;NES to support teachers with lessons and activities targeted to specific age groups in support of the national curriculum.</p> <p>The toolkit includes activities such as monitoring air quality, a guide to setting up a walking bus, bikeability information, leaflets for parents and advice for running an anti-idling campaign. During 2022, schools produced posters which were displayed in the local area to encourage children and their families to walk. This tool kit has been further promoted through school's newsletters at the beginning of 2023, and the school's hub.</p> <p>Additionally, many of the activities contained in the toolkit are approved initiatives under Modeshift STARS, the national schools award scheme that recognises schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting sustainable travel.</p>			

<b>M</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Cllr Walker</b>
<p>With the introduction of payment parking apps within all Councils car parks within Bath;</p> <p>Can you please tell me how we are enabling those people without mobile smart phones or a mobile of any type, to be able to use our city car parks? For one reason or another not all sectors of society have access to / or are able to use a smart phone or mobile device.</p>			
<b>Answer: Cllr Rigby</b>			
<p>All council car parks, with the exception of Broad Street car park in Bath, accept payment of the parking charge in cash. Broad Street car park had its pay and display machine removed a number of years ago as a result of the its foundation causing significant water penetration and damage to adjacent properties along Broad Street. The presence of vaults underneath the surface meant that no alternative location for a machine existed; however, it remains the only car park across the council where MiPermit is the only option.</p> <p>The flexibility provided by the MiPermit app provides the best user experience when paying for parking in our car parks. Recent data published by Ofcom in 2022 shows that 97% of the UK population have access to a mobile phone, with this dropping to 90% for a smartphone. Of course, it's reasonable to expect that this average will vary when looking at individual age groups, and the Ofcom data identifies that for those aged 65 and over the percentages fall 90% and 68% respectively.</p> <p>For the small number of users that don't have access to a mobile phone, it's also possible to use the MiPermit service to pay for parking in advance from a landline or PC/tablet at home. The MiPermit Customer Service team is available Monday to Friday 8am – 6pm, Saturday 8am – 4pm and Sunday from 10am – 4pm, however it should be noted that payment does not reserve a space.</p> <p>There are currently no further plans to remove machines completely from any car parks. The council is reviewing options for replacement pay and display machines across all car parks as part of its forward plan of works and the acceptance of cash is a core requirement of the specification.</p>			

<b>M</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Cllr Pritchard</b>
A letter from Dave Harding and Anna Box sent out to Chew Valley residents specifically says: “The Tories are trying to steal your vote. With their Voter ID law, voters must have photo identification to vote on polling day. To protect your right to vote, vote by post”. Can you please explain how providing Voter ID is an attempt at stealing someone’s vote, when the law in fact is about protecting our democratic process from voter fraud?			
<b>Answer: Cllr Guy</b>			
It is not for Councillors to explain the views of 3 <sup>rd</sup> parties.			
<b>M</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Cllr Brian Simmons</b>
Will the Charlton House beds all be reopened or are you going to wait for it to be closed by CQC?			
<b>Answer: Cllr Born</b>			
<p>The decision to close the beds was taken by the Director of Adult Social Care and not Care Quality Commission (CQC) and CQC have not pursued any action to close the home.</p> <p>The council will make a decision to open the beds at Charlton House once the Director of Adult Social Care is assured the following is in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• decrease in agency staff usage</li> <li>• increase of permanent staff</li> <li>• decrease in safeguarding concerns</li> </ul>			

- permanent senior management in place
- CQC inspection which demonstrates improvement

Use of agency staff at Charlton House is now minimal and has decreased by 75%.

Recruitment of care workers has significantly increased and the home expects to have full complement of permanent care assistant staff in post by April 2023 and recruitment to nursing posts continues and a Deputy Manager post is currently being advertised.

Safeguarding concerns have decreased substantially with 2 referrals since January 2023 which were related to falls.

A new Registered Manager is in place with support of a Senior Clinical Nurse who is seconded from the RUH to improve and maintain good nursing standards for the residents.

CQC are expected to undertake an announced inspection in the next 4 weeks.

<b>M</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Cllr Brian Simmons</b>
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Can you explain why so much money was spent on renewable energy at Charlton House when it was plain to see that the clients' needs have been sacrificed at the altar of Zero-carbon?

**Answer: Cllr Born**

The installation of rooftop solar PV, LED lighting and air source heat pumps was mostly paid for by Government grant (Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme [PSDS]) and was a replacement for the end of life gas heating system. The council provided funding to the level of the cost of replacing the old system (in danger of failing as it was at the end of its life – a prerequisite for eligibility of the PSDS grant). The effect of the installation of rooftop solar PV, LED lighting and air source heat pumps are that the building has greater energy efficiency and marginally lower running costs while decarbonising its heating. The first full year's data suggests an operating cost saving with no gas consumption apart from for cooking. The solar PV generated 61,000kwh of electricity in the first year and the LED lights reduced electricity demand by 26,556kwh.

Just under £15k additional funding was provided from Council's Renewable Energy Development Fund budget which is an 'invest to save' service supported borrowing pot, meaning that expenditure has the effect the lowering of running costs by more than £15k significantly within the lifetime of the solar PV.

In addition to investing in the fabric of the buildings we have also invested significant resources into staffing the CRCs since taking them back in house.

<b>M</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Cllr Karen Warrington</b>
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Can Cllr Guy please furnish us with the criteria he set for the recruit of the new head of the Bath fashion museum? And did that criteria include project management experience and prior successful bid application experience?

**Answer: Cllr Guy**

The process was undertaken in-line with council recruitment process – an open application, widely advertised across national digital channels including Guardian Jobs. The recruitment was led by the Head of Heritage Services against the attached Job Description and Person Specification.

To note that this role will not lead on the fundraising strategy for the project but will work in collaboration with other Heritage Services staff – including the Fundraising, Marketing and Supporter Development Manager and Head of Service – to deliver a successful fundraising campaign for the project.

The strategic direction of the service is agreed as part of the business planning process and then tracked through regular collaboration between portfolio holder and Head of Service. This recruitment was discussed as part of this process as a key strategic step towards delivering the Re-Fashioning Bath project but the recruitment process was owned and led by the Head of Service including drafting of the job description.

<b>M</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Cllr Alan Hale</b>
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Yesterday 'on the knocker' I was reminded by a young woman that I had acted for her and another woman re fireworks and their impact on animals. I had successfully with unanimous voting moved a motion on November 17th 2021 which read;

1. To recommend that all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
2. Actively to promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people in the lead up to relevant celebrations and cultural events through existing council communication channels.
3. To write to the Local Government Association to lobby for a limit to the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.
4. To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock quieter fireworks for public display.

As the assembled council directed the administration to take certain actions, I would like clarification of what has been done on this. Therefore, can I ask what has been achieved on this matter?

**Answer:** Cllr Wood

I can confirm that each of the points raised in the Motion was actioned.

Firstly, a new website was developed that provided advice and guidance to those that hosted events could follow. The site, which can be found at: <http://new-banes-website-dev/find-advice-about-fireworks> included advice which encouraged everyone to consider the whole community when using fireworks. And the purpose of the page was to provide guidance for not only those planning a firework display, and want to minimise any negative impacts on animals or other residents, but also for those who would be concerned about the impact of fireworks.

It contained the following advice:

If you're putting on a display

For safe and considerate use of fireworks, please take the following steps:

- Advertise any fireworks at least a month in advance using local press, social media and your Parish Council
- Consider using fireworks with a lower noise level
- Ring fence the fire in advance to prevent animals from taking shelter



- [Read the RSPCA #bangoutoforder Toolkit](#)

If you're concerned about displays

If you are worried about the impact of firework displays on you, your community, pets or livestock, please consider reading the RSPCA #BangOutOfOrder toolkit and displaying posters in your windows if you have a pet who is vulnerable to the noise.

And included the following resources as we linked with the RSPCA:

- Key facts and statistics to help you with local communications
- Suggested social media copy to raise awareness on the impact of local displays on animals
- Video content to encourage conversation around firework displays
- Downloadable cards and posters for residents to display

In relation to the public awareness campaign, a press release was issued, a copy of which can be found on the Councils Newsroom page here: <https://newsroom.bathnes.gov.uk/news/how-reduce-impact-fireworks-vulnerable-people-and-animals-bonfire-night>

Cllrs wrote a letter to the Local Government Association as requested in October 2022 making them aware of the Motion, and requesting the following:

*“whether you would support a move to lobby for a limit to the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.*

*There was a petition registered with the Government in 2021 which was responded to in November. This received 13,212 signatures, and the response stated that the Office for Product Safety and Standards had also commissioned noise research to test the decibel level of commonly used fireworks. I have requested a copy of the outcome of those tests”.*

Finally, officers of the Trading Standards Team visit premises that sell fireworks to ensure that they adhere to their License conditions. Officers were all briefed about the Motion before the selling season and encouraged purchasers to view our webpage, particularly those that were purchasing fireworks for larger displays”.

<b>M</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Cllr Alan Hale</b>
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If we have identified a risk that requires a ring of steel between 10 and 6, what intelligence information do we have that there is not a risk to our community and visitors from terrorists at 6.15pm or later? If we have no such intelligence, then surely there is a vital need to keep the ring of steel on 24/7.

**Answer: Cllr Manda Rigby**

The roads are part of a package of Traffic Regulation Orders which together strengthen security in the city centre by closing a number of roads with the aim of protecting areas of high footfall from 10am to 6pm from a potential vehicle borne threat, either as a vehicle borne improvised explosive device ("VBIED"), vehicle as a weapon ("VAW") or as part of a layered attack – vehicle transporting attackers and/or weapons sitting alongside our existing and ongoing holistic approach to preventing a terrorist attack and, whilst Counter-Terrorism Advisors at the recent York Street Public Inquiry stated their preference would be 24/7, they did recognise the Council's response as proportionate to the current threat level. There are agreed processes in place should the threat level change.

Outside the 10am to 6pm period the city centre is less busy, however, it should be noted that there are still security measures in place which mitigates the affects of an terror incident, including Counter-Terrorism training for council officers and businesses with proactive CCTV monitoring.

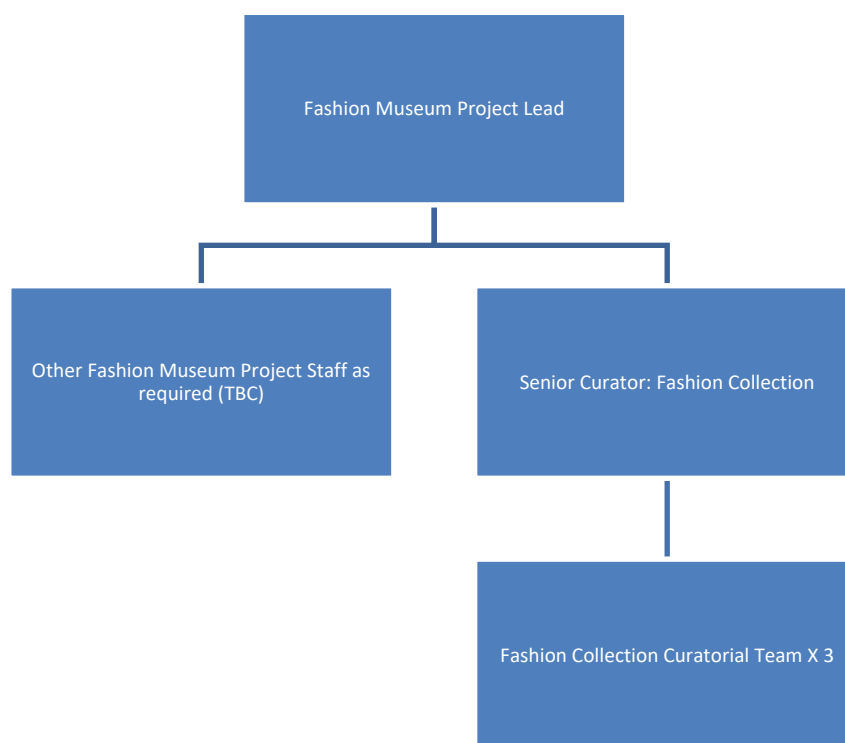
## BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL - JOB DESCRIPTION



<b>DIRECTORATE</b>	<b>Sustainable Communities</b>	<b>POST NO:</b>
<b>POST TITLE</b>	<b>Re-Fashioning Bath Project Lead - Heritage Services</b>	<b>GRADE: 12</b>

**RESPONSIBLE TO:** Head of Heritage Services

**REPORTING TO THIS POST:** External consultants, temporary staff and internal staff.



### 1. PURPOSE OF JOB

The primary purpose of this post is:

- To lead and take responsibility for the delivery of the Re-Fashioning Bath project and workstreams through the project life (see here for more information: <https://www.fashionmuseum.co.uk/our-future> )
- As the Project Lead you will lead on, develop and be responsible for the execution of the project delivery plan for this major £34m project.

- To act as a lead officer, commissioning and overseeing delivery of a diverse range of workstreams within the overall project. This will involve forming, leading and co-ordinating relevant strategies and action plans and engaging with professionals across multiple disciplines to realise the Re-Fashioning Bath project in line with the Vision & Values, Strategy, Policy, and other objectives of the Council and Heritage Services.
- The work involves significant forward planning over the project timescale and includes establishing priorities across a range of business areas to realise the project. These will include: feasibility and design, museum interpretation, collections management, community engagement, construction, press and marketing, stakeholder management.
- With the Head of Heritage Services the post holder will be responsible for procuring and managing multi-disciplinary teams which may comprise internal B&NES staff and external consultants on this complex project within Bath and North East Somerset.
- With Senior Managers in Heritage Services, you will contribute to the general management, development and review of the project team both in terms of services provided and staff.
- Work with the Head of Heritage Services and Service Fundraising team staff to manage the key funders for the project.

The Council has a set of Corporate values (Bold, Empowered, Supportive and Transparent) which underpin everything we do and all of our staff are expected to behave in a way that aligns with our values, please see Section 3 for further information.

## **2. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES**

1. With the Head of Heritage Service, participate in the formulation of programmes and complex projects, from inception to operation.
2. With the Head of Heritage Services ensure the effective and efficient implementation of Council policies and strategies and the achievement of the Council's objectives, including financial ones.
3. To assist in ensuring the Team's services are responsive to community needs and that equal opportunity and health and safety issues are identified and addressed effectively.
4. To assist in ensuring effective external and internal working relationships are established and maintained with partners, organisations and agencies relevant to the work of the team.
5. Lead positive conversations with our communities and residents through engagement and consultation to ensure the project and its associated programmes meet or exceed local expectations.
6. To ensure effective and accessible communication with staff, service users, internal clients, the general public and others as appropriate

## **Service Delivery**

1. To identify, plan, initiate and lead the strategically important Re-Fashioning Bath project which is essential to realising the Council's social, economic and financial ambitions.

2. To take the lead in acting as the intelligent client to internal, external and consultant teams and be directly accountable for the project and their budgets within Heritage Services and the Major Capital Project governance structure established to oversee the project.
3. Client management of a capital project with individual project value of £34m capital value.
4. To procure and appoint all consultants and contractors and ensure compliance with public procurement practice and the council's contract standing orders. This may include: architect, quantity surveyors, M&E engineers, Structural engineers, museum designers and other specialist museum contractors
5. To negotiate and agree contract variations and final accounts within agreed delegated authority to ensure best value.
6. To co-ordinate project deadlines and budgetary restrictions to ensure projects are delivered on time and without overspend.
7. To ensure that projects are controlled and reported in accordance with the Council's Project Management Systems with monthly reporting on programmes, budgets, risks and resources, including reporting to external funding bodies (WECA, Grant Giving Bodies etc).
8. To develop and maintain productive working relationships with local, sub-regional and regional partners and, in particular, the West of England Combined Authority, Bath Spa University, Bath College, major grant giving bodies such as NHLF, DCMS, Arts Council England, corporate partners and major individual givers.
9. To prepare reports, briefing papers and presentations for senior Council management and elected members and deliver presentations or briefings, where required. This will include awareness of and adherence to prescribed financial policies and regulatory frameworks.
10. Support the Council commitment to zero carbon by 2030, providing technical input to commission programmes and projects that achieve this aim. Provide leadership in delivering the most sustainable outcomes through the interventions
11. Work to identify site specific constraints and work across the Council and relevant Agencies to resolve, overcome and effectively unlock the prescribed development sites and their potential.
12. To undertake research in order to contribute to the effectiveness of policy and project development including maintaining up to date information about development in the Museums and Heritage Sector.
13. To provide innovation, ideas and best practice in project planning, management and delivery to ensure this project can be successfully developed and delivered.
14. To develop and maintain financial models and development appraisals, including up to date financial data for development projects.
15. To effectively manage budgets relating to the project in line with funding obligations

16. To work with Heritage Service's Fundraising, Marketing and Supporter Development team to identify new and additional sources of funding, apply for funding where appropriate and manage such funding in line with the funders' requirements. To work with others to maintain an excellent working relationship with funders so they support the direction and delivery of the project.

## **Management**

1. Deputise for the Head of Heritage Services, where required and take action for and on behalf of Head of Service on matters relating to the project as directed.
2. Take action for and on behalf of the Head of Heritage Services in all matters relating to ongoing client management of the capital project and its associated programs.
3. With the Head of Heritage Services provide leadership on delivery of the project through coordination of staff internally, diverse groups of stakeholders, including external funders and supporters, and multi-disciplinary teams.
4. To ensure that effective Health & Safety procedures are agreed and put into operation and that equality of opportunity exists for all service users and staff.
5. To ensure the project team is motivated, engaged and have tailored development plans in place
6. Deliver on Heritage Service's commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in relation to team management and the overall delivery of the project

## **Working in a team**

- With the Service management team participate in the formulation of detailed Team objectives and policies.
- Ensure the effective and efficient implementation of Council policies as relevant to the role and the achievement of the Council's objectives, including the financial ones.
- To hand the project over to the Heritage Services Operational teams at project conclusion in as efficient and effective way as possible.

## **Service Development and/or Delivery**




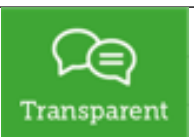
- Work very closely with others in the Council to share information and ideas, and promote a consistent, organisational wide approach to policy and practice.
- The post holder will work with and across both internal and external teams, ensuring that effective working relationships are established and maintained.
- Keep up to date with external developments in practice to inform changes in project development and delivery.

## **Other**

- Adopt a proactive approach to developing and maintaining excellent relationships and communication channels with a wide range of contacts including managers, external clients and suppliers, staff and employee representatives.

- Represent the Head of Heritage Services as required, including attendance at internal and external meetings.
- Participate in project activity and lead on specific projects or pieces of work on behalf of the Head of Heritage Services, taking responsibility for the achievement of outcomes within required timescales.
- Ensure conformance to equal opportunity and data protection policies

### 3. VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS FRAMEWORK: **Improving People's Lives**

	<p>We are <b>bold</b> in our approach, set aspirational goals for ourselves and create innovative solutions to tackle problems and adapt to changing circumstances. This value demonstrates that we are proactive, take action and deliver outcomes which improve people's lives.</p>
	<p>We <b>empower</b> our staff and the people of Bath and North East Somerset so that they have the confidence and ability to find solutions for themselves and others. This value demonstrates how we develop our staff so that they are knowledgeable, are trusted to make decisions, able to challenge us and have the authority to be enablers.</p>
	<p>We are <b>supportive</b> and work together to build trusting relationships. Our staff give help and encouragement to the people of Bath and North East Somerset and each other. This value describes how we are curious, collaborative and care for each other, our residents and the environment.</p>
	<p>We are <b>transparent</b>, honest and accountable. This value demonstrates that we act with integrity, are open to criticism, are honest about our mistakes and want to improve and do better so that we deliver on our promises.</p>

These Values are underpinned by a set of behaviours for all staff, managers, and leaders. These Values and Behaviours are used to support and inform our recruitment decisions, staff development and organisational behaviour.

#### 4. DIMENSIONS

1. Number of staff directly managed: The postholder will manage staff appointed to work on the projects in relation to staff workloads and the day to day operation of the projects. It will also be necessary, according to the the stage of development, and the nature of project to work closely with other individuals and teams within both the council and other partner organisations to ensure successful project delivery. The postholder will also at times be expected to act for and on behalf of the Head of Heritage Services in the coordination of staff.
2. Number of staff in Project team: Approx. 9
3. Section budget of: Approx. £34m.
4. The delivery of Development Projects up to £34m in value.

5. Financial approval/sign off up to a limit of: £50,000

## **5. PHYSICAL EFFORT AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

1. There is not physical effort or strain required in excess of work in a normal day to day office environment
2. The nature of the project and programmes will require the postholder to visit project and sites within B&NES as required through the various stages of the Project Execution Plans

## **6. GENERAL**

Undertake such other duties and responsibilities as are specified by the Director of Service and are commensurate with the level of the post.

This job description is not a complete list of duties, but gives a general indication of the range of work undertaken. It will vary over time as demands and priorities change. The team structures within the **service** operate with a high degree of collaboration and flexibility, individual service portfolios may therefore change over time and post holders are expected to undertake any other duties commensurate with the general level of responsibility of the post.



<b>6. PERSON SPECIFICATION</b>			
<b>POST TITLE</b>		<b>Fashion Museum Project Lead</b>	
<b>QUALIFICATIONS:</b>		<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Educated to degree level, and/or with a relevant qualification (such as project management) or with equivalent experience in a relevant field.		<b>X</b>	
<b>PERSONAL QUALITIES</b>			
Highly effective, strategic thinker and development focused leader, who is a strong team player with a collaborative working style		<b>X</b>	
Adaptable, responsive to new demands and able to work well against a background of change and uncertainty whilst understanding and modelling our service and corporate values.		<b>X</b>	
Self-motivated and proactive, with the ability to think creatively and identify development opportunities and continuing ways of improvement		<b>X</b>	
<b>KNOWLEDGE &amp; EXPERIENCE</b>			
Significant post qualification experience of delivering high profile, large, complex, multi-stakeholder projects with proven project and programme management skills and specific experience of overseeing the delivery of Museum and Heritage projects including exhibition design, interpretation, object conservation and display, community engagement and digital engagement via social media and the web. Also the procurement and management of capital works contractors such as architects, quantity surveyors, M&E engineers and principal contractors.		<b>X</b>	
Significant experience of managing large project budgets of at least 7 figures.		<b>X</b>	
Sound commercial management skills and understanding of the commercial operation of visitor attractions		<b>X</b>	
Ability to demonstrate a commitment to and understanding of equality issues		<b>X</b>	
Commitment to the role that dress and fashion plays in society and a passion for using it to help people understand themselves and the world around them.		<b>X</b>	
<b>SKILLS &amp; ABILITIES</b>			
Able to demonstrate successful track record in developing partnerships, working collaboratively, maintaining excellent working relationships with project stakeholders such as external bodies, funders, local community, senior officers and elected officials with proven negotiation and influencing skills.		<b>X</b>	

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