

Cabinet

Date: Thursday, 9th March, 2023

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

Agenda

To: All Members of the Cabinet

Councillor Kevin Guy (Leader of the Council, Liberal Democrat Group Leader), Councillor Tim Ball (Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing), Councillor Alison Born (Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Council House Building), Councillor Tom Davies (Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Council House Building), Councillor Manda Rigby (Cabinet Member for Transport), Councillor Dine Romero (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities), Councillor Mark Roper (Cabinet member for Economic Development, Regeneration & Growth), Councillor Richard Samuel (Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources), Councillor Sarah Warren (Deputy Council Leader (statutory) and Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel) and Councillor David Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services)

Chief Executive and other appropriate officers
Press and Public

The agenda is set out overleaf.



Marie Todd

Democratic Services

Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG

Telephone: 01225 394414

Web-site - <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk>

E-mail: Democratic_Services@bathnes.gov.uk

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 www.bathnes.gov.uk/webcast. 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.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

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

5. **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

When the continuous alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building by one of the designated exits and proceed to the named assembly point. The designated exits are signposted. Arrangements are in place for the safe evacuation of disabled people.

6. **Supplementary information for meetings**

Additional information and Protocols and procedures relating to meetings

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Cabinet - Thursday, 9th March, 2023

in the Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

A G E N D A

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Democratic Services Officer will read out the emergency evacuation procedure as set out in the notes.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

- (a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.
- (b) The nature of their interest.
- (c) Whether their interest is **a disclosable pecuniary interest** or an **other interest**,
(as defined in Part 4.4 Appendix 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.

5. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

6. QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

Questions submitted before the deadline will receive a reply from an appropriate Cabinet member or an undertaking to respond within 5 working days of the meeting. Councillors may ask one supplementary question for each question they submit, up to a maximum of two per Councillor.

7. STATEMENTS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Councillors and members of the public may register their intention to make a statement if they notify the subject matter of their statement before the deadline. Statements are limited to 3 minutes each. The speaker may then be asked by Cabinet members to answer factual questions arising out of their statement.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING - 9TH FEBRUARY 2023 (Pages 7 - 18)

To be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

9. CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

This is a standard agenda item, to cover any reports originally placed on the Weekly List for single Member decision making, which have subsequently been the subject of a Cabinet Member requisition to the full Cabinet, under the Council's procedural rules.

10. MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

This is a standing agenda item (Constitution rule 3.3.14) for matters referred by Policy Development and Scrutiny bodies. The Chair of the relevant Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel will have the right to attend and to introduce the Panel's recommendations to Cabinet.

11. SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING (Pages 19 - 24)

To note the list of Cabinet Single Member decisions taken and published since the last Cabinet meeting (no debate).

12. OPTIONS FOR BUS FRANCHISING IN THE WEST OF ENGLAND (Pages 25 - 30)

The report proposes that a review is undertaken by the West of England Combined Authority (as the Local Transport Authority) to thoroughly consider the opportunity offered by franchising to improve the public transport offer within the West of England.

13. CLIMATE ANNUAL REPORT AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (Pages 31 - 126)

Cabinet is asked to note the positive progress and achievements over the last year on implementation of the Council's Climate Strategy. Members are also asked to approve the Climate Annual Report and the new Ecological Emergency Action Plan, before submission of the report package to full Council on 16 March 2023.

14. JOINT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN (Pages 127 - 152)

The report sets out the current position on the Council's draft Joint Community Safety Plan for consideration and feedback.

15. HERITAGE SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN 2023-2028 (Pages 153 - 184)

The report introduces the Heritage Services Business Plan for approval. The Plan sets out the strategy to rebuild visitor numbers and financial performance on a sustainable basis, whilst maintaining the high standards of visitor experience conservation and presentation that underpin commercial success.

16. QUARTER 3 CORPORATE STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23 (Pages 185 - 198)

The report updates Cabinet on the progress made against a key set of strategic performance measures which assess progress on delivering the Corporate Strategy and key aspects of service delivery.

17. MILSOM QUARTER UPDATE (Pages 199 - 206)

The report raises two issues regarding the Milsom Quarter Masterplan delivery – the King Edwards School Building and the Old Post Office meanwhile uses.

18. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Cabinet is asked to consider passing the following resolution:

“The Cabinet having been satisfied that the public interest would be better served by not disclosing relevant information, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, RESOLVES that the public shall be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business and the reporting of the meeting be prevented under Section 100A(5A), because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended.”

19. MILSOM QUARTER UPDATE APPENDIX 1 - KING EDWARDS SCHOOL INTERVENTION OPTIONS REPORT (Pages 207 - 276)

The Democratic Services Officer for this meeting is Marie Todd who can be contacted on 01225 394414.

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BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

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

Thursday, 9th February, 2023

Present:

Councillor Kevin Guy (Ch)	Leader of the Council, Liberal Democrat Group Leader
Councillor Tim Ball	Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing
Councillor Alison Born	Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Council House Building
Councillor Tom Davies	Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Council House Building
Councillor Manda Rigby	Cabinet Member for Transport
Councillor Dine Romero	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities
Councillor Richard Samuel	Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Sarah Warren	Deputy Council Leader (statutory) and Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel

52 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Cllr Kevin Guy, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

53 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Senior Democratic Services Officer read out the emergency evacuation procedure.

54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mark Roper and Dave Wood.

55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair stated that as a Council Tax payer he wished to declare an interest in item 12 (Budget and Council Tax 2023/24 and Financial Outlook), on behalf of himself and all Cabinet Members paying Council Tax, Business Rates or in receipt of Council services and sought a dispensation from the Monitoring Officer to enable Members present to participate in the debate and vote on the item.

Cllr Tim Ball declared that a family member is in receipt of enhanced children's services.

Cllr Sarah Warren declared that a family member has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed that he would grant the required dispensation.

A copy of the general dispensation is attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

56 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

The Leader thanked Cllr Samuel and all the officers who had worked on the budget this year for their hard work to balance the books. He also thanked the Christmas Market Team for the work they had undertaken to stage the Christmas Market last year. The market was one of the most successful ever and has generated a great deal of money to the city. 37% of people stayed for an average of 2.4 nights which was advantageous to the local hospitality industry.

The Leader also highlighted the fact that WECA (the West of England Combined Authority) is responsible for bus services in the area. He informed members that he has called on the West of England Metro Mayor to urgently provide more details about his planned “demand-responsive transport (DRT)” scheme. He is also asking the Mayor to confirm that he will use some of the £50m he has to spend on buses to provide services in the Midsomer Norton, Radstock, Paulton and Chew Valley areas.

57 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 27 questions from Councillors and 27 questions from members of the public.

Cllr Eleanor Jackson asked two supplementary questions relating to questions M1 and M2.

[Copies of the questions and responses, including supplementary questions and responses if any, have been placed on the Minute book as Appendix 2 and are available on the Council's website.]

58 STATEMENTS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Members of the public and Councillors made statements as follows:

- Guy Hodgson – Petition calling for the provision of a safe crossing for St Mary's Primary School, the RUH and the 103 Childcare Centre at the Weston

Hub (Penn Hill Road, Weston). The petition has been signed by 421 people. *(A copy of the statement is attached as Appendix 3 to these minutes).*

- Jackie Head – Public Transport Services in the Chew Valley *(a copy of which is attached as Appendix 4 to these minutes).*
- Ian Downey – Proposed cuts to bus services in the Chew Valley *(a copy of which is attached as Appendix 5 to these minutes).*
- Cllr Shaun Stephenson-McGall – Bus Services through Timsbury *(a copy of which is attached as Appendix 6 to these minutes).*
- Anna Box – More funding for rural roads in village centres to improve safety *(a copy of which is attached as Appendix 7 to these minutes).*
- Bob Goodman – Continued demise of the City and funding of Remembrance Events in Bath *(a copy of which is attached as Appendix 8 to these minutes).*
- Cllr Paul May – Council Budget 2023/24 *(a copy of which is attached as Appendix 9 to these minutes).*
- Cllr Eleanor Jackson – Provision of RE in Bath and SACRE budget *(a copy of which is attached as Appendix 10 to these minutes).*

Cabinet members asked some factual questions of the speakers in order to clarify details mentioned in their statements.

59 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

60 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

There were none.

61 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

Cabinet considered the feedback on the budget proposals from the Corporate PDS Panel.

RESOLVED: To note the summary of the Corporate PDS Panel meeting held on 23 January 2023.

62 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

63 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS – APRIL TO DECEMBER 2022

Cllr Richard Samuel introduced the report, moved the officer recommendations and made the following statement:

“I gave a commitment at the start of this administration that the council would spend within its means each year. What that meant was delivering planned savings and efficiencies each year, properly budgeting for major projects, and most importantly bringing the council’s budget in on target each year. In normal times that would have been a challenging aspiration but when a global pandemic from 2020 to 2021, a European war in Ukraine, and the ineptness of the Government in creating runaway inflation are factored in it has become even tougher. From 2019 to 2022 this administration has kept to spending plans and not allowed expenditure to exceed income and thereby ensured that scarce council reserves were not used to balance the books. When I reported on Quarter 2 it looked as if we might miss our target this financial year. High energy costs and profiteering by the energy companies together with interest rate rises alongside other inflation meant that suddenly the council was faced with huge additional costs in year. However, this was compounded by substantial rises in Children’s safeguarding presentations and provider costs to the extent that this threatened to blow the council’s entire budget off course.

However, I am pleased to note that the situation at the end of Quarter 3 has dramatically improved so that an overspend of £1.5m is now projected and I am confident this will further reduce by the year although I do not expect the budget to be in credit at year end.

At this point I must place my thanks to the Chief Executive and the Management team for their efforts in tackling the Quarter 2 position and reversing the serious position that was recorded then. Their efforts have led to the improved forecast and demonstrate the benefit of reporting financial performance in public.

I will not repeat the detail of the individual movements in the report they are there for the cabinet to see. I will however highlight the need for the council to closely examine and review the demands on children’s social services which are in danger of outstripping this authority’s ability to pay. This is a national problem affecting all upper tier councils and I am sorry to say that our so-called government has only partially taken notice of the pleas from the sector to address the huge funding shortfall which was noted by the LGA to fail to address the estimated 1.5bn shortfall nationally simply to keep pace with inflation.

In B&NES have asked the management team to begin work urgently to examine how we can better control costs and begin to return to the provision of early years services as a key preventative measure. This will take up much of the next administration’s time and energy but is crucial as the overruns in children’s services are now an existential threat to the council’s financial stability.”

Cllr Warren seconded the motion and thanked officers for their hard work in producing this report.

RESOLVED: (unanimously):

7.1 To note the 2022/23 revenue budget position as at the end of December 2022.

7.2 To note the revenue virements listed in Appendix 3(i) of the report.

7.3 To note the capital year-end forecast detailed in paragraph 3.25 of the report.

7.4 To note the changes in the capital programme including capital schemes that have been agreed for full approval under delegation listed in Appendix 4(i) of the report.

64 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2023/24 AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Cllr Richard Samuel introduced the report and made the following statement:

“I want to start by paying tribute to the council staff who have worked with me to pull this budget together in the most challenging circumstances. From the Chief Executive to Andy Rothery – the chief Financial Officer and his staff, in particular Gary Adams, Giles Oliver and Paul Webb but also to the finance staff in departments who have pulled together the numbers as we progressed.

When we began work last summer none of could have known what was in store. At that point inflation was looking like it would rise, but interest rates were still low although the storm clouds were gathering over the rapidly escalating cost of energy. What we could never have anticipated was that a new prime minister and her trainee chancellor were about to trash the economy by advancing unfunded tax cuts thereby leading to higher taxes, higher interest rates and a collapse in market confidence in government bonds. Just as with Black Wednesday in 1993 the Conservative Party threw away its already tenuous claim to be the party of fiscal responsibility.

These unexpected and unnecessary costs have hit the council hard as they have every household and business in the country adding millions to our running costs.

Fortunately, due to the tight fiscal control we have maintained over the past four years we have found ourselves in a sufficiently resilient position to be able to protect our front line services that are some important to residents, and continue to invest in high priorities for residents such as our clean and green campaign, and our highway and transport programmes as well as continuing the momentum to build council housing for the first time in a generation. A wide range of initiative across Bath and North East Somerset will benefit those areas and continue the drive towards net zero.

In total savings of £14m have been made to balance the books and maintain our drive to improve our area.

At this point it is worth commenting on the support the council receives from the government. As recently as 2013 we were receiving around £30m on support grant and this enabled the council to provide a range of valued services to residents. That

has been chipped away by the government to the point that this year we received £800k. It is not unreasonable to say that the Conservative government has removed nearly £300m from B&NES residents in the past 10 years and made the council make up the difference by raising council tax and making local taxpayers pay more to the cost of social care through the social care levy.

We have decided that to avoid any more cuts council tax does unfortunately have to rise but only by 2.99% not 4.99% as stated by the local media today. In addition, there will be a social care levy of 2% which will go directly towards the funding of services for elderly and vulnerable adults in our community.

Finally, additional funds have been set aside to cushion the impact on poorer households by changes to the council tax support scheme and the welfare assistance programme.

Our budget confirms that the council is a financially sound organisation that is well run and places resources where they are needed in the communities we serve. It is a sound budget prepared in the most testing of times and it will provide a solid foundation for the next council administration for the next four years."

Cllr Samuel then moved the recommendations set out in the report together with those in the supplementary paper.

Cllr Sarah Warren seconded the motion and made the following statement:

"I want to thank Cllr Samuel, Chief Finance Officer Andy Rothery, and the rest of the team for the incredible job they have done finding a way to balance a budget for next year that continues to reflect the administration's priorities, despite the enormous pressures of rampant inflation combined with reduced support from the Conservative government, at a time of ever-increasing demands due to widening income inequalities.

I read recently that although the UK is one of the richest nations in Europe, those in the UK on the lowest 10% of incomes are now poorer than the equivalent lowest income decile in most countries across the rest of Europe. That is a shocking indictment of our government and its misplaced priorities, and it is this appalling increase in poverty that increases demands on our council's budget across Adults' and Children's Social Care. Alongside that, central government has imposed an increase in regressive council tax, but I am pleased to note that in Bath and North East Somerset we aim to mitigate the effects through changes to our Local Council Tax Support scheme.

I want to note how pleased I am that we have found an additional £280,000 (or a 36% increase) for supported bus services, to ease the transition to the West of England Combined Authority's new Demand Responsive Transport services that will run across North East Somerset from April. This brings B&NES' budget for supported bus services next year to about £1m.

I would like to reiterate my plea to the WECA Mayor to end residents' suspense and anxiety by announcing that he will indeed spend some of his £50 million Bus Service Improvement Plan fund for new bus services on all five of the routes his officers advised him to procure in North East Somerset, because the uncertainty and anxiety he is currently causing residents is unfair. They are being forced to take important life

decisions without knowing what public transport provision they will have access to in a couple of months' time and that is not acceptable.

I would also like to note briefly how pleased I am that the budget for our liveable neighbourhoods schemes has been maintained. These schemes will bring forward improvements to neighbourhoods which aim to make residential spaces nicer for all residents to walk, wheel and spend time in.

Cllr Manda Rigby made the following statement:

"I'd like to add my thanks to Richard and his officers, this has been a very hard budget, and it is to their credit that we have in front of us a budget which is balanced, whilst protecting front line services.

Particularly in my portfolio I am delighted that we are investing in our highways infrastructure to benefit car drivers, cyclists, pedestrians, all users. The network is an evolving organism, needing both maintenance funding and additional engineering works to make it fit for purpose.

We have a one off, extra, million-pound investment to look at the long list of transport improvement fund requests. A lot of funding for transport programmes comes externally and with many conditions attached. There are some schemes which would never score highly under these circumstances, but which a local community needs, and we now have some money to progress these, and I am delighted."

Cllr Dine Romero made the following statement:

"Often those outside councils assume that the extra spend in children services is the result of a gold-plated service. Our service is not gold plated, although it was recognised last February by Ofsted as good. This judgement was a just reward for the efforts of everyone in the Children and Young People (CYP) service particularly over the past extraordinary years.

CYP budgets across the country are under huge pressure due to increased numbers coming into care including increased numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, our own numbers have gone up by 30% over the last 5 years, plus the consequences of covid including increases in numbers needing mental health support, as well as an underlying trend of more children requiring complex needs to be met. Across the country there is a social care workforce crisis which we in B&NES are not immune from and so we are more dependent on agency staff than we would like to be.

I know we would like to see more of the non-statutory services for CYP such as youth provision, alternative options in education, a greater focus on early help, and I am hopeful that future appropriate investment will finally turn the tide on ever increasing revenue spending, for example if we have funding through the Department for Education for a new Advanced Placement school on one site, at Culverhay, this will help reduce spend on Home to School Transport. Again, at Culverhay, if we can resolve the capital funding dilemma for Bath College we should be able to provide vocational opportunities on site for 14-19 year olds, this is also an indicator of the way of working in the future, through partnerships. And I would like to give credit to the various partners we work with, from individual artists to the police, St John's, & Curo, & YCSW and Bath BID, and SCP, and Bath Mind, all of whom are

putting addressing inequalities at the heart of the work they are doing. So much inequality stems from unequal chances at an early age, so that joint focus will make a difference in time.

As was observed by Cllr Samuel it has not been easy to reconcile the budget for CYP and I would like to express my thanks to all those in this service, especially Mandy Bishop, Mary Kearney-Knowles and Chris Wilford, as well as Cllr Samuel and Andy Rothery, for their efforts and commitment to meeting the challenge.”

Cllr Tim Ball made the following statement:

“In this budget we have to be prudent ensuring that we also protect frontline services that our residents need.

We are still suffering from the effects of the covid pandemic. But despite this we have rebuilt many services cut by the previous administration who put a huge financial bill on the council paying redundancy costs we never needed to have.

In the last few years, we have delivered much, and a lot of this administration’s manifesto promises have come through the planning system, enabling delivery of our green credentials through the local plan partial update.

We have protected the planning budget in order for us to be able to deliver a full new local plan by 2025 bringing forward even more environmental improvements that our residents are demanding.

No one is pretending that this will be easy, but it’s something we must deal with at the council, and we need to ensure the finances are in place to make it happen.

I shall be supporting the budget this evening.”

Cllr Alison Born made the following statement:

“Social care services rely on a skilled workforce being available to provide quality services so the current skills shortages and the cost-of-living crisis are presenting many challenges to the delivery of social care.

Our social care grant has increased this year and all of that new funding has been allocated to children’s services where the pressures are even greater than in adult social care. There are also some welcome increases in other small grants, but they are no match for the cost pressures within the system and the reductions in funding over the past decade or so.

We therefore have no choice but to apply the permitted local precept for adult social care as that helps to provide the funding we need to maintain services, to invest in our staff and to meet the increasingly complex needs of many of our clients.

We will continue to seek to improve access to services, to support vulnerable people and to realise further efficiencies through our transformation agenda.

This budget enables us to meet these objectives in 203/24 but we expect demand for services and the pressures on the system to continue and are likely to need additional funding in future years.”

Cllr Tom Davies made the following statement:

"I echo your comments, quite rightly, in the huge thanks and praise I would pass to our colleague, Cllr Samuel, The Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and their teams for the herculean effort they have undertaken over the last few months in preparing this budget.

At times the challenge of the pressures faced on the Council's resources - be it through service demands, inflationary pressures, or woefully inadequate central government support - appeared to be insurmountable. To you all I say a huge thank you for navigating the Council safely through this period and to the stage we are at tonight.

And at this point I will focus on my portfolio - that of Housing and in particular Council House building. For despite all the pressures noted in the report - this budget reaffirms our commitments to our key promises - in the case of my portfolio - to build the first Council houses in a generation and to expand still further the support we provide to some of the most vulnerable in our society."

RESOLVED (unanimously):

(1) To recommend Council to approve:

- a) The General Fund net revenue budget for 2023/24 of **£131.03m** and the individual service cash limits for 2023/24 as outlined in Annex 1 of the report.
- b) The savings and income plans outlined in Annex 2(i), funding requirements 2(ii), in conjunction with the Equalities Impact Assessment Report in Annex 3 of the report.
- c) An increase in Council Tax of 2.99% in 2023/24 (an increase of £47.10 per Band D property or 91p per week).
- d) An increase of 2% to Council Tax for the Adult Social Care Precept in recognition of the current demands and financial pressures on this service. This is equivalent to an increase of £31.50 on a Band D property (61p per week).
- e) The movement in reserves outlined in section 5.6 and the adequacy of Un-earmarked Reserves at £12.58m within a risk assessed range requirement of £11.6m - £12.8m.
- f) To note the Children's Services management plan set out in section 5.2.7 of the report.
- g) The Efficiency Strategy attached at Annex 4 of the report.
- h) The Capital Programme for 2023/24 of £87.89m including new and emerging capital bids outlined in Annex 5(i), planned sources of funding in 5.8.2, and notes the programme for 2024/25 to 2027/28 and that any wholly funded projects coming forward during the year will be added to the Capital Programme in line with the Budget Management Scheme.

- i) The delegation of implementation, subject to consultation where appropriate, of the capital programmes set out in Annex 5(i) to Annex 5(iv) of the report to the relevant Director in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder.
 - j) The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocations and amendments outlined in Annex 5(v) of the report.
 - k) The Capital & Investment Strategy attached at Annex 6 of the report.
 - l) The MRP Policy attached at Annex 7 of the report.
 - m) The Capital Prudential Indicators outlined in 5.8.6.
 - n) The Annual Pay Policy Statement at Annex 8 of the report.
 - o) The Community Contribution Fund pilot 12-month extension outlined section 5.5.
 - p) The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 shown in the following link: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/Proposed%20Council%20Tax%20reduction%20scheme%20April%201%202023%20-%20March%2031%202024.pdf> and referred to in 5.3.5
 - q) To approve the Fees and Charges schedule for 2023/24 at Annex 11 of the report and to support its publication following approval of the budget.
 - r) To agree that the additional Services grant and Levy Surplus grant funding of £236,500 is allocated to fund the introduction of a new Ward Councillor Empowerment Fund Scheme with £177,000 of one-off funding to be used by 2025/26 and to increase the corporate inflation contingency by £59,500.
- (2) To agree that the Council includes in its Council Tax setting, the precepts set and approved by other bodies including the local precepts of Town Councils, Parish Councils and Charter Trustees of the City of Bath and those of the Fire and Police Authorities.
 - (3) To note the S151 Officer's report on the robustness of the proposed budget and the adequacy of the Council's reserves outlined in paragraph 5.7 of the report.
 - (4) To note the budget consultation responses set out in Annex 10 of the report.
 - (5) To authorise the Council's S151 Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources, to make any necessary changes to the draft budget proposal for submission to Council.

65 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2023/24

Cllr Richard Samuel introduced the report and moved the officer recommendations. He informed members that the report refreshed the Treasury Strategy ahead of presentation to full Council for approval. It revises some indicators and introduces

some new requirements that follow revisions to the CIPFA Code of Guidance. It also brings the Council's investment approach up to date in the light of market movements over the past 12 months.

Cllr Tom Davies seconded the motion.

RESOLVED: (unanimously):

7.5 To recommend the actions proposed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (Appendix 1 of the report) to February Council.

7.6 To note the Treasury Management Indicators detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

7.7 To recommend Council to approve the adoption of the Treasury Management Clauses (Appendix 3 of the report).

7.8 To note the Treasury Management Indicators detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and to delegate authority for updating the indicators prior to approval at Full Council on 21st February 2023 to the Chief Finance Officer and Cabinet Member for Resources, in light of any changes to the recommended budget as set out in the Budget Report.

7.9 To note that any comments made by the Corporate Audit Committee at their meeting on 7th February 2023 will be reported to Full Council on the 21st February 2023.

66 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT TO 31ST DECEMBER 2022

Cllr Samuel introduced the report and moved the officer recommendations. The report updated Cabinet on the in-year performance to the end of Quarter 3.

Cllr Tom Davies seconded the motion.

RESOLVED: (unanimously):

(1) To note the Treasury Management Report to 31st December 2022, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice.

(2) To note the Treasury Management Indicators to 31st December 2022.

The meeting ended at 7.50 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services

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Bath & North East Somerset Council

Cabinet Single-Member Decisions and Responses to Recommendations from PDS Panels

published from 31 January 2023 until 1 March 2023

Further details of each decision can be seen on the Council's Single-member Decision Register at <http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?&dm=3>

Shortlist for the Whitchurch Village and Queen Charlton Liveable Neighbourhood Area

To agree the shortlist items to be taken forward to preliminary design and engagement for the Whitchurch Village and Queen Charlton Liveable Neighbourhood Area.

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel

Decision published: 21/02/2023

Effective from: 01/03/2023

Decision:

(1) To proceed with the shortlist of interventions set out in paragraph 3.8 of the report:

- Improved pedestrian crossing and access between the southbound bus stop and play park;
- Widening the existing shared cycleway/footway along the A37;
- Narrowing of the junction at Norton Lane;
- Traffic calming measures along Sleep Lane;
- Traffic calming measures along Woollard Lane;
- Improvements to public rights of way footpaths;
- Formalisation of a new walking loop in Queen Charlton; and
- Improved cycle and equine awareness along the road entering Queen Charlton

And paragraph 3.9 of the report:

- Speed bumps located along Maggs Lane; and
- Chicane with priority give-way along Staunton Lane.

Now taking them forward to preliminary design and engagement.

(2) To note that the proposed shortlist is based on work done with these communities to first identify their needs and then co-design potential solutions to address those needs, as summarised in Appendix A – AECOM Co-Design Workshop Report 2 (Prioritisation).

(3) To note that the proposed shortlist was next subject to technical review, both in terms of alignment with the Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy and other factors such as cost, practicalities, and timelines, as summarised in Appendix B – AECOM Recommendation Report.

(4) To note that the proposed shortlist was then referred back to the applications put forward by ward councillors in Spring 2021 to ensure that the package of interventions satisfied the aims of the original proposals.

(5) To note the opportunity to “fast track” the shortlisted interventions set out in paragraph 3.13 of the report:

- Improved pedestrian crossing and access between the southbound bus stop and play park;
- Widen the existing shared cycleway/footway along the A37; and
- Narrowing of the junction at Norton Lane.

Together these interventions fulfil the objective of providing a safe crossing over the A37 and at the request of the Publow & Whitchurch ward councillor a preliminary design has already been developed.

(6) To note that the ability to proceed is subject to funding being available for the design, engagement, consultation and implementation work required as a result of this decision.

Ward(s) affected: Publow with Whitchurch

Lead officer: Joanna Sammons

Shortlist for the Egerton Road and Cotswold Road Liveable Neighbourhood Area

To agree the shortlist items to be taken forward to preliminary design and engagement for the Egerton Road and Cotswold Road Liveable Neighbourhood Area.

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel

Decision published: 21/02/2023

Effective from: 01/03/2023

Decision:

(1) to proceed with the shortlist of interventions set out in paragraph 3.8 of the report:

- Controlled crossing near Chantry Mead junction; and
- Reduction in the junction at Chantry Mead Road.

And 3.9 of the report:

- Traffic calming measures along Cotswold Road and Hillside Road;
- Traffic calming measures along Egerton Road;
- Heavy vehicle restrictions along Cotswold Road; and
- Controlled crossing near Hillside Road.

Now taking them forward to preliminary design and engagement.

(2) To note that the proposed shortlist is based on work done with the community to first identify their needs and then co-design potential solutions to address those needs, as summarised in Appendix A – AECOM Co-Design Workshop Report 2 (Prioritisation).

(3) To note that the proposed shortlist was next subject to technical review, both in terms of alignment with the Liveable Neighbourhoods strategy and other factors such as cost, practicalities and timelines, as summarised in Appendix B – AECOM Recommendation Report.

(4) To note that the proposed shortlist was then referenced back to the applications put forward by ward councillors in Spring 2021 to ensure that the package of interventions satisfied the aims of the original proposal.

(5) To note the opportunity to 'fast track' shortlisted interventions where they are non-contentious or already well supported, and either statutory consultation is not required due to the nature of the proposed intervention, or implementation could proceed as a trial under an experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) or be implemented under a 21-Day Notice (see also section 4).

(6) To note that the ability to proceed is subject to funding being available for the design, engagement, consultation and implementation work required as a result of this decision.

Wards affected: Moorlands

Lead officer: Joanna Sammons

The Great Spa Towns of Europe Association

Seeking permission for the Council to become a signatory to a new association to help administer the Great Spa Towns of Europe UNESCO inscription.

Decision Maker: Council Leader

Decision published: 21/02/2023

Effective from: 01/03/2023

Decision:

To agree that Bath and North East Somerset Council should become a signatory to the Great Spa Towns of Europe Association and adopt the Articles of that Association.

Wards affected: Kingsmead; Lambridge; Lansdown; Moorlands; Newbridge; Odd Down; Oldfield Park; Southdown; Twerton; Walcot; Westmoreland; Weston; Widcombe & Lyncombe;

Lead officer: Tony Crouch

Bath Bike Park - decision not to proceed

Plans for a mountain bike and activity park at the site of the former Entry Hill golf course site in Bath will not proceed.

A 20% increase in supply costs alongside additional site costs have impacted on the viability of the proposal which means the Bath Bike Park project cannot progress.

The costs incurred for the feasibility works will now be a revenue pressure.

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Regeneration & Growth

Decision published: 20/02/2023

Effective from: 28/02/2023

Decision:

(1) To agree with the decision not to proceed with the Bath Bike Park project and that the costs incurred to date will be treated as a revenue pressure as part of the Quarter 3 reporting process.

(2) To delegate approvals to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the S151 Officer, to secure income to cover future maintenance and security costs.

Wards affected: Combe Down; Odd Down; Southdown; Widcombe & Lyncombe

Lead officer: Martin Pellow

Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document

Minor Update

Adoption of the Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) on 19th January 2023 means that Placemaking Plan Policy H2 is now superseded by LPPU Policy H2. The Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) already states that once the LPPU is adopted it will supplement LPPU policy H2. However, minor editorial changes are needed to the Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD to remove references to the superseded Placemaking Plan policy.

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing

Decision published: 20/02/2023

Effective from: 28/02/2023

Decision:

(1) To adopt the updated Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as set out in Appendix A of the report.

(2) To agree that the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing, has delegated authority to make any further editorial amendments to the document prior to publishing the updated adopted SPD.

Wards affected: Bathwick; Combe Down; Kingsmead; Lambridge; Lansdown; Moorlands; Newbridge; Odd Down; Oldfield Park; Southdown; Twerton; Walcot; Westmoreland; Weston; Widcombe & Lyncombe

Lead officer: Richard Daone

Future Governance of the Music Service

The future of Music Services in England is changing. To meet the potential of our Music Services we need to change our delivery model so that we can better provide a universal music offer in BANES.

This decision will enable the music service to merge with North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Music Services and leave Council control, establishing itself as a new independent organisation, registered as a Charity.

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Communities

Decision published: 16/02/2023

Effective from: 24/02/2023

Decision:

(1) To agree that, in principle, the single service should be established as an independent organisation, outside of the three Councils, enabling the Service to be eligible to retain government funding, protect staff and develop a broader, more universal youth music education offer.

(2) To delegate authority to the Director of Education and Safeguarding, Head of Legal Services and the Section 151 Officer to make the final decision on potential

transfer and the terms thereof once transfer negotiations have progressed and proposed terms can be reported.

Wards affected: All Wards

Lead officer: Simon Lock

Adoption of First Homes Interim Position Statement

The report seeks approval of the Council's First Homes Interim Position Statement. The Council published and consulted on a Draft Interim Position Statement earlier this year. Following consideration of the issues raised in comments the final version of the Interim Position Statement needs to be approved. The statement sets out an interim position on First Homes until such time as planning policy on affordable housing is comprehensively reviewed through preparation of the new Local Plan.

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing

Decision published: 06/02/2023

Effective from: 14/02/2023

Decision:

(1) To approve the First Homes Interim Position Statement (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) to provide interim guidance.

(2) To delegate authority to the Head of Planning to make any necessary minor editorial changes, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing, prior to publication of the approved First Homes Position Statement.

Wards affected: All Wards

Lead officer: Richard Daone, Kaoru Jacques

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	9 th March 2023	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E3441
TITLE:	Options for Bus Franchising in the West of England	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
None		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES) has declared both a Climate and Ecological Emergency and is looking to provide leadership to enable both carbon neutral B&NES by 2030 and greater citizen engagement.
- 1.2 Transport currently accounts for 29% of carbon emissions in the B&NES area. Ensuring the transport network can enable residents to shift to more sustainable modes is an essential part of the Council's Journey to Net Zero strategy.
- 1.3 The regulation of passenger-carrying motor vehicles was introduced by the Road Traffic Act 1930. This Act marked the beginning of comprehensive state intervention in the bus industry by its introduction of both quality and quantity regulation. The Act remained virtually unchanged until the 1980s. The structure of the bus industry had changed little over the 50 years to 1980, but the market in which it operated had altered dramatically with the increased use of the private car. Bus patronage halved between the 1960s and 1980s.
- 1.4 In parallel with this the bus industry was finding that operating costs, fares and levels of subsidy were increasing. Almost all companies suffered from a shortfall between revenue from fares and their operating costs. Consequently, to retain the network of services and maintain fares at acceptable levels, in line with their statutory obligations to provide co-ordinated public transport, local authorities were asked to make good the losses by subsidy payments.

- 1.5 Proposals to deregulate local bus services were published in the 1984 buses White Paper. They were brought into effect by Part I of the Transport Act 1985. This abolished road service licensing in Great Britain, except in London, from October 1986. Since 1986, almost uniquely in the developed world, buses in Britain (outside London) have been organised on a predominantly commercial basis, on a free market basis.
- 1.6 This has resulted in the licensing authorities losing many of their former powers and a position where anyone, subject to minimum safety and operating standards can operate bus services. Bus operators are free to decide which services they run, the fares they will charge and the vehicles they will use. Local Authorities were given powers to secure, using subsidy, socially necessary services which were not provided by the commercial market.
- 1.7 The deregulation of the bus market has resulted in profitable routes and times of day being flooded with buses at the expense of other routes and times. Consequently, services have become unstable and confusing; the quality of vehicles has fallen whilst fares in many places have risen sharply. Services which could not be run commercially, previously cross-subsidised from the profits of busier routes, now had to be supported by the taxpayer. The money available for this has fallen dramatically over the last ten years, causing severe cuts to supported services.
- 1.8 For public transport to be a viable option for our communities it needs to be frequent, reliable, fast, affordable, accessible, safe, comfortable, and link up the places where people live and want to go.
- 1.9 In the Bus Back Better Strategy of 2021, the Government set out its support for Local Transport Authorities to access franchising powers as a way of delivering improvements for passengers at pace.
- 1.10 This report proposes that a review is undertaken by the West of England Combined Authority (WoECA) (as the Local Transport Authority) to thoroughly consider the opportunity offered by franchising to improve the public transport offer within the West of England.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to:

1. Request the Council's Leader formally write to the WoECA Mayor requesting that the Mayor:
 - a. commissions an independent review of options for the franchising of bus operations with the West of England, including considering the adoption of precepting powers; and provides a fully costed business case for the recommended changes engages fully with each of the WoECA constituent authorities at all stages of the review;
 - b. Provides regular updates to the Planning, Transport and Housing Board on the progress of the review.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 In May 2022, Bath & North East Somerset Council adopted the Journey to Net Zero Strategy, establishing a vision of a new transport network that will dramatically reduce transport carbon emissions from their current level of 29% of B&NES' total emissions.
- 3.2 Following a series of stakeholder workshops, a number of key aims were established within Journey to Net Zero. In particular, the need for: Better public transport options delivering a range of public transport choices to improve connectivity for all was identified.
- 3.3 As part of the consultation in early 2021, more than half of respondents considered improved public transport options to be important, with universal, integrated ticketing and provision of mobility hubs being the most supported concepts. Around half of respondents considered better bus services to be important, with use of cleaner fuels and improved coordination of bus services as the most important concepts.
- 3.4 The current system is not delivering the standards of public transport provision that will enable our communities to depend on it, helping us to deliver our net zero targets. Following the motion adopted at full Council in October 2022, franchising needs to be considered as a means through which these improvements can be delivered more quickly for the communities within B&NES. In response to the motion the Council has called upon the WECA Mayor to develop a co-ordinated, imaginative, long-term approach to public transport in our area, through bus franchising or equivalent across the West of England area.
- 3.5 Franchising allows a contracting authority, such as a local transport authority to specify the local bus services it wants including the routes, services, fares and vehicle standards through contracts with operators. Operators compete through a tendering process for the right to operate services in an area. Franchising keeps competition in the bus market, but moves it from the road, where bus operators compete for passengers at bus stops, to the tender process.
- 3.6 Franchising powers are only available automatically to Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) but can be provided to other Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) through secondary legislation. Local transport authorities must also follow a statutory process to introduce franchising.
- 3.7 The Bus Services Act 2017 amended the Transport Act 2000 to provide for bus franchising schemes in England. Franchising powers allow local transport authorities to exert more influence and control over local bus services by granting operators exclusive rights to run services on a route or in an area. These exclusive rights can be applied to the whole of a local transport authority's area or parts of it. Likewise, contracts can be let to a single operator for a whole network.
- 3.8 There has been increasing interest in franchised bus models recently, fuelled by the 2017 Bus Services Act and more recently the National Bus Strategy for England. This promises to support authorities wishing to access franchising powers. Manchester will shortly be adopting the franchise model following a recent judicial review of the decision. In terms of timeframe, the first round of franchised bus services is likely to be introduced in early to mid-2023, with the

expectation that by 2025, all bus services across the city region will be under public control. Meanwhile, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority voted to begin the adoption of a franchised bus system. The next step involves an independent assessment on bus franchising in the city region as well as a public consultation.

- 3.9 Following deregulation in 1986, bus services operated under a free market model outside London. This means that anyone (subject to minimum safety and operating standards) could operate bus services. Bus operators were free to decide which services they ran, the frequency of these services, the fares they would charge and the vehicles they would use. This resulted in an uncoordinated network with operators focussing on the most profitable journeys, with local transport authorities having to pay operators to run journeys and some routes that are socially necessary.
- 3.10 As well as deregulation a number of restrictions were also placed on the subsidised bus services that were provided by local councils. The 1985 Transport Act restricted local authorities to essentially only be allowed to subsidise a bus service to fill a gap in provision. The services a local authority subsidises must not distort the local commercial bus market.
- 3.11 More recently, following the publication of the National Bus Strategy Bus Back Better, the West of England prepared a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). The BSIP sets out a clear vision for bus services in the future and a set of improvements in a number of key areas. Delivery of the initiatives set out in the BSIP is due to be achieved through an Enhanced Partnership approach where the West of England Combined Authority and local authorities work in partnership with local bus operators.
- 3.12 It is important to note that bus franchising is not renationalisation of local buses - private operators will still provide services. The franchising provisions would replace the latest Enhanced Partnership scheme and before that the Quality Contract Scheme (QCS) legislation as set out in the Transport Act 2000. The latest Enhanced Partnership scheme is a statutory partnership between the Local Transport Authority, WECA and local bus operators that sets out how they will work together to plan and deliver improvements to bus services and infrastructure.
- 3.13 Under bus franchising, the deregulated bus market is suspended, and bus operators are only able to provide services under contract to the local transport authority. This approach is used extensively across Europe, in London and elsewhere as it offers a range of significant advantages that are impossible under partnership including integrated ticketing, network planning, cross subsidy across bus services and other modes and unified marketing. In essence, franchising brings together the strengths of private operators in efficient service delivery but within a co-ordinated and planned public transport network.
- 3.14 From the passenger perspective, franchising enables:
- A simple, unified and integrated ticketing and product set under one brand (which competition law prevents in a deregulated environment)
 - A single identity for bus services and potentially other public transport modes, which is easy to understand for new users
 - A unified, easy to use network of integrated public transport services

- Consistent standards of service, including vehicle, driver and customer care standards
- One accountable body, integrated real time information and a single point of contact for customers

3.15 From transport authority perspective, franchising provides for

- Greater levels of connectivity, where more effective cross-subsidy allows the development of a comprehensive network, and allows closer integration with other modes such as active travel and rail, enabling more people to better access employment, education, training, retail, leisure and other opportunities.
- A more attractive network is easier to use and to market to new customers and visitors, encouraging patronage growth which in turn can help drive healthy revenues.
- Helping reduce car dependency, emissions and highway congestion as more people make use of an integrated public transport network and active travel modes
- Enables existing resources and subsidies to be pooled efficiently, driving better value from the high levels of public support and reducing leakage into excess operator profits.

3.16 From operator perspective, franchising offers:

- A growing, stable and enduring market for operators
- The freedom to focus on service delivery, making sure buses run reliably and punctually, enhancing customer care and delivering on contractually guaranteed service standards – such as cleanliness, reliability and safety and security

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Similar to other combined authorities the WoECA is the Local Transport Authority as defined in Section 108(4) of the 2000 Act.

4.2 The decision to adopt the franchised model for bus provision via Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), on behalf of Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), will see the GMCA owning bus depots and determining services, fares and frequencies through local contracts awarded to bus companies

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 Staff time contributions to the review will be met from the existing staffing resources within B&NES.

5.2 Under the current devolution deal, WoECA does not have the power to raise a Mayoral precept. Other Mayoral Combined Authorities do have precepting powers, whereby they can raise a precept on Council Tax to fund mayoral responsibilities, including public transport, as part of their annual budget setting process.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Appropriate consideration of risks will need to be undertaken by WoECA as part of the review.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 An equalities impact assessment will need to be prepared by WoECA as part of the review.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 B&NES Council has declared both a Climate and Ecological Emergency and is looking to provide leadership to enable carbon neutral B&NES by 2030 and enable greater citizen engagement.
- 8.2 Transport currently accounts for 29% of carbon emissions in the B&NES area. Ensuring the transport network can enable residents to shift to more sustainable modes and that sustainable transport is the first choice of travel in all cases is an essential part of the Journey to Net Zero strategy.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The current West of England Enhanced Partnership (EP) Scheme (made in accordance with Section 138G(1) of the Transport Act 2000) could be retained and not modified.
- 9.2 It is considered that franchising could provide a better mechanism for improving the transport network within the West of England.

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 It is proposed that engagement with the public should be undertaken as part of the review of options for franchising.

Contact person	Pam Turton, Head of Transport Strategy Pam_Turton@Bathnes.gov.uk
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

to

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	9 March 2023	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: E3447
TITLE:	Climate Annual Report & Ecological Emergency Action Plan	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Annex 1: Climate Progress Report (Climate Annual Report, part 1)		
Annex 2: Climate Action Plan & Route Map to 2030 (Climate Annual Report, part 2)		
Annex 3: Climate Strategy (Climate Annual Report, part 3)		
Annex 4: Ecological Emergency Action Plan		

1 THE ISSUE

On both the climate and ecological emergencies real progress has been made over the past year and greater ambition is driving action planning. Additional resources for climate, transport strategy and sustainability within the corporate estate are enabling us to make faster progress than in previous years. Action to increase renewable energy on the Council's estate and within the district is a particular highlight.

However – in common with all other local authorities - we cannot yet claim to be on track to deliver net zero commitments by 2030, or to reverse the decline in wildlife by the same date. In part, this is down to issues beyond our direct control, where regional or national action is needed. These are explained in the Report section below. A key issue, for example, is national-level electricity grid constraints. The recent Net Zero Review: Mission Zero made a wide range of recommendations to government on policy, powers and the funding needed to enable local government to act effectively for local citizens on this agenda.

However, there is more to be done locally and next year will see further progress, particularly through our own renewable energy programme, capital strategy, commercial strategy,

corporate landlord project and, regionally, through our participation in the development of the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Retrofit Accelerator project.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to:

- 2.1 To 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.
- 2.2 To 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**.
- 2.3 To note the **Climate Action Plan and Route-map to 2030, at Annex 2**.
- 2.4 To note the updated **Climate Strategy, at Annex 3**
- 2.5 To note the development of the **Ecological Emergency Action Plan, at Annex 4**
- 2.6 To 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.
- 2.7 To approve the Climate Annual Report and the new Ecological Emergency Action Plan, before submission of the report package to full Council on 16 March 2023.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Climate Annual Report is based on the three priorities for action defined for Bath and North East Somerset in the 2019 strategy: Increase in Local Renewable Energy Generation; Decarbonising Buildings and Decarbonisation of Transport. The following sections outline action and issues against the three climate priorities.
- 3.2 Increase in Local Renewable Energy Generation

Targets for 2030 – a minimum of 300MW renewable energy generating capacity in district (baseline 29.04 MW in 2022), with interim targets of 50MW by 2023 and 150MW by 2025; 12MW renewable generating capacity installed on Council estate to meet Council energy consumption

Area installed renewable capacity is currently approx. 29.04 MW, made up of ground-mounted solar farms at Chelwood and Wilmington Farm and roof-mounted solar installations across the district, with a pipeline of approved or in progress projects of a further 25.7MW; 6.4MW of known potential sites and an expectation of much larger sites coming forward to pre-app stage over the next year. The rate of domestic and business rooftop solar installation has doubled since we declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. On the Council's estate, a potential pipeline of 10MW has been identified, increasing confidence that the 12MW needed to cover the Council's own emissions can be delivered.

To become net zero in the Council's own operations, we have a target to install 12MW. Our current BANES Renewable Energy Development Fund (REDF) is £1.5 m over three years, focused on delivering renewables on our own estate. Significant progress has been made in this area over the

past six months, following the appointment of our Renewable Energy Programme Manager. We have already identified the potential pipeline of projects that will deliver 10MW and are confident the remaining 2MW will be delivered by 2030, subject to agreement of capital funding.

Our wider target is to facilitate delivery of 300MW of renewable capacity at district level. While there has been a sharp increase in private roof mounted solar since 2019, data collection and analysis is challenging.

The rate at which domestic and business solar PV is being installed has doubled since we declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, facilitated by the Council's promotion over the last year of the WECA's Solar Together programme. We expect this trend to continue, and for domestic solar to play a stronger role in meeting our 2030 target. Regen's report of 2018¹ identified the potential of 76.6MW from rooftop solar and this is expected to increase as technology improves. The Local Plan Partial Update, adopted in January, contains significant updates to both renewable energy and new build policy that will further enable this development.

The principal risk identified to delivery of renewables is from national-level grid constraints, which are impacting on the potential to connect new supply; to resolve this will require action at national level (by National Grid, the regulator, Ofgem, and/or the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy), and we are lobbying with WECA, as well as considering options for local action to balance new supply/demand. Next year, we will begin investigation of options for energy storage, which is an important component of a flexible energy network addressing issues around intermittency in renewable energy generation.

3.3 Decarbonising Buildings

Targets for 2030 – 65,000 domestic properties in need of retrofit; target of net zero on operation of the corporate and commercial estate.

Data and metrics for non-council buildings are challenging, as there is no requirement to measure energy efficiency of domestic properties except at the point of sale, and no mechanism for capturing independent action by property owners. Data on the Council's own estate is not yet comprehensive and further work is needed before we can baseline performance and quantify cost of delivering targets.

Legal Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for residential / commercial lettings will increase progressively between now and 2030, driving energy efficiency in the commercial estate and through the private rental sector.

To achieve net zero across the district, we have established that 65,000 domestic properties will need some degree of retrofitting work to increase energy efficiency. Without significant council housing stock as a primary focus, our priority is to influence the retrofit market (both supply and demand side) and its finance, both of which have been adversely affected by inconsistent central government funding policy over recent years.

To date, we have focused our efforts on co-developing and supporting the new WECA Retrofit Accelerator project, which will target support to the 'self-funding' retrofit market from mid-2023. In addition, we provide some limited grants and loans to eligible homeowners to undertake energy saving measures, but this is not yet at a scale that will impact on targets.

The WECA Accelerator will provide a one-stop-shop advice service and brokerage for homeowners, as well as work to develop the supply chain of retrofit contractors. WECA's delivery targets to 2025 anticipate completion of 5000 surveys across the West of England (WoE) (with approx. 150 actual homes planned for retrofit in BANES by 2025). Whilst this initiative alone will make only limited impact on our 2030 targets, the Accelerator is intended to prime the market

¹ https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/LP20162036/bnes_renewable_energy_resource_update_report_2018_publication_version.pdf

ahead of future government funding, allowing us to scale up quickly when central resources are switched on, or when other market interventions arise.

We have a new Energy Strategy and Projects Manager in posts and will be developing our strategic approach to retrofit across all tenures (owner occupiers (66%), social renters (14%) and private landlords (20%). This will focus on Accelerator promotion, support for community-based approaches, working with Planning and Conservation on a more streamlined approach for listed buildings and conservation areas, further to the recent development of the Retrofit Supplementary Planning Document; new Bath Green Homes project to showcase completed retrofit projects to other homeowners; and identification of financing mechanisms for owner-occupiers.

Whilst we are at an early stage in work to decarbonise our own corporate and commercial estate, progress has been made, highlighted by the delivery of excellent retrofitting examples such as Grosvenor House (listed building) and Charlton House, both of which include solar roofs and with further work in progress now on retrofitting two more care homes and on new buildings at the new Keynsham Recycling Hub, Pixash Lane recycling centre and Two Rivers Primary School, both of which are being built to extremely high environmental standards. For further details of these examples and more, see Annex 1 Climate Progress Report. The Council has appointed a new Head of Corporate Estate and a new Corporate Asset Management Strategy will be produced by autumn 2023, identifying both short and longer-term opportunities to decarbonise the corporate estate. A new Commercial Estate Strategy is also in development with the aim to increase energy efficiency in line with the Council's 2030 Net Zero target.

3.4 Decarbonising Transport

Targets for 2030 – 25% reduction in car and van mileage per person per year. Council fleet to be net zero.

The WoE Decarbonisation Study shows that infrastructure alone is not sufficient to achieve the shift required to get to carbon zero and that significant behaviour change and demand management is needed to reduce car dependency.

At national level, transport is the largest contributor to the UK's domestic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In B&NES, it is a close third, at 29%, not far behind energy use in non-domestic buildings.

In January 2022, Cabinet approved the BANES elements of the Combined Authority's City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for submission to Department for Transport (DfT). In April 2022, the DfT confirmed the Combined Authority's five-year Settlement (£540m between 2022/23 and 2026/27.)

Of the 25 CRSTS schemes identified across the Combined Authority area, six are within BANES, creating a programme of spend in the region of £138m, including around £120m of grant funding. (Bath City Centre is one of the schemes - which will see substantial changes and improvements to bus access and improve the interchange between different modes).

The CRSTS programme is a significant uplift in capital funding relative to current levels and presents an unprecedented opportunity to help tackle the Climate Emergency. The delivery of the CRSTS infrastructure is, however, not sufficient on its own to deliver carbon neutrality by 2030. We also need significant additional investment in bus and rail services to provide decent alternatives to car use.

Considerable progress has been made locally to create safer walking and cycling routes and more liveable neighbourhoods – for full details, please see actions over the last year highlighted in Annex 1: Climate Progress Report.

Fleet decarbonisation within Council's own operations constitutes a small proportion of the Council's carbon footprint. Conversion to electric vehicles is underway, starting with 30 electric

vans, street cleansing machines and sweepers, with options being pursued to switch the rest of the fleet to electric where technically feasible.

3.5 Further Council Action, Community Leadership and Partnership Working

Action on buildings, fleet and renewables will go a long way to address our Scope 1 and 2 emissions. Further work is needed to understand and drive down our wider carbon footprint, or Scope 3 emissions². The development of the Corporate Procurement Strategy has action on net zero embedded carbon, and staff are being trained in how to use their commissioning opportunities to reduce carbon emissions from goods and services. Specialist work is also in train to analyse the Council's Scope 3 emissions, which will inform the development of this work.

The Council is driving further action across the district through the new Future Ambition Partnership and the development of a new Climate & Nature group that brings together public, business and community sectors to create new joint actions. Support for community action continues and has grown over the last year, enabling more parishes to develop action plans and more support for the Community Forums, including providing a two week showcase for community action and experience sharing during September's Climate & Nature Festival.

3.6 Ecological Emergency Action Plan

This is the first Ecological Emergency Action Plan to be developed in response to the Ecological Emergency Declaration made in 2020. Work to develop this plan was delayed by a combination of Covid and staff shortages, but staff are now in post and demonstrating their worth. It should be noted that this new plan builds on a considerable body of natural environment work by the Council and partners over a number of years.

Our vision is to 'increase the extent of land and waterways managed positively for nature'. This is aligned to the national target to have 30% of land protected for nature by 2030 – in Bath and North East Somerset this would equate to c10,500ha of land across the district.

A priority action is to produce a 'State of Nature' framework for Bath and North East Somerset, including an ecological baseline and wildlife index to measure progress against, and targets for nature recovery.

This will build on regional ambitions for nature recovery (as outlined in the West of England Nature Partnership Strategy: WENP Strategy). For example, we know that declines in wildlife populations continue: an estimated 97% fewer cuckoos and 96% fewer swifts in the West of England (Avon) than 25 years ago. In the UK we have seen long-term declines in insect species such as butterflies (46% since 1970) and moths, a 64% decline in the abundance of UK Priority Species, and a 54% decline in farmland birds since 1970.

Our priority 'to increase the abundance and distribution of key species across B&NES' is consistent with the national target to reverse the decline in wildlife by 2030.

The plan builds on our experience in securing external funding for green infrastructure projects and recognises our pivotal role in delivering nature recovery at the regional level. In the Plan we set out three broad strategic priorities to guide action for BANES to deliver the transformation required to become 'Nature Positive by 2030':

- increase the extent of land and waterways managed positively for nature across B&NES
- increase the abundance and distribution of key species across B&NES

² The Greenhouse Gas Protocol defines Scopes 1 and 2 as emissions that are owned or controlled by an organisation ie the gas, electricity, fuel used. Scope 3 emissions are from activities of the organisation but not from sources owned or controlled by it, such as bought goods and services via contracts.

- enable more people to access and engage with nature

The plan presents a series of strategic outcomes needed for the Council to achieve a step change by 2030, along with the immediate actions that we will take to progress these. These actions will help us to:

- mainstream nature recovery in decision-making, ensuring that we are having a positive impact on nature across all service areas;
- commit to manage our own landholdings, across a range of services, in a way that actively supports nature recovery;
- deliver more for nature from existing projects i.e. Bathscape, Waterscape, Bath Riverline, Chew Valley Reconnected and Somer Valley Rediscovered;
- pursue more external investment, and establish a prospectus for investment;
- improve communities' access to and engagement with nature; and
- Improve our evidence base and monitoring of the state of nature in B&NES.

In the Ecological Emergency Action Plan Executive Summary (Annex 4), we have included a table of 10 priority actions, which have been chosen due to their potential to make a particularly significant contribution to nature recovery.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Council's climate action plans are in keeping with the role identified for local government in the Climate Change Act 2008 and the regular reports of the UK's climate advisory body, the UK Climate Change Committee.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 The Climate Progress Report and Action Plan outlines next steps that are covered by planned 2023-24 budgets, although it is noted that business case development, particularly with regard to development of the energy programme will be undertaken and that opportunities to extend external funding will be sought.
- 5.2 The full extent of the ambition contained in the Ecological Emergency Action Plan can only be realised through additional external investment.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.
- 6.2 A key risk that has been entered into the Corporate Risk Register is that of the nationwide problem of electricity grid capacity constraints standing in the way of the installation of new local renewable energy. We are working at both regional and national level, along with many other local authorities, seeking action by national government to solve this problem.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 No adverse impacts have been identified in relation to equalities groups or protected characteristics under Equalities legislation. Actions in relation to promoting home energy efficiency / domestic retrofit will have a positive impact on cost of living challenges. Access to nature has been identified as a key priority for our work responding to the ecological emergency, with an emphasis in increasing social justice in access to natural greenspace. Actions linked to green social prescribing will have positive impacts for people experiencing limiting health conditions

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 This package of work directly takes forward the Council's commitments in relation to the Climate Emergency declared in 2019 and delivers our commitment to report annually on progress in doing so. It presents the combined actions of services across the Council.
- 8.2 The package also includes the first Ecological Emergency Action Plan since the Ecological Emergency declaration in 2020.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

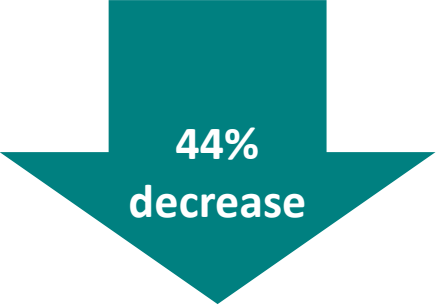
- 9.1 The development of both the Climate and Ecological Emergency plans has involved working across many Council services to identify and consider options for action on our net zero and nature positive 2030 goals. We will continue to explore options for further action and build these into future plans.

10 CONSULTATION

- The Climate Annual Report 2022 progress report provides details of extensive community engagement work undertaken as part of the Council's climate response.
- A workshop was held with the Climate & Nature Theme Group of the FAB Partnership in November, focusing on the Energy challenge (renewables and retrofit).
- We are currently funding CSE to deliver a pilot project involving selected communities in exploring options for renewable energy generation (sites, technologies, scales – preferences and constraints).
- The Ecological Emergency Action Plan has been developed with input from local environmental groups and residents, including a stakeholder workshop and a webinar held in September as part of the Council's annual Climate and Nature Festival.
- Our approach to Renewable Energy and the Ecological Emergency Action Plan have both been subject to early engagement with the PDS panel in October this year.
- Over half of BANES parishes were actively engaged through dedicated workshops on renewables, transport and local nature action planning as part of November's Parish Liaison meeting.
- We use regular questions in the Voicebox survey to track community views on climate and nature action.
- All reports in the package have been reviewed by Corporate Management Team and have sign off from the Chief Executive, the S151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

Contact person	<p>Jackie Clayton & Louise Morris</p> <p>JackieLouise_jobshare@bathnes.gov.uk</p>
Background papers	<p>Annex 1: Climate Progress Report (Climate Annual Report Part 1)</p> <p>Annex 2: Climate Action Plan & Route-map to 2030 (Climate Annual Report Part 2)</p> <p>Annex 3: Climate Strategy (Climate Annual Report Part 3)</p> <p>Annex 4: Ecological Emergency Action Plan</p>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Climate Progress Report 2023



44%
decrease

Bath and North East Somerset area-wide emissions (Transport, businesses and homes)

Baseline: 2005 = 1063.3 ktCO₂
2019 = 671 ktCO₂
2020 = 599.6kt CO₂*

*2021 data will be issued by
BEIS in June 2023



68%
decrease

Council Emissions

Baseline: 2010/11 = 8,330 tCO₂
2020/21 = 2,821 tCO₂
2021/22 = 2,644 tCO₂

Average per person emissions
in Bath and North East
Somerset are **3.1 tCO₂** (2020),
which is 20% lower than the UK
average of 3.8 tCO₂.



8MW
increase

Renewable energy capacity in Bath and North Somerset

Baseline: 2019 = 21 MW
2021 = 22.5MW
2022 = 29 MW

Climate & Ecological Emergency Progress Report 2022-23: A focus on achievements

This report outlines the key achievements in 2022-23.

Action to reduce carbon emissions, restore nature and create new and improved green infrastructure provides a host of opportunities and benefits. Achieving the district-wide zero carbon target, nature recovery and green infrastructure ambitions by 2030 will also create improved health, social equality, and economic and community resilience.

Co-benefits

In 2019, the Council was invited by Ashden to join a working group to develop the Ashden Toolkit for Councils. Alongside a directory of action, four co-benefits associated with action to cut carbon emissions were identified:

Health, Economy, Equity, and Resilience



Energy: Renewables and Sustainable Buildings

A closer look at some of the key work accomplished over the past year, from improving the energy efficiency of our own buildings to supporting community focused discussions about local renewable energy generation. Each case study below demonstrates our commitment to enabling Bath and North East Somerset to reach net zero by 2030.

Council adopts ground-breaking planning framework

Bath and North East Somerset has become the first council in England to successfully adopt an energy-based net zero housing policy as part of its commitment to tackling the climate emergency. The new housing development policy will ensure the energy use of any proposed development is measured and meets a specified target — setting a limit on the total energy use and demand for space heating. It will also require sufficient on-site renewable energy generation to match the total energy consumption of the buildings — ensuring the development is 100% self-sufficient. The council will also impose net zero operational carbon standards for new major non-residential developments. Shortlisted for the Regen Green Energy Awards.

Co-benefits: Economy and Resilience



Pictured: The Guildhall on a sunny day in Bath

Community Energy Conversations



Pictured: Left, community members talking to a member of the CSE team.

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) have piloted a project facilitating conversations with local people about the types and scales of renewable energy which are acceptable to them. The project has been run where there is high potential for renewable energy generation based on evidence from the council's research; Hinton Blewett and Temple Cloud, Stowey-Sutton and East and West Harptree, and Peasedown and Wellow.

Through workshops and an online survey, CSE have explored generating renewable energy in these areas with residents through hypothetical discussion. The workshops were well attended and response rates for the surveys have reflected this, demonstrating that local people are invested in the future of the places they live and work.

Co-benefits: Economy, Equity, and Resilience

Decarbonising care homes



Pictured: Alison Born member for Adult Services, Kevin Guy leader of the council and a member of council staff, picture stood next to a air source heat pump.

Solar PV panels have been installed on the roof of Charlton House and an Air Source Heat Pump is being installed to heat the building and provide hot water. The care home has also switched to using energy efficient long-life LED lights. The energy saving measures are expected to cut carbon emissions from Charlton House by 57.51 tonnes and save £14,287 in energy costs each year.

Two further care homes are set to benefit from similar energy saving measures this year.

Co-benefits: Economy and Resilience

Two Rivers C of E Primary School



Pictured: Left, Cllr Sarah Warren, deputy leader and cabinet member for climate and sustainable travel, Cllr Kevin Guy, leader of the council meet with the headteacher of Two Rivers CofE Primary School, Claire Graham.

Keynsham's new Two Rivers C of E Primary School has been built to high sustainable standards thanks to additional funding from Bath & North East Somerset Council. To ensure the buildings are of the highest environmental standards to achieve Passivhaus accreditation, the council contributed an additional £835k of S106 funding from developers to the project. The building produces its own energy from photovoltaic panels on the roof generating 102,269 kWh annually. The building also benefits from excellent insulation, triple glazing, two electric air source heat pumps and a mechanical ventilation system incorporating heat recovery.

Co-benefits: Economy and Resilience

Construction begins on Keynsham Recycling Hub



Pictured: An illustration of what the Keynsham Recycling Hub will look likewhen complete.

The first phase of construction has begun for the new Keynsham Recycling Hub Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) and is due to be opened in late autumn. When complete the hub will have on-site renewable energy generation via a 3800m² ,783-kilowatt peak solar panel array, providing much of the power needed for operations. Office and welfare buildings have also been designed to be energy efficient using fabric-first construction methods alongside a host of other sustainability measures such as rainwater harvesting, sustainable drainage and wildlife corridors.

Co-benefits: Economy and Resilience

Roman Baths



Pictured: The Kings Bath drained of water to install heat exchange pipes.

An innovative emissions-reduction scheme means that spa water from the Roman Baths is being used to decrease the council's carbon footprint. Installation of high-grade stainless steel energy blades in the King's Spring have allowed for a new 100 kilowatt heat system (the equivalent of heating 20 or 30 average domestic homes) to provide carbon neutral heat to the Baths Complex and next door Clore Learning Centre.

It is the second council heat pump project in Bath taking advantage of the thermal spring water, the other being Bath Abbey next door, and will achieve a financial saving over its more than 20-year lifespan due to reduced heating expenses.

Watch a video explaining the new Roman Bath's heating system.

Co-benefits: Economy and Resilience

Solar Together



Pictured: A contractor installing a solar panel on a roof.

The West of England Combined Authority with the council's support ran a pilot scheme in partnership with an independent group-buying organisation called iChoosr. By clubbing together, everyone who has registered for the Solar Together West of England scheme had the opportunity to be offered cheaper deals to install solar panels and set up a battery storage system at home, helping make the transition to clean energy for residents and businesses as cost-effective and hassle-free as possible.

In the Bath and North East Somerset area more than 300 homeowners have invested in solar panels and 20 battery storage systems.

Co-benefits: Economy and Resilience

Affordable Warmth



Pictured: A contractor installing loft insulation.

The affordable warmth grant uses money from several funding pots including; Council affordable warmth scheme, Government Green Homes Grant - Local Authority Delivery scheme (LAD) and Government Sustainable Warmth scheme – Home upgrade Grant (HUG), and has enabled community members with most need to access home energy efficiency improvements.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Household income must be below £30,000 per year
- An EPC rating of D, E, F or G
- Owner-occupiers only

Co-benefits: Equity and Resilience



Pictured: A contractor installing a heat pump in a garden.

Feedback has been positive so far:

"After his old coal-powered heating system failed in 2020, WeCare helped my elderly father acquire funding for a brand- new functional heating system AND an Affordable Warmth Grant to improve the property's energy performance. In the end, the EPC rating was significantly improved, and my father's home is now warm, well-insulated, and using renewable energy." - Peasedown St John

"I've had my loft insulated, a heat pump installed and double- glazing put into 2 bedrooms and the back door. My home has been seriously upgraded and I'm very happy with the results".

- Midsomer Norton

Transport: New Schemes and Tech

A closer look at some of the key work accomplished over the past year, from consulting on new community focused schemes to investing in new technology to repair roads. Each case study below demonstrates our commitment to enabling Bath and North East Somerset to reach net zero by 2030.

Liveable Neighbourhoods



Pictured: The Liveable Neighbourhoods illustrated logo, depicting people running, using a wheelchair and cycling.

Extensive public engagement has taken place on the introduction of 'Liveable Neighbourhoods'. Encouraging residents to re-think how street space can be used to prioritise people, reduce our reliance on cars, and encourage more active travel.

Working collaboratively with the council, residents have put forward a range of measures to be considered, including safer crossings, wider pavements, improved seating and public space, and a range of traffic-calming measures. Three pilot road closures are in place, and five residents' parking zones have been implemented. Detailed designs for 15 neighbourhoods are almost ready for publication.

Co-benefits: Health, Equity, and Resilience

E-scooter rollout



Pictured: Councilor Sarah Warren, deputy leader and cabinet member for climate and sustainable travel and Ian Blenkarn, director of education and student services at the University of Bath riding e-scooters.

The West of England's e-scooter trial has extended to cover the University of Bath's Claverton Down campus. The third phase of the e-scooter trial in Bath, which was introduced in

2020, now extends to over eight square miles to enable more people to easily commute or take short journeys around the city, including up Widcombe Hill to reach the University of

Bath. The e-scooters have replaced approximately 90,000 car journeys since being introduced across the UK.

Co-benefits: Health and Economy

Low Emission Thermal Road Tech



Pictured: Photo of new thermal road repair system a yellow truck with the Bath and North East Somerset logo on the side.

A new carbon-saving alternative to traditional methods of repairing roads is being used. The new thermal road repair system helps to significantly reduce emissions as it improves and maintains roads while producing zero waste.

The process reuses existing road surface material and there is no excavation of material that then needs disposing, making the process zero waste. By eliminating the need for power tools road repairs can be made faster, noise levels are reduced, and carbon emissions are significantly lower.

The system and the fully self-contained vehicle it travels in are also fitted with solar panels further reducing its carbon impact.

Co-benefits: Economy and Resilience

Expansion of electric vehicle charging points



Pictured: Left, Cllr Sarah Warren, deputy leader and cabinet member for climate and sustainable travel and right, Cllr Kevin Guy, leader of the council stand in front of an electric car plugged into a charging point.

30 new electric charging points have been made available following the expansion of the Revive vehicle charging network to help reduce transport emissions. The charging points are being installed at eight locations across the district including 16 rapid (50kW) and 14 fast (22kW) public charging bays.

The new charge points bring the total number of charging bays provided by the council across Bath & North East Somerset to 50.

Co-benefits: Economy and Resilience

Better cycling and pedestrian paths



Pictured: A cycle lane being used by two cyclists.

The A36 Beckford Road and the A4 Upper Bristol Road improvement schemes have created new separated cycle lanes and easier crossing points for pedestrians across junctions. There will also be better access for cycling and wheeling by relocating the existing bus stops. The two schemes have been funded by £500,000 from the Government's Active Travel Fund to enable more people to walk or cycle for local trips.

The schemes include new cycle lanes, which will be separated from motor traffic by cycle lane separators, improved side road junctions and relocating existing bus stops and reconfiguring space to improve access for cyclists. Three trial cycle hangars are now in place.

Co-benefits: Health and Economy

Chew Valley trail



Pictured: Left to right, Cllr Sarah Warren, Metro Mayor Dan Norris, resident Bill Blyth, Bristol Water Chief Operating Officer Richard Price and local residents including two children.

A new 2.7km all-weather path allowing more people to take in the beautiful sights of Chew Valley Lake and enjoy the benefits of being outside opened in spring 2022. The £1.6m walking and cycling path on the northern section of the lake has made the Chew Valley Trail accessible for pedestrians and cyclists to enjoy. The 840m off-road pedestrian and cycle shared use path trail allows people of all ages to access the section between Woodford Lodge and Walley Court Road traffic free.

The project was funded by £1.1m from the West of England Combined Authority, a £507,000 grant from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and contributions from Bath & North East Somerset Council and Bristol Water, who own the reservoir.

Co-benefits: Health and Economy

Community: Engagement and partnerships

A closer look at some of the key work accomplished over the past year, from the Climate Festival's second year to the establishment of new partnerships like the Journey to Net Zero transport stakeholder forum. Engaging with the community as individuals, community groups, businesses or through Parish and Town Councils, is essential if the Council wants to be successful in achieving its goal of net zero by 2030.

Climate and Biodiversity Festival



Pictured: Community day event with Bath Abbey in the background, in the foreground there are people walking and browsing several gazebos.

In September 2022 the council ran its second Climate and Biodiversity festival which saw over 500 people take part in 50+ events relating to climate and nature over the Great Big Green Week. Most events were community led and supported already active climate groups in promoting local projects including a 'community day' event which ran outside Bath Abbey. Stalls were set up in the square next to the Abbey where visitors to the city of Bath could take part in climate themed activities and discussions with stall holders.

Co-benefits: Equity and Resilience

Great Avon Litter Pick



Pictured: Nine Bath Sea Cadets at the Great Avon River Pick on a floating barge with their hands raised in the air.

More than 120 bags of litter were collected from the banks of the River Avon in Bath and North East Somerset by volunteers and local organisations as part of the Great British Spring Clean 2022. One hundred and seventy people of all ages came together to clear the litter using equipment provided by Bath & North East Somerset Council including 70 litter pickers, 30 children's pickers, sacks, gloves and high vis jackets.

Co-benefits: Health and Resilience

Chew Valley Reconnected



Pictured: Northern section of the Chew Valley Lake Recreational Trail

The northern section of the Chew Valley Lake Recreational Trail opened in May 2022. The project was part funded and led by B&NES working with Bristol Water and West of England Rural Network. B&NES have since secured WECA funding to develop the business case for the southern section and have recruited a Project Manager to lead on this and develop the wider Chew Valley Reconnected project.

The aim of the project is to strengthen the Nature Recovery Network through connecting existing habitats and filling identified 'gaps' in the network, which will drive nature's recovery and deliver wider societal benefits.

Co-benefits: Health, Equity, and Resilience

Bathscape



Pictured: A Bathscape volunteer runs an engagement session with two children

The council-led Bathscape Landscape Partnership Scheme has continued to deliver nature, heritage, equal access, health and education outcomes. Three new areas of wildflower meadow have been sown, habitat management practical volunteer days run weekly, and a programme of outdoor wildlife, walking and training events have attracted over 2000 local residents. In addition, the sixth Bathscape Walking Festival took place in September, with over 1400 people joining one or more of the 60+ walks, supported by more than 30 volunteers giving over 350 hours of their time.

Co-benefits: Health, Equity, and Resilience

WaterSpace



Pictured: People using paddleboards on the river in Saltford.

The WaterSpace programme aims to revitalise the waterways through B&NES. In Bath, the team have secured funding to deliver the first phase of the Bath River Line, a 10km greenway through the heart of the city. We have also joined up with South Gloucestershire Council and Bristol City Council to extend the project across the region, through the WaterSpace Connected project.

In November, a workshop was held with key stakeholders to identify the priorities for the next 5 years, including delivering improvements for wildlife, water quality, recreation, and access.

Co-benefits: Health, Equity, and Resilience

Biodiversity Net Gain



Pictured: A birds eye view of Somer Valley.

The Environment Act will require all developments to deliver a minimum 10% 'net gain in biodiversity' from November 2023, which means that development must leave nature in a better state than before.

We will formally adopt a requirement for developments in B&NES to deliver biodiversity net gain in early 2023, but this policy has been influencing planning applications from 1 November 2022. We have done this ahead of national requirements to ensure we are accelerating action to recover nature.

Co-benefits: Health, Economy, and Resilience

The Future Ambition Board: Green Group



Pictured: Wide shot of the city of Bath

The Future Ambition Board was established in 2021 to lead on action planning for a fairer, greener, more creative, and connected Bath City Region. The Climate and Nature sub group of the partnership is led by a business representative and includes 15 reps from public, private and community sectors in B&NES, across a range of subject areas.

The sub group has met three times, focusing on:

- Understanding the experience and expertise each person can bring to the partnership
- What is already happening in the climate action space in B&NES
- Identifying opportunities to unlock more action.

Co-benefits: Health, Economy, Equity, and Resilience

Haycombe Cemetery



Pictured: The top Chapel at Haycombe Cemetery.

Managed by the council, Haycombe Cemetery has made efforts to support biodiversity and nature on site. Following a surprise inspection, they received a 95% score for environmental awareness (22% above industry average). The score reflects the cemetery's commitment to sustainability demonstrated across the site.

Finally, to manage the grounds electric machinery and vehicles are used while memorial benches are created from recycled materials and overlook areas managed for nature including wildflower meadows.

Co-benefits: Resilience

Somer Valley Social Prescribing



Pictured: A family of four ride bicycles past a background of green trees.

Bath & North East Somerset Council has been awarded £1.6 million from Active Travel England to deliver an innovative new Active Travel Social Prescribing Hub in the Somer Valley.

The new hub will promote social prescribing through health professionals and self-referrals into a range of active travel interventions, such as walking and cycling, as an alternative or in addition to prescribing medication. Social prescribing aims to support people's mental health and physical wellbeing in a holistic way.

There are also additional benefits to encouraging behavioural change away from using cars, including reduced carbon emissions, traffic congestion and improved air quality.

Co-benefits: Health, Equity, and Resilience



Pictured: A family of three walk their backs to the viewer in a large park.

The hub is being based within the Somer Valley, as it has lower levels of active travel and higher rates of car ownership and use. The main hub will be at the Healthy Living Centre in Radstock with regular pop-up hubs in high street locations in Midsomer Norton, Paulton and Westfield.

It will be delivered in conjunction with other council initiatives in the Somer Valley, including green social prescribing, which together will deliver greater benefits to health, wellbeing and the climate.



Community Engagement Summary

Council communication channels:

- Dedicated Climate & Ecological Emergency channel in the Council's newsroom. News on action being taken is regularly posted here. The Council also has a You Tube playlist for Climate & Ecological content.
- Monthly 'Bathscape Footprints' podcasts exploring the natural and historic heritage of the Bathscape area attracted over 1400 listeners.

Social media:

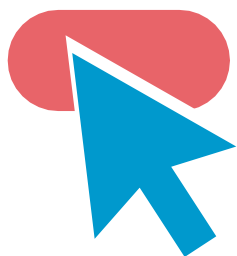
- Campaigns run on Council and Green BathNES channels: A-Z of Sustainability, Energy Saving Advice, and social media was a key tool used for engagement and promotion during the Climate & Biodiversity Festival 2022.

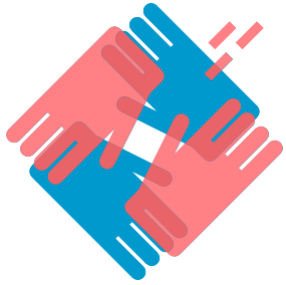
Website:

- Ecological emergency pages are being added alongside the Climate Emergency content.
- The Energy Efficiency, Retrofitting and Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document has been published online, including illustrations. The document is also available in PDF format.
- The Bathscape website was updated this year with the addition of primary school outdoor learning resources, walking trail guides and an upgraded map of the area and its heritage interest.
- The [WaterSpace team have produced a short promotional film](#) showcasing all the River Avon has to offer, from the stunning wildlife, exciting recreational opportunities and beautiful landscapes, there is so much to discover along the river.



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Community Engagement Summary

Engagement events:

- Second Climate & Biodiversity Festival held 24th September to -2nd Oct 2022. 56 events, with 34 organisations involved
- Three parish areas took part in the Renewable Energy Conversations project Parish and Town Council partnership working
- Support provided to Climate & Nature Working Groups in two Forum areas. Parish Liaison Climate & Nature Emergency Workshop held in November.
- A bioblitz was held on the weekend of City Nature Challenge UK at Bath City Farm with around 100 people joining the Bathscape-led activities, while as part of the summer Bristol and Bath Festival of Nature three Bathscape wildlife walks and an outdoor exhibition of artwork on beetles, pollinators and the value of 'weeds' were arranged.

Partnership working:

- Working with the West of England combined Authority to support action in Bath and North East Somerset with a focus on transport, home and business energy efficiency.
- A new Climate & Nature Partnership (Business-led), a theme group of the Future Ambition Board, has been set up.
- After a hiatus due to Covid pressure on public services, the Climate Emergency Public Services Working Group (B&NES Council-led), reformed to improve joint working.
- B&NES actively engage with local and regional partnerships and working groups including West of England Environment Partnership, Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, Natural History Consortium and West of England Green Infrastructure Working Group.



BANES Council Climate Action Plan & Route Map

This document is an overview of priority actions which the Council is taking to tackle the climate emergency.

The route map is a high-level visualisation of key actions planned from now until 2030. The table that follows contains key actions categorised by strategic priority, noting progress and next steps. It is organised by the three priority areas for action:

1. **Decarbonising Buildings – making energy efficiency improvement** of the majority of existing buildings (domestic and non-domestic) and zero-carbon new builds
2. **Decarbonising Transport:** a major shift to mass transport, walking and cycling to reduce transport emissions
3. A rapid and large-scale increase in **Local Renewable Energy Generation**
4. **Net Zero Council – the Council's own operations and where it has influence**

The final table lists the Council's strategies and policies that are supporting delivery of the strategic priorities.

This document is updated annually.



Each action tile includes a progress bar:

1= action/strategy still in formation

2= action/strategy in place, but with no current outputs

3= action/strategy well underway with current outputs

4= action/strategy mature, with plans for redevelopment or additions

5= Bespoke action/strategy now complete and considered finished

Strategic Priority for action:

1. Decarbonising Buildings

1.1 Development of strategic approach to home energy efficiency retrofit (private sector)

PROGRESS UPDATE

Strategy and Projects Manager recruited to the Climate and Environmental Sustainability team to assess the role the council is best placed to play, and which stakeholders we need to engage with, to enable rapid development of the private sector retrofit market in Bath and North East Somerset, including maximising the benefits to the area from the WECA Retrofit Accelerator Hub project.

NEXT STEPS

Junior energy policy and projects officer to be in post April 2023. In conjunction with the Energy Strategy, 3.3 strategic approach to retrofit will be assessed and recommendations made on the favoured approach.



1.2 Energy profiling of the housing stock in BANES and analyse cost effective interventions

PROGRESS UPDATE

Training in use of the Parity Projects Pathway Analysis tool has been delivered to selected staff and an initial report profiling the housing stock in BANES has been produced which analyses the measures and costs that would be required to meet two Net Zero investment scenario targets: achieving net zero with and without 'disruptive' measures.

NEXT STEPS

Use tool to analyse and cost potential interventions in communities with high proportion of people living in energy poverty, housing stock with shortest payback periods for retrofit interventions. Analysis of most impactful retrofit interventions to inform supply-side training provided by retrofit hub, etc.



1.3 Roll out grant funding schemes for low income households

PROGRESS UPDATE

In partnership with BCC and NSC, BANES are rolling out Bright Green Homes; an affordable warmth grant for low income, low energy-efficient households which don't have gas heating, with mechanisms to encourage take-up from owner-occupier and private rented properties.

NEXT STEPS

Continue to bid for further Government funding for affordable warmth grants as they become available. The Council is currently working with BCC and NSC again to secure further funding to continue the Bright Green Homes Scheme for 2 years to March 2025. The proposed scheme will offer insulation, low carbon heating and solar PV to 500 low income households across the consortium.



Strategic Priority for action:

1. Decarbonising Buildings

1.4

Develop communication strategies to drive public interest and access to information about retrofit work.

PROGRESS UPDATE

- Updated Energy at Home website to provide basic retrofitting and low-carbon heating information to households.
- Successful completion of a Climate and Biodiversity Festival in 2021 and 2022, including a platform for talking about energy efficiency advice in the context of a cost of living crisis.

NEXT STEPS

Review scope for uploading bespoke estimated retrofit costings for individual households to the Energy at Home website to allow access to more detailed and nuanced information.



1.5

Develop planning policies and guidance to enable energy efficiency improvement of buildings

PROGRESS UPDATE

Energy Efficiency, Retrofitting & Sustainable Construction SPD published. The Local Plan Partial Update adopted which updates parts of Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan to ensure planning decisions better address the climate emergency. The first in the country to have this type of net zero new build policy. Finalist in Regen Green Energy Awards 2023, Public Sector Local Leadership category for this work.

NEXT STEPS

Develop updates to the full Strategy and Placemaking Plan for the period 2024-34 which further improve the sustainable construction policies to continue reducing energy demand and use, whilst also integrating adaptation elements robustly into building design requirements.



1.6

Maximise benefits to B&NES residents from WECA Retrofit Accelerator Hub

PROGRESS UPDATE

Helped shape the WECA Retrofit Accelerator Hub: a three year programme that will encourage, support and guide homeowners from initial thoughts about retrofit, through surveying, advice on measures to signposting to capable installers to carry out works. The Hub will fund consortium members to increase capacity and provision of retrofit services across the region. Region wide marketing and awareness raising campaign in 2023. CSE appointed as consortium lead in October 2022.

NEXT STEPS

WECA and CSE developing first phase of the Hub for first outputs in 2023. Council will ensure maximum benefit for B&NES residents.



Strategic Priority for Action: 2. Decarbonising Transport

2.1

Development of a suite of capital programmes to reduce car use by 25% in B&NES

PROGRESS UPDATE

Developed the Journey to Net Zero strategy, which sets out how the council will deliver sustainable transport for the next eight years through a suite of approved capital programmes and potential future programmes, including: building public transport options; providing for travel on bike and foot; creating improved places to live and work; cleaner, greener school travel; supporting future mobility and improved rural connectivity.

NEXT STEPS

Delivery of transport improvements identified in the Journey to Net Zero through £540m of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, and liveable neighbourhood programme. Funding awarded from DfT in combination with the Bus Service Improvement Programme funding of £105m.



2.2

Increasing ability to estimate whole-life carbon emissions of transport impact from development projects

PROGRESS UPDATE

Developing a new West of England Regional Transport Model which allows us to model the impact of transport schemes and provides a framework for estimating the impact of projects on transport emissions to allow for better cost-benefit analysis and mapping of emissions reductions against carbon targets.

NEXT STEPS

Complete and gain approval of the West of England Regional Transport Model during Spring 2023.



2.3

Work to increase grid capacity in BANES to allow for faster rollout of EV fast chargers

PROGRESS UPDATE

The council is consulting with the National Grid to set aside significant funds to upgrade the grid in next funding period, beginning in 2023, to ensure grid capacity to allow for faster rollout of fast/rapid charge points for electric vehicles in the area.

NEXT STEPS

Continue quarterly operational engagement meetings with WPD and attend Draft Ofgem Determination workshops in anticipation of final determination expected by early 2023.

NB Overlap with Renewable Energy section on the grid constraint issue



Strategic Priority for Action:

3. Increasing Local Renewable Energy Generation

3.1

Develop an evidence base to inform new Local Plan and future workstreams regarding potential deployment of renewable energy in BANES

PROGRESS UPDATE

Completing a bottom-up assessment of potential renewable, low and zero carbon energy technologies, at different scales and locations across Bath and North East Somerset. Enabling decisions to be taken based on policies supporting and facilitating deployment these energy systems and to aid officers and developers when assessing applications for new development sites or for larger-scale new generation schemes.

NEXT STEPS

Initiate work to develop renewable energy policy approach and evidence base for the new Local Plan. The primary goal will be to further enable renewable energy generation schemes, with a holistic focus on community benefit and biodiversity integration.



3.2

Develop communication strategies to drive public interest and access to information and expertise about renewable energy

PROGRESS UPDATE

Promoted innovative new group-buying programme led by WECA called Solar Together. Scheme gave participants reassurance that they were buying high-quality solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage, access to competitive prices, and guidance and information at every stage through the process.

NEXT STEPS

Review Solar Together with WECA and investigate running another round following high demand of initial offer. Develop a district-wide energy strategy. Continue work with CSE on the community Renewable Energy Conversations project.



3.3

Development of Energy Strategy to provide strategic framework and outline of short- and longer-term actions

PROGRESS UPDATE

Progress Update: Review underway and strategic framework and recommendations for actions emerging. Senior officer and member engagement to take place during December 2022 – Feb 2023, with view to approval of an Energy Strategy by the end of 2023. Will encompass both retrofit and renewables, direct delivery, influencing and partnership work.

NEXT STEPS: Research options that will facilitate more rapid increase in renewable generation across the district. Exploring opportunities for innovation of the council's energy supply.



Strategic Priority for Action:

4. Net Zero Council

4.1
Develop council knowledge and capacity for increasing renewable generation on council properties

PROGRESS UPDATE

Renewable Action Group formed to coordinate development of a pipeline of council renewable projects and spending of the renewable energy development fund. Ensure that all the council is positioned to apply for all relevant national public sector grants. The P&R sites have been removed from the Green Belt through the Local Plan Partial Update. C. 400kW of solar PV installed capacity on council estate; 1.3mW in pipeline; 8.3mW in potential pipeline.

NEXT STEPS

Completion of sites in pipeline and feasibility work of potential pipeline sites including solar canopies on P&R car parks and 4MW ground mounted site. Energy strategy work following on from Aecom Strategy Options report and AECOM RERAS.

See 3.3



4.2
Put in place the framework and policies for measuring and reducing the council's Scope 3 emissions

PROGRESS UPDATE

A new Procurement strategy has been published which formalises the council's need to: consider the carbon footprint and environmental impact of products and services bought. A study has been commissioned from Spherics data company produce a first comprehensive estimate of council scope 3 procurement emissions.

NEXT STEPS

Development of method for integrating sustainable procurement strategy into procurement bid and scoring documents. Dialogue with the largest emitters in the council's suppliers to review strategy for reducing supply chain emissions.



4.3
Waste Services action to reduce operational carbon emissions

PROGRESS UPDATE

Waste Services redevelopment of Keynsham Recycling Hub at the Pixash Lane site has been designed to bring the operational carbon emissions from the main waste management and recycling depot in Keynsham close to zero. The redevelopment is now well underway and includes a solar array of 783 kWp, energy efficiency building fabric, EV charging, waste-water recycling for vehicle washing and at least 10% bio-diversity net gain.

NEXT STEPS

The development is expected to be top-performing in relation to sustainable build features and future-proofed with capacity to increase recycling.



Strategic Priority for Action:

4. Net Zero Council

4.4 Property Services projects to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's corporate estate

PROGRESS UPDATE

Work completed on Charlton House Care Home in Keynsham including solar roof, energy efficiency improvement, LED lighting and a heat pump. Work underway to do the same for two more care homes: Combe Lea and Cleeve Court, due for completion end of 2022 for solar and LED lighting.

NEXT STEPS

A new funding bid had been submitted to Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to pay for heat pumps in the care homes above which if successful will be completed by 2024. A pipeline of projects in the Corporate estate to decarbonise buildings and increase renewables.



4.5 Decarbonising Council fleet programme

PROGRESS UPDATE

Converting our fleet from petrol and diesel to electric when alternative models are available, that are feasible and affordable. 30 electric vehicles currently in fleet; small vans and street cleansing pedestrian machines and sweepers. We trialled an electric waste collection truck.

NEXT STEPS

6 more vehicles due for replacement this year. We are in the process when replacement is due to convert to alternatives for hand-held/small powered pieces of kit – strimmers, leaf-blowers, hedge-trimmers, chain-saws and are prioritising use of these in the CAZ and other noise and emissions sensitive areas/uses.



4.6 Aligning council policies and plans

PROGRESS UPDATE

The council's Corporate Strategy to 2024, adopted in 2019, has tackling the climate and ecological emergency as a core policy and sets out a series of specific actions to help deliver our net zero commitments. Updates on projects that deliver the core policy are reported in the council's [newsroom](#)

NEXT STEPS

Work is underway on planning for the council's corporate planning frameworks following the current Corporate Strategy period. One of the options being considered for this is to adopt the "doughnut" model which places the environmental ceiling alongside social outcomes as the key decision-making framework.



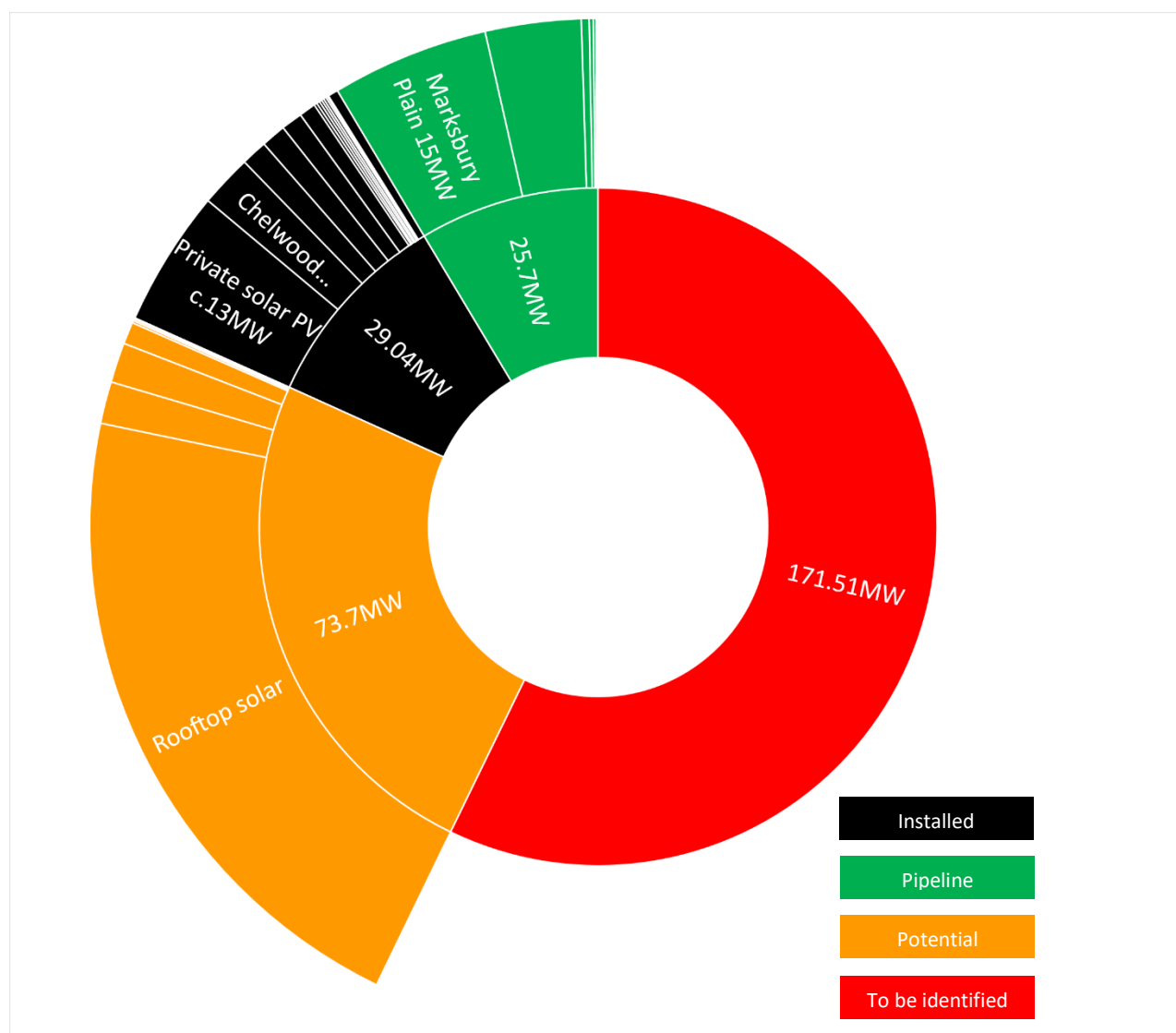
Strategic priority	Strategies and plans enabling delivery
Transport	West of England Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan West of England Joint Local Transport Journey to Net Zero Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan Bus Service Improvement Plan City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Low Traffic Neighbourhood Strategy On-street Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	Local Planning Policies Energy Efficiency, Retrofitting and Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document
Council	Waste Strategy (<i>available early 2023</i>) Corporate Estate Management Strategy (<i>available end of 2023</i>)

Increasing Local Renewable Energy Generation Update 2022

There has been significant progress in the development of the pipeline of renewable energy installations in 2022.

The chart below shows the installed capacity across Bath and North East Somerset (black); pipeline (green); potential pipeline (orange) and capacity yet to be identified (red) of a total of 300MW energy capacity level that includes both heating and electricity.

The 300MW is an indication of the scale needed across the district to help meet the target for Bath and North East Somerset to become net zero by 2030, based on a Scatter stretch pathway illustrated in the Climate Emergency Study 'Synthesis of Evidence'¹.



Installed capacity (black)

The installed capacity is illustrated in black and in the chart is shown as 29.04MW. This total is made up of existing ground mounted solar farms at Chelwood, Wilmington Farm as well as a number of roof mounted solar PV installations across the Council's corporate and commercial estate and community energy roof mounted solar PV across a number of academized schools. The figure includes anaerobic digestion (2.5MW); biomass (2.03MW); sewage gas (0.63); landfill (1.6MW) and incineration (0.06MW). It should be considered therefore that >2.5MW of capacity is from combustion renewables as opposed to clean renewables at the point of generation.

A significant proportion of the installed capacity (13MW) is estimated to be on domestic solar rooftops, however there is a significant degree of uncertainty associated with this figure and it is therefore considered provisional. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy have acknowledged the problem in the document in this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/renewable-energy-statistics-data-sources-and-methodologies>: *'For many technologies, especially electricity, no single data source can provide complete coverage, therefore, several data sources are used. However, between the data sources, there is duplication of data for some sites.'* The Microgeneration Certification Scheme data, for example, provides an indication of the number and size of installations of rooftop solar but is reliant on installers inputting the correct figures. It's also known that not all solar installations are required to be registered with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme and as such the actual level of installed capacity may be higher. A higher estimate of installed rooftop solar capacity from a file provided by MCS suggested approximately 40MW. However, this is thought to be unrealistically high at this stage and due to errors with data entry. All data sources are going through a process of validation and reconciliation with the other District Network Operator (Distribution Future Energy Scenarios) and the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy data in order that we get to interoperability of sources; remove duplication and predict the higher estimate based on survey data.

It should be noted that the West of England Combined Authority Solar Together scheme that B&NES were a partner in resulted in 1MW of domestic rooftop solar installation across approximately 280 properties.

Pipeline (green)

The pipeline value is 25.7MW. There is a much higher level of certainty associated with this figure as it is made up large ground mounted solar sites (Marksbury Plain and Howgrove Farm) that have this year acquired planning consent; and a number of rooftop solar sites on the academised schools and corporate estate including care homes; sports centres and a waste recycling facility at Pixash Lane in Keynsham.

Revised Dec 2022

new

Potential Pipeline (orange)

The potential pipeline value is estimated at 73.7MW. This includes a community ground mounted solar farm at Fairy Hill near Compton Dando; as well as leased leisure facilities and car park solar canopies at the Council's park and ride sites for which feasibility work is currently underway. Most of this figure is made up of the identified rooftop solar PV potential identified by Camco in

https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Planning-and-Building-Control/Planning-Policy/LP20162036/bnes_renewable_energy_resource_update_report_2018_publication_version.pdf as totalling 76.6MW. Approximately 13.3MW is thought to have been installed and therefore 63.3MW rooftop potential remains. The latest MCS data indicates that annual installation of rooftop solar capacity may now be as high as 2MW or more. This is thought to be as a result of increased demand relating to the energy and cost of living crisis.

Yet to be identified (red)

It is expected that this figure of 171.51MW is likely to reduce as more larger generation schemes acquire planning consent, for example it is possible that a number of wind turbine proposals may emerge as a result of changes to the planning framework through the Local Plan Partial Update currently in process. No figures have been included in the chart above for potential wind generation as the current planning framework largely prevent wind development. The Anthesis report (https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/sitedocuments/Environment/anthesis_bnes_climate_emergency_discussion_pack_final.pdf) identifies a potential of 70MW by 2030, although no sites or proposals have yet come forward.

A 2018 Regen report² estimated that '3% of homes having PV totalling 8MW of domestic capacity and around 81 roof-mounted commercial and industrial projects totalling 2.5MW of capacity' existed in the authority area. It is expected that there will be a substantial growth in this area of energy generation, giving the relatively low proportion of homes with solar PV and current context of high electricity costs.

The potential hydro power resource is very low at 0.4MWe as the waterways in B&NES have insufficient 'head' i.e. power, to make hydro-power viable. However, Bath and West Community Energy are enabling a rapid increase in rooftop solar across the district, particularly on public sector and commercial rooftops.

The MCS data suggests that the rate of domestic and business solar PV installed capacity has approximately doubled since we declared a Climate Emergency in 2019.

The proportion of installed capacity that is provided by community energy is very high at 40% when compared to other areas across the country. This allied with enabling planning policy work and engagement with the DNO suggest that there is likely to be an increasing rate of growth in renewable energy installations up to and beyond 2030.

There is still no national methodology to report on installed renewable energy capacity across the full range of technologies. Therefore, these figures are subject to change in the future as the methodology and data sources improve.

Route Map: Projected Milestones*

2022

Page 67



**March 2019 -
B&NES Council
declares a Climate
Emergency**



**Partnership working
through 'One Shared
Vision' to deliver
climate action**



**30 additional new
public EV charge
points installed by
the council**



**Local Plan
Partial
Update
adopted**

Gov Targets
Future Homes :
No fossil fuel
heating in new
builds
2025

Gov Targets
Ofgem to invest
300m in grid and
3500 EV charge
points
2023

Gov Targets
Environmental
bill to come
into force
2023

Gov Targets
All HMOs will
have EPC C,
MEES require
EPC D
2023



**Low carbon
Keynsham
recycling centre
construction**



**Partnership actively
accelerating
impact across all
priority areas**



**First Liveable
Neighbourhood
areas implemented**



**'Towards Zero
Waste 2030'
Strategy
adopted**

Gov Targets
Aim for 1GW
hydrogen
production
capacity
2025

Gov Targets
Expected decision
on long term
decarbonisation
of heat
2025

Gov Targets
Up to 3k jobs
created through
increased public
transport
2025



**£1.5m B&NES
capital invested in
yield generating
renewable energy**



**Full update of
Local Plan
planning policy**



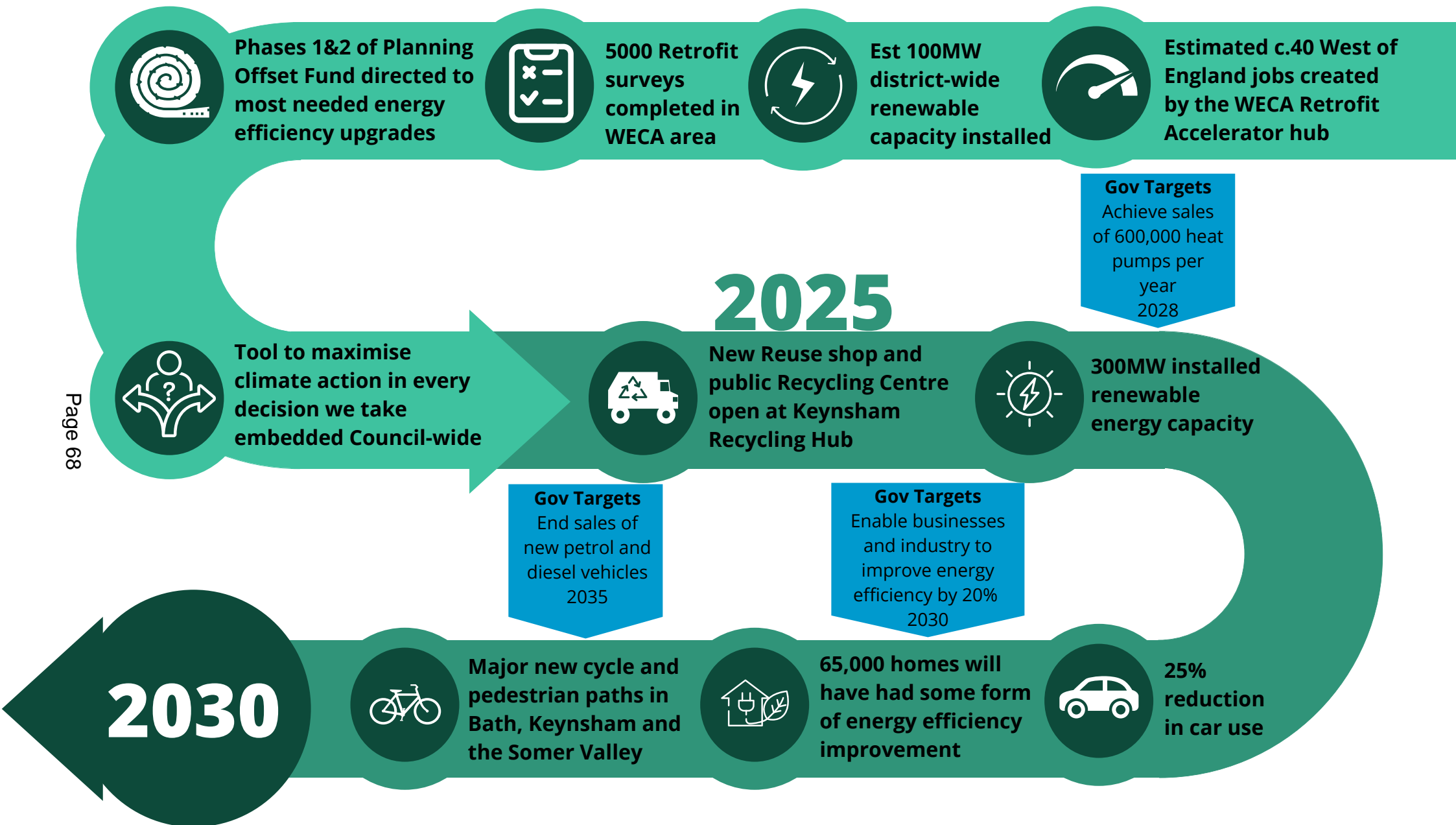
**6-10MW
installed on
corporate
estate**



**Projected 19K
B&NES residents
targeted by retrofit
accelerator**

*Milestones are all based on expected outcomes from ongoing workstreams, they are subject to change and will be reviewed annually.

Version 6





Bath & North East Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy

2019-2030

Version: March 2023



TACKLING THE CLIMATE
AND ECOLOGICAL
EMERGENCY

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

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Foreword

Climate change is affecting all of us now and its consequences are projected to worsen in the future. We're experiencing rising temperatures; seven of the last ten summers have reached 34 degrees and six of the ten wettest years on record have been since 1998. The more extreme and unpredictable weather that we're seeing has impacts on homes, health, food production and supply as well as damaging impacts on the natural environment and wildlife. The Met Office currently predicts a terrifying temperature rise by 2050 of 2.7 degrees compared to pre-industrial levels, if we continue on our current trajectory.

I remain hopeful though, as we have the technology to reduce that figure substantially. We now need every level of government to come together with individuals, businesses and communities in a huge communal effort to do just that.

In 2019 we were one of the first councils to make a declaration to tackle the climate emergency. We committed to provide the leadership to enable the Bath and North East Somerset area to become carbon neutral by 2030 as well as doing the same for our own operations.

This strategy is to highlight the key areas we need to focus on to drive down carbon emissions and achieve our net zero ambition. We know that this is an ambitious target, and it will mean making changes to the way we live our lives both through technology and our mindset and I know that not all of these will be easy. The council is committed to provide the support to enable these changes and we don't want to leave anyone behind. This is why we're committed to making the transition to carbon neutrality a just one, that helps to reduce inequalities, improve health and supports the local economy.

We can't do this alone and we know that there is already lots of activity to cut carbon emissions underway across our community. Achieving our net zero ambition is a huge challenge so we invite everyone to join us.

Councillor Sarah Warren, Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel



Introduction

The council will provide leadership to enable carbon neutrality in the district by 2030.

In 2019 the council declared a Climate Emergency^{1,2}. Tackling the Climate Emergency means creating a different vision for all parts of Bath and North East Somerset, including the World Heritage Site of Bath itself.

The council is committed to providing the leadership to enable this scale of ambition to be realised and recognises that this requires a significant and fundamental shift within all sectors of the community. We hope that residents, communities, organisations, and businesses join us in working towards this ambition.

The Climate Emergency Strategy sets out our priorities and approach to deliver on the commitments made in the March 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration^{1,2}. It outlines the strategic priorities for action, which inform more detailed policies and delivery plans across the council, as well as influencing partners who we work alongside to deliver services.



Citizens asking for the council to declare a Climate Emergency.

Climate Strategy

Due for review in 2025

Action Plan

Updated annually

Progress Report

Annual highlight report

Understanding the challenge

To develop a plan of action, we first had to understand where the carbon emissions were coming from across the district. We commissioned Anthesis in 2019 to research and identify the action needed to achieve district-wide carbon neutrality by 2030³.

Emissions breakdown

Figure 1: Bath & North East Somerset District Carbon footprint - Scope 1 & 2

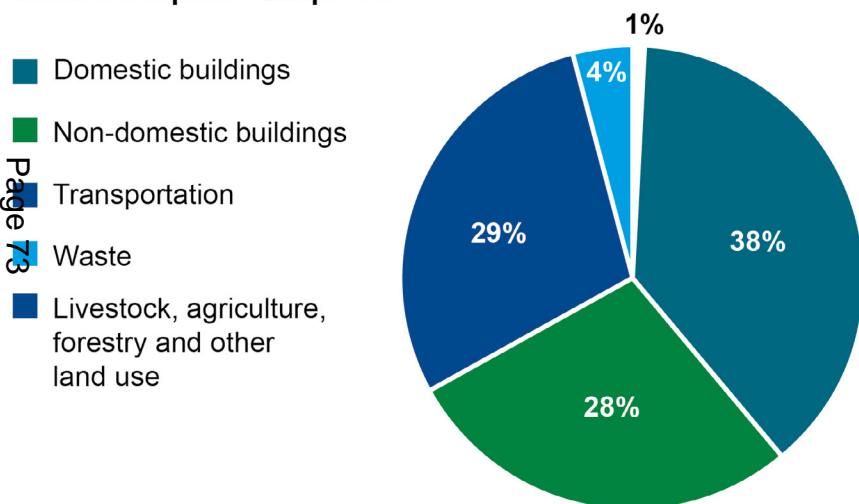


Figure 1: Bath and North East Somerset district-wide direct emissions (i.e. from gas, oil, petrol, diesel) and indirect emissions (i.e. electricity), also known as Scope 1 & 2, are: 766,876 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon equivalent) per year. The direct and indirect emissions (Scope 1 & 2) break down as follows: Energy use in buildings: 66%, (of which homes produce 38% and industry, commerce and institutions 28%); Transport: 29%; and Other 5%, of which waste is 4% and agriculture, forestry and other land use is 1%. The per capita emissions in Bath and North East Somerset: 3.9 (tCO₂e)

The data in Figure 1 does not provide the full story as it only covers emissions produced within the UK. Across the area we consume imported goods and services, which have their own carbon footprint that is not accounted for here, these emissions are notoriously difficult to unravel and are known as Scope 3 emissions.

It is estimated that the carbon footprint of imported goods and services bought by local people in the Bath and North East Somerset area is: 1,271,578 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon equivalent) per year based on anthesis analysis³ (Figure 2). These emissions are significantly higher than the direct/indirect emissions according to these estimates, but due to the calculation method there will be some overlap in the figures for all emissions. Consumers and businesses have some control over the products they choose, but action is needed nationally and internationally to fully understand and tackle consumption emissions.

Figure 2: Comparison of in-district and consumption emissions tCO₂e/yr 2016

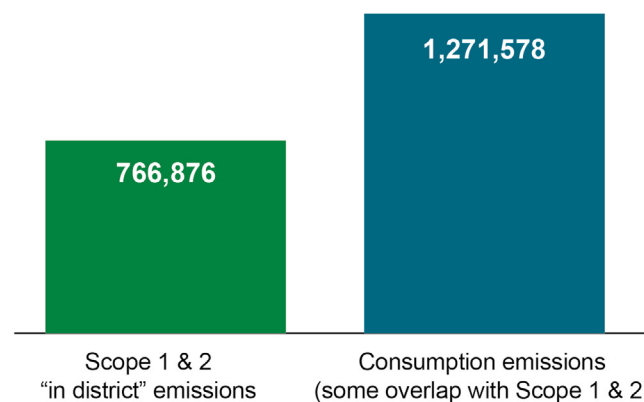


Figure 2: A bar chart comparing "in district" emissions which account for direct and indirect carbon emissions vs consumption emissions which estimate the carbon footprint of imported goods bought by businesses and residents.

Understanding the challenge

Pathways to 2030

Using national data scaled to the district, the SCATTER tool enables local authorities to sketch pathways for reducing emissions produced by the local energy system. It presents a range of measures, e.g. home insulation, and allows users to select from four levels of ambition for each, with Level 1 being “Business as Usual” and Level 4, the “Stretch” pathway, deemed the maximum achievable based on present day technology and evidence³ (Figure 3). The “Business As Usual (BAU)” pathway broadly equates to reductions in line with Government policy introduced to meet the original Climate Change Act target of an 80% reduction CO₂ by 2050, prior to the adoption of the national net zero carbon (carbon neutral) 2050 target in June 2019³.

These pathways and figures are not set in concrete, they are based on a range of assumptions about technology and market readiness that will change over time. Therefore, based on current knowledge it isn't possible to quantify all measures needed to achieve net zero 2030³. However, we have sufficient information to understand the nature and scale of action needed, meaning that we can plan and deliver action aimed resolutely at that target.

In the future more work will focus on how we can increase the amount of carbon sequestration: carbon absorbed locally by the natural environment (soil, trees, grassland), which will also play a role in achieving carbon neutrality.

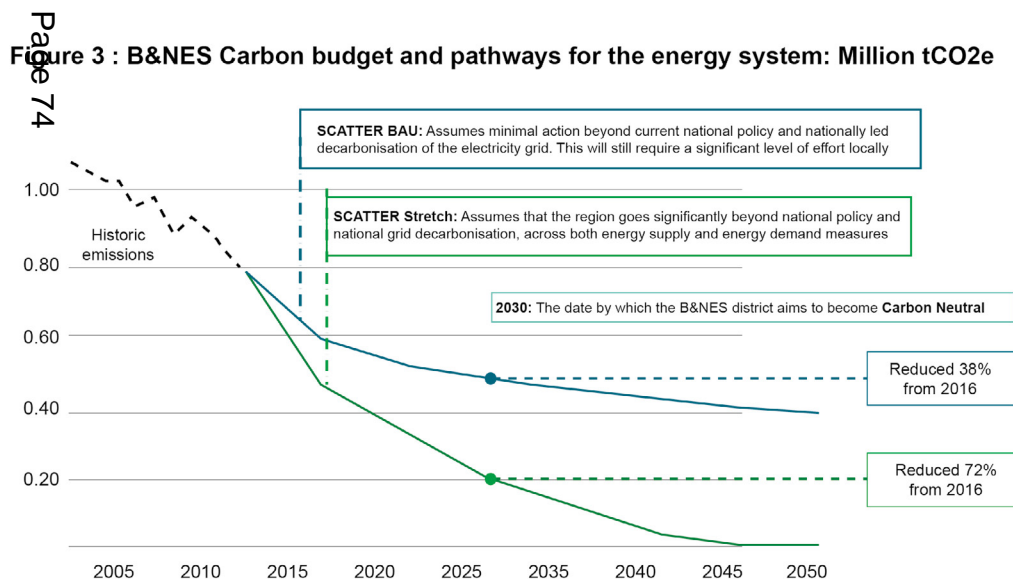


Figure 3: Line graph showing two carbon budget pathways for the energy system. Business as usual pathway is shown in blue while the more ambitious stretch pathway is shown in green³.

The BAU pathway would achieve a 38% reduction in emissions by 2030 (Figure 3), but it would not achieve the national target of net zero carbon by 2050. The “Stretch” pathway is Level 4 of the SCATTER tool, the highest level of ambition and it achieves a reduction of 72% by 2030 and zero carbon by 2050 (Figure 3). There is still a gap between this projection and the council aim of net zero carbon by 2030 as the Stretch pathway is based on present day evidence and current national policy. It is expected that this gap will narrow as technologies develop, market conditions change, and national policies are adopted³.

Understanding the challenge

Taking Action and Influencing

The UK Climate Change Committee estimates that local authorities can influence one third of carbon emissions in their area⁴.

The ambition to become a carbon neutral area is challenging and complex as the powers to act on different sections of the district carbon footprint does not sit with one organisation⁵. For example, we have direct control of managing the energy use of council buildings, but only indirect control of emissions created from the goods and services we buy.

The council is prioritising action where we can lead and influence carbon emission reduction with the biggest impact, such as through planning policy-making that sets high energy efficiency standards for new buildings and makes it easier to install renewable energy.

As demonstrated in Figure 4 the most impactful roles councils can perform are often the most complicated. Local partnership working, regional collaboration are essential to tackling the two thirds of emissions we have little direct control of. Alongside lobbying of national government to provide greater power and resources for local action alongside accelerating the national transition.

By prioritising these areas of influence the council is maximising its overall impact to drive down areawide carbon emissions.

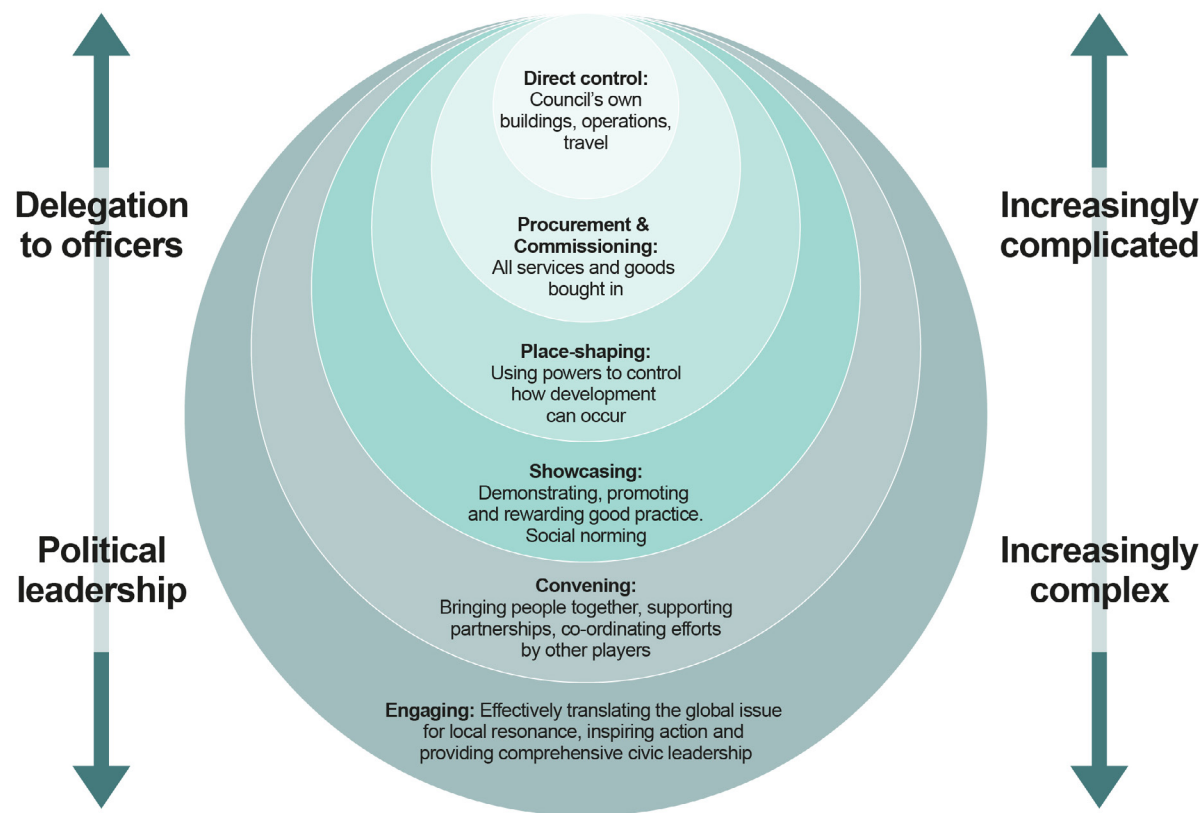


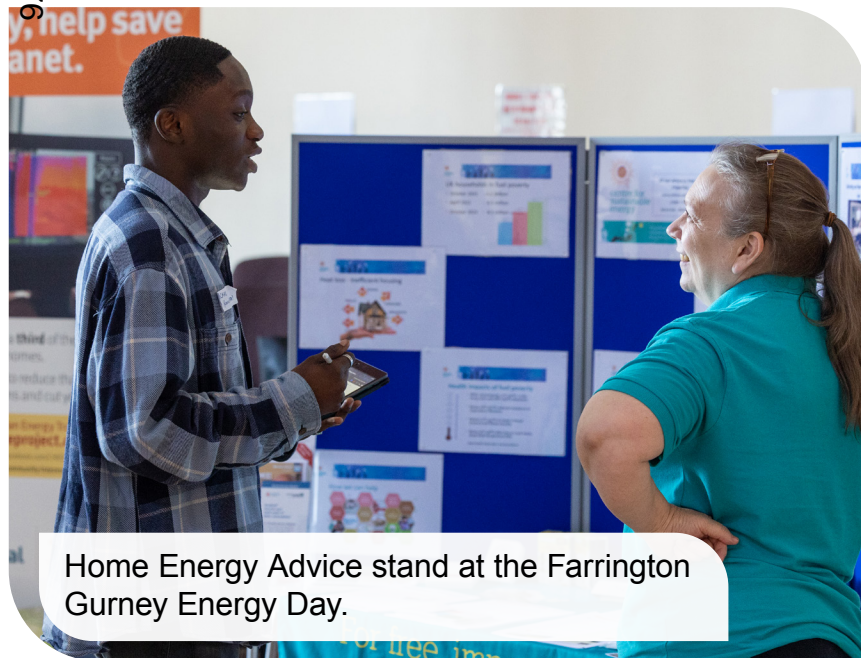
Figure 4: This diagram shows the different roles the council can play to reduce areawide carbon emissions through direct action, enabling and influencing. Bigger circles indicate a larger impact but less control, while smaller circles imply a greater level of control over the action outcomes. Image credit: Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE).

Understanding the challenge

A Just Transition

The council is committed to ensuring that the transition to a zero-carbon future is a just and fair one. We analysed household carbon footprints against income deciles, looking at: home energy use; transport (cars) and air travel⁵ (Figure 5). This helps to understand where responsibility for action lies and how we can support the vulnerable or those on a low income.

There is a clear trend that those who earn more, tend to emit more, with car and aviation use rising sharply with income (Figure 5). As we develop communication campaigns, seek funding to create financial support and initiatives, and encourage residents to convert to lower carbon energy systems, this evidence will inform and target the work.



Home Energy Advice stand at the Farrington Gurney Energy Day.

Figure 5: Household CO2 emissions by income (2011)

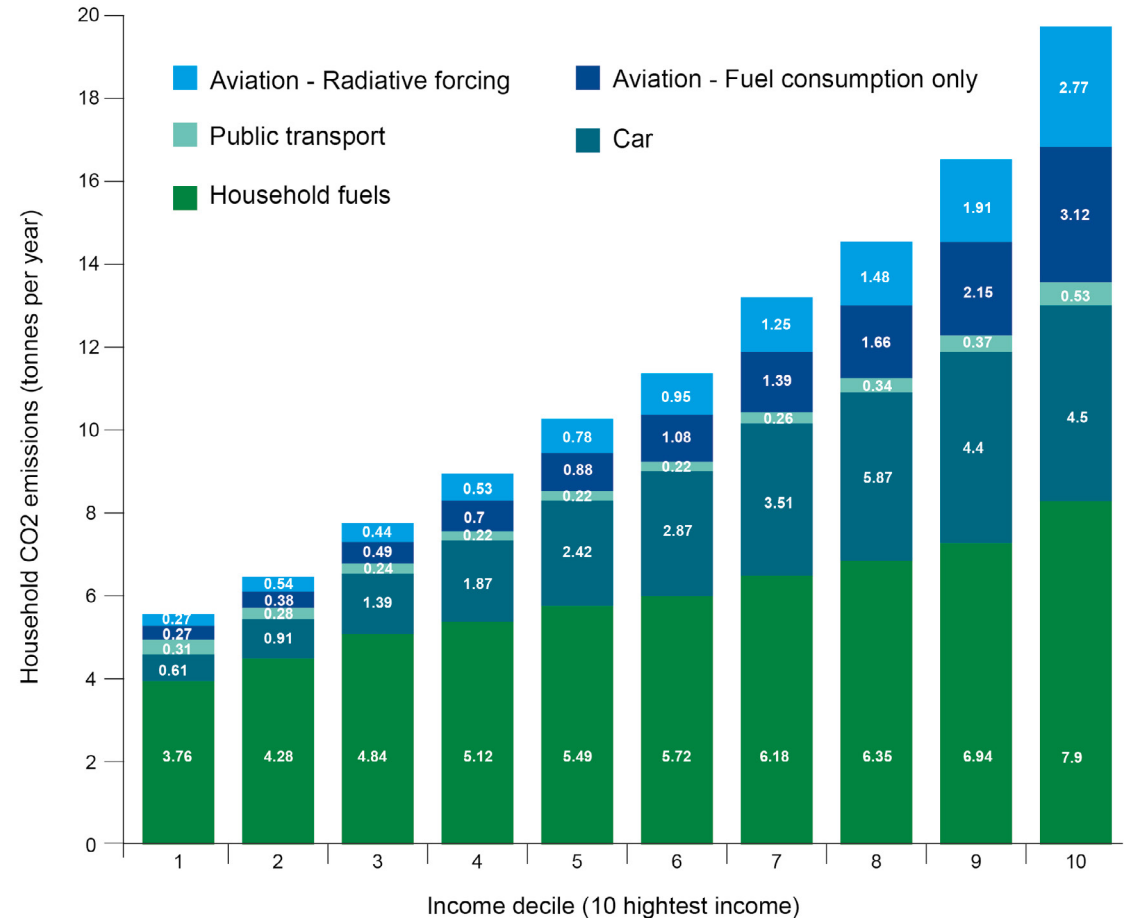


Figure 5: Stacked bar chart comparing household CO2 emissions across ten income deciles with one being the lowest income and ten being the highest. The graph indicates that households with higher incomes emit more CO2.

..... Approach to action planning in Bath & North East Somerset

Strategic Approach

Our approach to delivery is based on these principles:

Providing Leadership

Working in Partnership

Enabling community action

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Co-benefits

When tackling the climate emergency to lower carbon emissions in the most environmentally sustainable way, we often realise multiple benefits which contribute to improving people's lives⁶. The energy crisis highlights this, making homes more energy efficient cuts carbon emissions and crucially, lowers energy costs making those homes warmer and healthier.

Other co-benefits of climate action include: improved public health, social equality, thriving economies, community resilience, nature protection and recovery. Recognising these co-benefits can help create support and momentum for wider changes that are needed. Below we outline co-benefits against each of the strategic priorities for action⁶.

The council was invited by Ashden - a leading organisation supporting proven climate action - to sit on a national working group that developed the 'Co-Benefits Toolkit for Local Authorities'⁶.

The strategic priorities for action

Three clear priorities emerged from the research and modelling data for cutting carbon emissions across Bath and North East Somerset.

These key priorities are:



Decarbonising buildings



Decarbonising transport



Increasing renewable energy generation

A fourth priority is also identified in the commitment the council made to:



Cut council operational carbon emissions to net zero by 2030

The pathways modelled by Anthesis identify the nature, scale and speed of actions needed to achieve the ambition of net zero by 2030³. These pathways provide the strategic framework that informs action planning by the council, our partners, and communities. They show that action needs to be taken across the three priorities in parallel to deliver the scale of carbon reduction needed.

The Anthesis modelling was based on available technology and assumptions about the policy climate and market conditions at the time the research was completed³.

We know that technology, policy, regulation, and market developments will take place, and already are, meaning the assumptions made during the initial modelling will change. For example, as renewable energy technologies develop, cost tipping points will be reached, or changes to national policy and regulation may cause rapid market shifts in either demand management or zero carbon energy supply. Therefore, while the overall framework defined by the strategic priorities for action is unlikely to change, the nature of the actions will, as the context changes and new opportunities arise.

In 2025 the strategic priorities for action will be reviewed, when the carbon footprint and pathway modelling are revisited, while the action plan, including the high-level route-map to 2030, will be updated annually.

..... The strategic priorities for action

Priority 1. Decarbonising Buildings

Energy use in buildings constitutes 66% of the Bath and North East Somerset in-area carbon footprint, therefore we must look at our buildings, both existing and future, to reduce our carbon footprint³.

New buildings need to be net zero carbon or better and Planning Policy will continue to be updated to facilitate this. Often called retrofitting, all existing buildings will need to be upgraded to improve energy efficiency and reduce their carbon footprint. Homes are a particular challenge, and we are working with partners to develop a regional approach that will address all aspects of home retrofit including jobs and skills, the supply chain, and customer experience.

Upgrades to improve energy efficiency in heritage buildings and in conservation areas must be done sensitively. Our approach to retrofit for all buildings needs to ensure they can cope with the impacts of climate change, including wetter winters and hotter summers.



Insulation being fitted to a home.

Example actions:



There are 87,500 homes in the Bath and North East Somerset area, research suggests that approx. 65,000 of these homes need some form of energy saving measures by 2030. Measures may include loft, walls, and underfloor insulation, draught-proofing, improved window glazing and more. This estimate includes all types of homes; owner occupied, social housing and privately rented.



Decarbonise heat by switching from gas to electric heating e.g. 40% of homes switched from gas by 2030, and switching 76% of gas cookers to electric.



New homes and developments need to be zero carbon or net carbon positive.

Co-benefits:

- Improved health for vulnerable residents in homes most susceptible to cold or extreme heat.
- Fuel poverty becomes a thing of the past for those on low incomes.
- Energy consumption decreases through reduction in wasted heat via inefficient buildings.
- More comfortable buildings in cold or hot weather.
- Opportunities for nature via building technologies which also provide insulation effect.
- Economic benefits including new skills and jobs.

The strategic priorities for action

Priority 2. Decarbonising Transport

Emissions from transport make up 29% of Bath and North East Somerset's carbon footprint, which depending on income and other factors, is a large component of the household footprint³.

Action on transport can be influenced by local initiatives and can help deliver on other council priorities. We will work with the West of England Combined Authority and transport operators to decarbonise transport. To achieve this, we will provide transport infrastructure and environments that will encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport making them a genuine alternative to the car. It is also essential we maintain access for those whose needs cannot easily be met by more sustainable modes of transport.

Travel emissions will be reduced further through a range of actions. These actions include updates to planning policy to ensure that new developments allow for sustainable travel, improving efficiency of existing services reducing the need to travel, or co-locating services with partners. We will enable businesses and communities to consider actions that they can implement or influence locally to improve sustainable transport options and reduce the need to travel. Local initiatives could include things such as local delivery services, working hubs and community-led services like community libraries.



Example actions:



A major shift to mass transport, walking and cycling to reduce emissions.



25% cut in car and van mileage per person per year by 2030.



76% switch to electric cars* and 14% to petrol/EV hybrid, leaving 10% petrol/diesel on the road by 2030.

*It should be noted that electric vehicles are not going to solve the problem on their own as they still contribute to congestion, poor air quality and pollution from tyres and brakes. Additionally, the essential elements needed to make them are not available in sufficient quantity.



Full electrification of passenger rail by 2030.

Co-benefits:

- Better health through improved air quality.
- Enhanced health and wellbeing through increase in physical activity and contact with nature.
- More equitable transport options for those outside of the urban centres.
- In urban areas, more space for nature through infrastructure changes.

..... The strategic priorities for action

Priority 3. Increasing Local Renewable Energy Generation

Local renewable energy generation needs to be developed rapidly and at scale to contribute to the decarbonisation of electricity, heat, and transport.

The Anthesis 2019 report suggested that we need a minimum additional 300MW of locally generated renewable energy in Bath and North East Somerset. The research analysed the full range of renewable technologies available, most of which will need to be developed to some degree over time. Of those technologies that are ready to deploy now, the research indicated the scale of deployment needed by 2030, which is shown in the example actions below. We will keep emerging technologies such as the smart grid, demand shifting, and energy storage under review, as these are an essential part of the solution in combination with renewable energy generation.



Generating renewable energy via rooftop solar panels on a house in Bath.

In Bath and North East Somerset we have a strong track record on local community energy, with the community enterprise Bath & West Community Energy a leader in the field. Community energy will have a key role to play in helping to deliver this target through engagement with local neighbourhoods and enabling projects, with all the benefits that community ownership brings.

Example actions:



Domestic solar PV installed on 50% of existing homes by 2030.



Solar PV on commercial roof space and ground mounted sites equivalent to around 116 football pitches' worth.



Wind Turbines, around 28 large (2.5 MW) wind turbines.

Co-benefits:

- Energy is more affordable and fuel poverty becomes a thing of the past.
- A more resilient and affordable energy system for all, that is not subject to price shocks.
- Benefits to the local economy from community-owned projects that keep surplus profit within the area through local investment and community grant schemes.
- Nature protection and habitat protection through sensitively managed generation sites.

..... The strategic priorities for action

Priority 4. Net Zero Council

To ensure that net zero is achieved across the district, the council has committed to cut carbon emissions from its own buildings and operations where it has direct control. We will also influence emission reductions from outsourced and contracted council services.

Figure 6: The Council's own emissions
5,833 (tCO₂e) Scopes 1&2

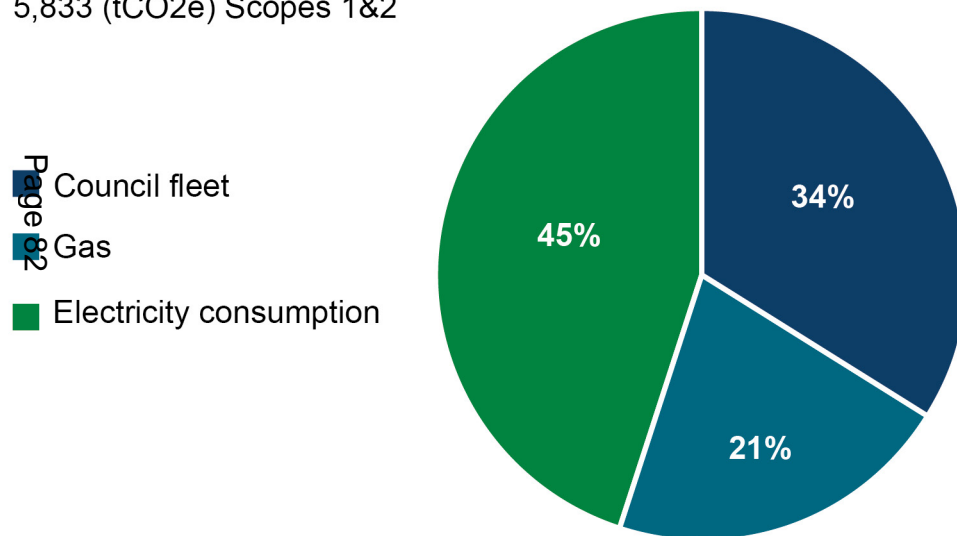


Figure 6: Pie chart displaying council operational emissions as a percentage of the council's carbon footprint in electricity, gas and vehicle fuel (scopes 1 & 2).

The council has committed to the following:

- **To review and align key strategies with climate commitments, starting with:**
 - Procurement and Commissioning Strategy
 - Housing strategy to enable delivery of large-scale and rapid home energy efficiency across all in conjunction with key partners,
 - Corporate Estate Review
 - Partial update of the Local Plan to demonstrate that Bath and North East Somerset is open for business in terms of retrofitting, zero carbon new build, sustainable transport and renewable energy in particular, prior to a full Local Plan update commencing in 2022.
 - Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 makes Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies one of two core priorities and reflects this in its Budget.
- Since April 2021 the **council's energy contracts** are 100% renewable energy.
- **Invest in retrofitting the council's own buildings**, including securing funding through future rounds of the government Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund.
- Budget allocation for the **development of renewable energy projects** within the estate and beyond.
- Run a **climate literacy training programme** to ensure that staff have a baseline awareness of; the causes, issues, and impacts of climate change; council commitments and action; and ways that staff can influence activity within their roles. Climate Literacy is part of the induction programme for all new staff with a short e-learning course and a face-to-face workshop style course available. Senior managers and Ward Councillors received a day-long climate leadership course in 2020.

..... The strategic priorities for action

Priority 4. Net Zero Council cont.

- **Citizen engagement programme**, develop a public communications campaign, including community events.
- Develop a **citizen jury** or juries on key issues related to the priorities.
- The council will lead the establishment of a **new district-wide partnership**. It will encompass work from relevant existing local and West of England partnerships, strategies, and projects.
- **Understand and address Scope 3 emissions.**

There has been some initial work looking at the council's Scope 3 emissions including schools, which are no longer in the council's control and the commercial property estate occupied by tenants. Scope 3 also includes all building and transport related emissions from a range of health and social care services run by contractors procured by the Council.

The combined Scope 3 emissions are much larger than Scope 1 and 2 (ref Figure 3 pg 6). More work needs to be done to analyse this further, but in the meantime the council has recognised how important tackling the Scope 3 emissions is and has developed a Climate Emergency Commissioning and Procurement Strategy⁷. The strategy will ensure that all future contracts must deliver against the Climate Emergency Declaration. Simultaneously current contractors and service providers are being urged to commit to the 2030 target and undertake their own action planning to achieve rapid carbon reduction.

Carbon reduction work before 2019

Prior to the Climate Emergency resolution, a range of carbon reduction work has already been undertaken by the council, under the leadership of the B&NES Environmental Sustainability Partnership (2009 – 2019). Including:

- The first local authority to roll-out LED street-lighting to main roads.
- Ground-breaking work to enable the development of one of the UK's leading community energy enterprises, Bath & West Community Energy.
- An award-winning exemplar low carbon office building – the Keynsham Civic Centre – including the largest solar PV array in any new UK public sector building, at the time of installation.
- The Energy at Home retrofitting scheme that dispersed c £800k in grants to local people to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
- Piloted an innovative procurement of the school meal service using a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS), enabling more small, independent and local food producers to be suppliers.
- Partnership working with multiple local community organisations to unlock data leading to the formation of the Energy Sparks charity. Using the school's own real-time energy consumption data in the classroom for learning and in facilities management.

Partnerships and collaborative working

The scale and speed of change necessary to achieve our ambition to become zero carbon by 2030 requires strong leadership across all priorities. This includes action across the public, private and community sectors in Bath and North East Somerset, working together to find solutions and overcome barriers.

Through membership of influential national groups such as UK100, LGA (Local Government Association), ADEPT (Association of Development, Environment, Planning and Transport directors), and APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) we can shape and inform central government of the changes needed to enable us to achieve our goals, while doing our best to find ways to deliver action in Bath and North East Somerset now. For example, we know changes in government policy and regulation can lead to rapid change in the renewable energy or retrofitting markets, but we cannot wait for that to happen. Therefore, we have helped form or attend several partnership groups including:



Climate and Nature Partnership Group, one of four themed partnerships of the Future Ambition Board. This business-led includes representatives from public, private and community sectors in Bath and North East Somerset. The group formed in May 2022 and is identifying opportunities to work together to unlock more action at scale across the district.

Background: The Economic Renewal and Recovery Board (ERRB), now known as The Future Ambition Board, was established during the COVID pandemic in 2020 and sponsored the development of One Shared Vision for Bath and North East Somerset. The board was driven by the need to tackle weaknesses in the local economy that the pandemic highlighted and build on the positive changes that took place, such as the shift to home working and reduction in commuting. It is clear we need to create a stronger, more diverse and greener local economy that encompasses the 2030 net zero goal and our climate and nature emergency commitments.



Student Community Partnership (SCP) - Green Group. Members of this group include key officers from the SCP, the two universities, students' unions and sabbatical officers, further education colleges and the council.



West of England Combined Authority - Bath & North East Somerset Council is a constituent part of this regional authority, where we work together to accelerate action on climate, particularly on transport, energy and building energy efficiency.



Community Energy – The council has cooperation agreements with community energy organisations to support and enable new renewable energy in the area and community action. Through investing, there is re-investment back into the local community and local economy.

Partnerships and collaborative working

Enabling others

We recognise and value the contribution that local community action makes towards successfully meeting the area's climate and ecological ambitions. Grassroots action is uniquely placed to build thriving communities with social and economic co-benefits. The council has committed to working with the local community and to play an enabling and supportive role. Our experience shows that joining up and working with community members delivers great results: more voices are heard, we benefit from a wide range of local knowledge, and see effective amplification of communications about carbon reduction initiatives.



Community Forest School event in Bath's Sydney Gardens.

We do this through:



Area-based Community Forums – We provide updates on policies, plans and actions to the six forum areas and act on feedback or input returned. We support Climate and Nature Working Groups that have formed within the Community Forum areas.



Parish and Town Councils - Of the 51 parishes within Bath and North East Somerset over half have either declared climate emergencies or have already acted to benefit the climate and natural environment. The council has provided action planning training alongside a Parish Council Toolkit to provide support and signposting to relevant opportunities.



Community Groups – There is a varied and active network of eco community groups across Bath and North East Somerset that run projects on community engagement, energy, home energy retrofit, sharing and repairing, food production, wildlife, tree nurseries, litter reduction, and school climate education.



Engagement with other community networks and organisations: Interagency Forum and Funding Bulletin, 3SG, Volunteer Service, Student Community Partnership, Fair Food Alliance, Journey to Net Zero Forum, Bath and West Community Energy.

Governance and reporting

The council has the following governance framework in place.

Elected members:

- Council
- Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel (new position created in 2019)
- Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel (established in 2019)

Officers:

- Senior Leadership Team
- Responsible Officer: Director of Sustainable Communities
- Green Transformation Senior Officer Group

Council performance is monitored through indicators embedded in the Integrated Reporting Framework. The Council's Strategic Evidence Base also includes data on delivery of the climate and ecological emergencies. Finally, an annual report is also submitted to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) a global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states, and regions to manage their environmental impact.

The council receives an Annual Report on the Climate Emergency commitments and progress against the priority actions. The Action Plan is updated annually to show the development of the pipeline of actions. This Strategy and the Action Plan are published on the council website, along with the supporting evidence, research reports and Annual Reports to council⁸.

Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies is embedded in the Council's Corporate Strategy (2020-2024) as one of two Core Priorities, the other being Giving People a Bigger Say. There is also a Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development Scrutiny Panel's whose role is to monitor and review the activity of the Cabinet and assist them in developing policy.

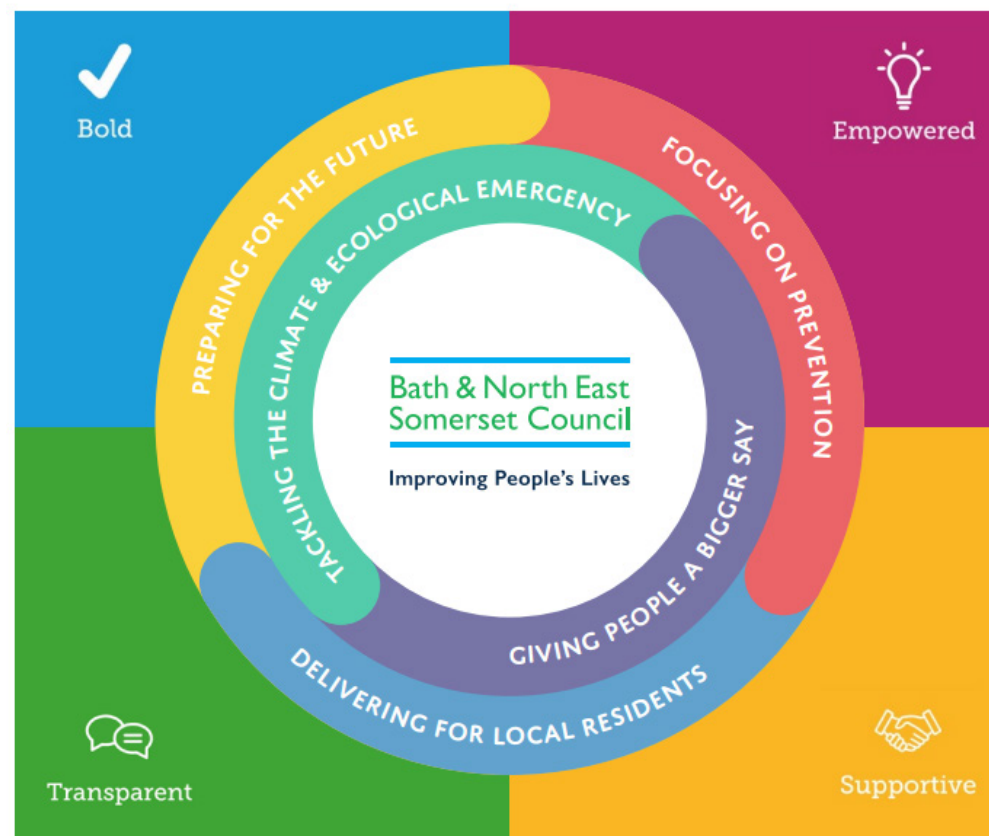


Diagram: Council Corporate Strategy framework

Finance

Council services are embedding climate action into their service delivery, and budget allocations are agreed through the council's short and medium-term budget setting process. The council seeks funding wherever possible to support and enhance delivery as well as enabling businesses and community organisations to take action. These efforts include bidding for government grants and other external funding as and when it becomes available.

Examples of external funding that we access:

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund
- Government affordable warmth funds – Green Homes Grant LAD, HUGS.
- Government transport grants
- West of England funding streams for business and skills, transport, planning and green recovery.
- The council is also developing the Planning Developer Carbon Off-Set Fund.

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Blooming Whiteway at Barrow Mead Community Tree Nursery on Rush Hill, managed by More Trees BANES.

..... International, national, and regional context supporting our strategy ...

The [Climate Change Act 2008](#) is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change⁹. It requires that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are reduced and that climate change risks are planned for. The Act supports the UK's commitment to urgent international action to tackle climate change.

Through the Climate Change Act, the UK government has set a target to significantly reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 from the baseline of 1990 emissions.

The [Climate Change Committee \(CCC\)](#) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008 to advise the government on setting and meeting emissions targets and preparing for climate change. The Sixth Carbon Budget Report, (December 2020) provided specific scenarios and recommendations for transition to net zero for each sector¹⁰.

UK Government strategy and plans that set out their approach include: [Resources and waste strategy \(2018\)](#), [10 Point plan for a green industrial revolution \(2020\)](#), [Heat and buildings strategy \(2021\)](#), [Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener \(2021\)](#), [Industrial decarbonisation strategy \(2021\)](#) and the [Transport decarbonisation strategy \(2021\)](#). Finally, the [Environment Act \(2021\)](#) is the government's framework of environmental protection legislation covering nature, water quality, clean air and other environmental protections.

The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) is a scientific body established by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization. It reviews and assesses the most recent scientific, technical, and socio-economic work relevant to climate change, but does not carry out its own research. In 2007 the IPCC was honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize.

[The Paris Agreements](#) (2015) central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change. 193 countries have signed, agreeing to keep the global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties – The UK will host COP26 in Glasgow, November 2021. It is suggested that the Glasgow Climate Pact resulting from the COP26 conference to reduce fossil fuel use and subsidies, eliminate deforestation, and cut methane emissions is likely to lead to 2.4°C warming if all countries follow through on their commitments.

[The West of England Climate and Ecological Strategy and action plan](#) also sets out five priorities and associated actions that can deliver tangible progress to tackle the climate emergency across the wider West of England region (which includes working with member local authorities).

Next Steps

As we work towards our ambitious district-wide goal of net zero by 2030 we will continue to monitor progress on the council's emissions and across the whole area.

Ultimately our success will be measured through a reduction in emissions both for the council itself and across the entire district.

We will track progress on our strategic priorities and report these to council and on our website. Planned activity will be set out in our action plan and updated in our annual report. Our approaches will develop and be refined over time as the national, and local context changes and technology evolves. This overarching strategy will be reviewed in 2025.

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The council's award winning low carbon office and library redevelopment in Keynsham.



Cllrs Kevin Guy and Sarah Warren with one of the council's fleet of electric vehicles.

References

1. Read our [Climate Action Plan which was created in 2019.](#)
2. Read the minutes from [the council meeting where a climate emergency was declared.](#)
3. Read the [Anthesis research report 2019.](#)
4. Read the [Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget, Climate Change Committee report 2020.](#)
5. Read the [Carbon emissions from households and citizens, Centre for Sustainable Energy report 2019.](#)
6. Read the [Ashden Co-benefits Toolkit.](#)
7. Read the [Climate Emergency Commissioning and Procurement Strategy.](#)
8. Read the [council webpage with list of published documents.](#)
9. Read [The Climate Change Act 2008.](#)
10. Read [The Sixth Carbon Budget Report 2020.](#)

Glossary of terms

Adaptation	Climate change adaptation is the process of adjusting to current or expected effects of climate change.
B&NES	Bath and North East Somerset.
Biodiversity	The variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat, a high level of which is usually considered to be important and desirable.
Carbon	Carbon is not harmful in itself, but is used as shorthand for carbon dioxide (CO2).
Carbon baseline	The year against which target decreases in emissions are measured.
Climate Change	A pattern of change affecting global or regional climate, for example average temperature and rainfall, or an alteration in frequency of extreme weather conditions. This variation may be caused by both natural processes and human activity. Global warming is one aspect of climate change.
Carbon dioxide (CO2)	Carbon dioxide is a gas in the Earth's atmosphere. It occurs naturally and is also a by-product of human activities such as burning fossil fuels. It is the principal greenhouse gas produced by human activity.
Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e)	Seven greenhouse gases are limited by the Kyoto Protocol and each has a different global warming potential. The overall warming effect of this cocktail of gases is often expressed in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent -the amount of CO2 that would cause the same amount of warming.
Carbon footprint	The amount of carbon emitted by an individual, organisation, geographical area or during the manufacture of a product in a given period of time.
Carbon neutral	Carbon neutrality is a state of net-zero carbon dioxide emissions. This can be achieved by balancing emissions of carbon dioxide with its removal (often through carbon offsetting).
Carbon offsetting	A way of compensating for emissions of CO2 by participating in, or funding, efforts to take CO2 out of the atmosphere. Offsetting often involves paying another party, somewhere else, to save emissions equivalent to those produced by your activity.
Carbon sequestration	The process of storing carbon dioxide. This can happen naturally, as growing trees and plants turn CO2 into biomass (wood, leaves, and so on). It can also refer to the capture and storage of CO2 produced by industry.

Glossary of terms

Climate Emergency	A situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.
Decarbonise	To reduce the amount of CO2 released.
Fossil fuels	Natural resources, such as coal, oil and natural gas, containing hydrocarbons. These fuels are formed in the Earth over millions of years and produce carbon dioxide when burnt (often in power stations to generate electricity).
Greenhouse gases (GHGs)	A greenhouse gas (GHG) is a gas that absorbs and emits radiant energy within the thermal infrared range, causing the greenhouse effect.
Just transition	A 'just transition' means moving to a carbon-neutral society that's fair to everyone, leaving no one behind. Developing an environmentally sustainable economy that supports good quality jobs and decent livelihoods.
Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF)	Land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF), also referred to as Forestry and other land use (FOLU), is defined by the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat as a "greenhouse gas inventory sector that covers emissions and removals of greenhouse gases resulting from direct human-induced land use such as settlements and commercial uses, land-use change, and forestry activities."
Net zero	The term net zero means achieving a balance between the greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere, and the carbon removed from it. Unlike carbon neutrality, this cannot be achieved using offsetting.
Per-capita emissions	The total amount of greenhouse gas emitted by a country per unit of population.
Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions	From the Greenhouse Gas Protocol , which is the world's most widely-used greenhouse gas accounting standard. Scopes 1 & 2 refer to the emissions that are owned or controlled by an organisation. Scope 3 emissions are from the activities of the company but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation. Sometimes called outsourced emissions. One organisations' Scope 3 emissions will be another's Scopes 1&2.

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Bath & North East Somerset Ecological Emergency Action Plan

2023-2030

16 March 2023



TACKLING THE CLIMATE
AND ECOLOGICAL
EMERGENCY

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

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Executive Summary

The Ecological Emergency

Globally, nationally and locally, nature is collapsing at an alarming rate. The world has lost 60% of its wild vertebrates, 83% of freshwater species and up to 76% of insects since 1970. In our region, populations of once common birds such as swifts and cuckoos have plummeted in the past 25 years alone.

This matters to all of us because of the vital role that wildlife and nature play in supporting our wellbeing, society and economy. Nature provides the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, and many of the resources we need to survive and maintain our quality of life. In total, more than half of the world's economy is moderately or highly dependent on nature.

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Our work so far

Since declaring an Ecological Emergency, we have been working hard to reverse the decline in nature. We have created a Green Transformation Service to provide the capacity needed to tackle the Ecological Emergency, and we have introduced new planning policy to ensure developments make positive contributions to biodiversity, ahead of national requirements.

We have also been taking action on the ground via several initiatives and projects, including:

- Through the Bathscape Scheme, caring for **80 hectares of woodland and 100 grassland sites**, as well as creating **12 new flower-rich meadows**, by 2024.
- Securing funding to create **nature-rich areas across 34 hectares of green space** through 'Somer Valley Rediscovered'.
- Changing our management practices across **42 hectares of our parks and green spaces** to benefit pollinators, through the Let's Get Buzzing campaign.
- Planting **100,000 trees** across B&NES between 2019 and 2023.
- **Stopping the use of pesticides** to manage street weeds.

This is just the start of the action needed to help restore nature across Bath and North East Somerset.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to be Nature Positive by 2030

This will mean that Bath & North East Somerset Council will be making a positive contribution to nature recovery, across all our service areas and through all our decision making.

It will also mean that we are taking a regional and national lead in responding to the Ecological Emergency, working in step with communities and partners across the district to restore nature.

An Ecological Emergency Action Plan

This Action Plan sets out how we intend to build on our work so far to address the Ecological Emergency and become nature positive by 2030.

The Action Plan focuses on 45 actions that we believe will deliver the biggest impact for nature recovery. Of these, we have identified the following 10 as our top priorities due to their potential to make a particularly significant contribution to nature recovery:

Action no.	Description
1.2	Roll-out and embed a council-wide decision support tool to ensure potential impacts on nature inform all major decisions and projects across the council, mitigating impacts where necessary.
1.5	Ensure policies and guidance in the new Local Plan address the Ecological Emergency and improve access to nature, and consider adopting Building with Nature standards.
2.1	Identify and deliver opportunities for nature recovery and biodiversity net gain on the following sites: Entry Hill, Odd Down Sports Ground, The Approach Golf Course and Lansdown.
2.2	Package together and fund already-identified opportunities for improving the management of our parks and green spaces for nature.
3.3	Work with Bristol Avon Rivers Trust to restore the River Chew. This will involve identifying, costing and evaluating options for removal or retrofitting of weirs and other barriers to fish passage within the Chew Catchment, and accessing funding for priority projects.

Our Vision

Action no.	Description
4.1	Seek funding for a dedicated post (or posts) for the Neighbourhood Nature Areas scheme, supporting communities in active management of their local green and blue spaces for nature.
5.1	Produce a 'State of Nature' framework for B&NES, including an 'ecological baseline' and wildlife index for B&NES to measure progress against, and targets for nature recovery.
5.4	Survey the condition of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) within B&NES to identify those that lack management plans or are in unfavourable condition, and use this evidence to prioritise improvements in management.
6.6	Enable and support partners in engaging farmers and landholders on managing land for nature in strategic locations and directing them to funding to do so, focusing initially on the Somer Valley and the River Avon corridor.
6.7	Support farmers in creating farmer clusters within B&NES, enabling us to engage with farmers and landholders at a landscape scale; and work with the Duchy of Cornwall, FWAG SW and other partners to spread good practice from exemplar farms.

Reversing the decline in nature will take time, and we are still at the start of our journey. This Action Plan will be a live document that is updated as progress is made, further evidence comes to light, and new opportunities arise.

Introduction

What is the Ecological Emergency?

Looking up from the centre of Bath at the surrounding historic and beautiful landscape, standing at the edge of Chew Valley Lake, or taking a walk through St Catherine Valley, you would rightly be thankful that Bath and North East Somerset has such a rich and varied landscape. However, this outward appearance belies the troubling state of our natural environment.

Over the past couple of centuries, humanity's use of land and resources has placed unsustainable pressure on nature, threatening the stability of ecosystems both globally and locally. The Global Footprint Network¹ and WWF estimate² that the average person in the UK lives at about 2.5 times the world's ecological limit; in other words, if every person on Earth consumed as much as the average UK citizen, we would need 2.5 earths to support the world's population. This is not sustainable or equitable.

One of the consequences is that nature has been collapsing at an alarming rate:

- Globally, we have lost 60% of wild vertebrates, 83% of freshwater species³ and up to 76% of insects⁴ since 1970.
- In the UK, we have seen long-term declines in insect species such as butterflies and moths (25% since 1970 for the latter), a 64% decline in the abundance of UK Priority Species, and a 54% decline in breeding farmland birds. 43% of bird species and 26% of terrestrial mammal species in the country are now threatened with extinction⁵.
- And in the West of England region, figures from the BTO suggest that numbers of once common birds such as swifts and cuckoos have dropped by more than 95% in the past 25 years alone.

While evidence before 1970 is patchy, we do know that wildlife in the UK and locally had already been significantly depleted by this point⁵.

In July 2020, B&NES Council declared an Ecological Emergency, recognising the severity of the degradation of the natural environment and loss of wildlife, and the urgency of action to restore nature.

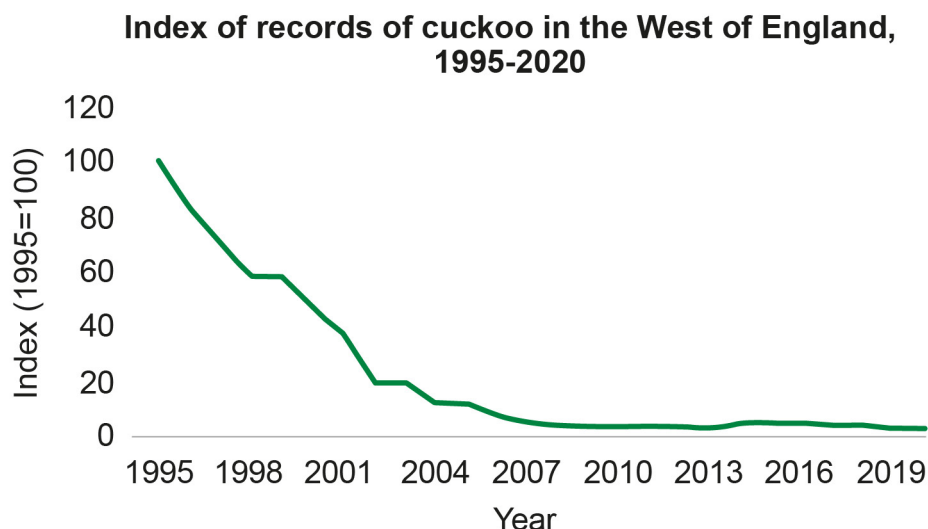


Figure 1: Figures from BTO suggest that the population of cuckoo in the West of England has crashed in the period between 1995 to 2021. For every 100 cuckoos in the region in 1995, there may now only be four.

¹ Go to [Footprint Network: Compare Countries](#).

² WWF (2021), Thriving Within Planetary Means.

³ World Wildlife Fund (2018), 2018 Living Planet report.

⁴ Hallann et al. (2017), More than 75 percent decline over 27 years in total flying insect biomass in protected areas.

⁵ State of Nature Report (2019).

Introduction

What are the causes behind this?

A range of interacting factors are behind the decline in nature, including changes in land use and land management, the use of pesticides and other pollutants, the modification of our waterways, the presence of invasive non-native species, climate change, and a failure to factor in the costs of these impacts within our economic systems.

The biggest factor in the decline in wildlife in the UK and locally is the loss and degradation of habitats. Since the Second World War in particular, intensification and expansion of farming, alongside urban development has meant we have lost much of the space that nature needs to thrive. One of the most startling figures is that the UK lost 97% of its lowland meadows between the 1930s and 1980s. In addition, the removal of scrub and hedges, overgrazing, and the lack of good woodland management and protection have all contributed to nature's decline.

While the use of pesticides has helped to increase farming yields significantly over the past 75 years, they have also had a profound impact on wildlife. In the 1960s and 1970s, the widespread use of now-banned pesticides contributed to startling declines in birds of prey and songbirds. Newer generations of pesticides (such as neonicotinoids) are toxic to insects and other invertebrates on land and in water⁶, with potential impacts on the populations of animals and plants that are dependent on insects for food and pollination.

The effects of climate change on wildlife are already being felt, with some species being pushed northward due to warming temperatures and others struggling with changes in the timing of the availability of their food sources. Additionally, invasive species, such as Rhododendron Ponticum and Himalayan Balsam, are altering our ecosystems and continue to spread⁷, while introduced diseases such as Ash Dieback threaten the survival of our native plants and animals.

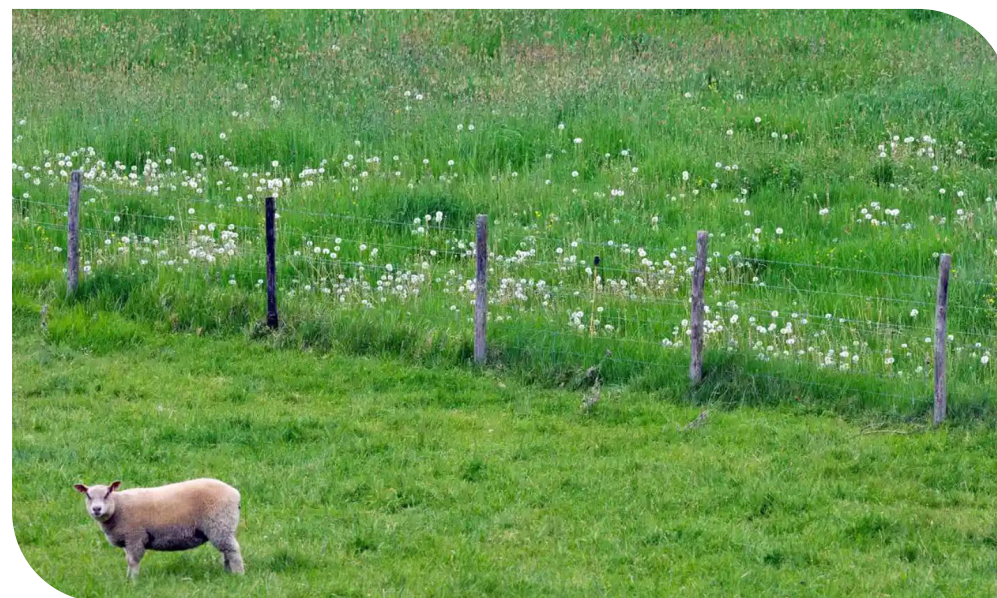


Figure 2: Although extensive grazing is often beneficial in maintaining species-rich grasslands and other ecosystems, overgrazing and grassland 'improvements' to improve yields reduce biodiversity. The area that is fenced off from sheep in this photo shows a much greater diversity of wildflowers and habitat structure than the area where sheep are present.

⁶ Pisa, L.W., Amaral-Rogers, V., Belzunces, L.P. et al. Effects of neonicotinoids and fipronil on non-target invertebrates. *Environ Sci Pollut Res* 22, 68–102 (2015).

⁷ On average, 10–12 new non-native species become established in the UK each year, with 10–20% of these causing serious adverse impacts. *State of Nature Report*, 2019.

Introduction

Rivers, streams and lakes face unique challenges

Our freshwater environment (including rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands) has been impacted by a unique combination of pressures in addition to those outlined above:

- Well-publicised pollution issues, such as run off from farms and urban areas, and sewage being discharged into rivers, harm river ecosystems and can kill freshwater wildlife;
- Modifications to waterways, such as the straightening of river channels and the installation of weirs, change the river ecosystem and can create barriers to fish completing their migration and reaching spawning sites (99% of British rivers have artificial barriers obstructing migrating fish);
- Pharmaceuticals and microplastics are present in increasing concentrations, and we do not fully understand the impacts this is having on wildlife;
- And both drought and water abstraction can lead to streams drying up and oxygen levels falling, in turn depleting or killing fish populations;

Due to these pressures, only two of the 18 waterbodies in B&NES are in 'good' ecological status.

Why does this matter?

The Ecological Emergency matters to all of us because of the vital role that wildlife and nature play in supporting our wellbeing, society and economy. Nature provides the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, and many of the resources we need to survive and maintain our quality of life.

For example, approximately three-quarters of all crop types grown by humans require pollination by insects; put simply, we would struggle to feed ourselves without insects providing pollination.



Figure 3: Pollinators, such as this tawny mining bee, play a crucial role in the growing of much of the food we eat: approximately three-quarters of all crop types grown by humans require pollination by insects. Image from the Woodland Trust.

Introduction

And deteriorating soil health is one of the biggest challenges facing farming and food security today, with large areas of soil in the UK considered to be degraded. Insects, worms and soil microbes break down organic matter, such as leaves, manure and other waste, returning it to the soil and providing the nutrients that plants and, therefore, our food need to grow. Without a healthy and biodiverse soil, this complex processes that underpin the natural world and our food are put at risk.

There is also much that remains to be understood on how ecosystems function; nature is not simple, and we simply do not know the consequences of further deterioration of the natural environment. There have been and will continue to be ecological 'tipping points' that lead to abrupt changes in the ability of nature to function and provide what we need to survive.

Nature and the economy

In total, over half of the world's GDP is moderately or highly dependent on nature⁸. But many of the services provided to us by nature are not priced into conventional economic decision-making: for example, no explicit cost is usually placed on the degradation of soil or of habitat loss incurred to produce a crop, or on the impact of worsening air quality from traffic generated by a new housing development⁹.

B&NES Council is developing a decision support tool with people and nature at its heart, which will better integrate the impacts of decisions the council makes on these environmental 'externalities', such as biodiversity and pollution. This aims to help reduce our demands on nature and enable it to recover, ensuring everyone is able to enjoy a good quality of life and helping to ensure our collective wellbeing into the future.

Aside from these vital services, the world is a much poorer place without nature. Numerous studies show the importance of interacting with nature for our health and wellbeing, reducing the risk of physical ailments, such as cardiovascular diseases, and poor mental health.

What about the Climate Emergency?

B&NES has also declared a Climate Emergency, with an ambitious goal to be carbon neutral by 2030. While the climate and ecological emergencies are not the same, they are linked:

- They share some of the same causes, such as over-consumption of resources and changes in land use;
- Many of the solutions to tackling the Ecological Emergency, such as reducing consumption of meat and dairy or restoring habitats, will also help us to mitigate climate change;
- Nature-based solutions, such as well-placed woodland and wetland creation, can be important tools in adapting to the effects of climate change while contributing to nature's recovery and sequestering carbon; and
- Tackling climate change will also help reduce the pressure on nature.

⁸ World Economic Forum (2020), *Nature Risk Rising: Why the Crisis Engulfing Nature Matters for Business and the Economy*.

⁹ For further information and a more detailed explanation of how and why this is the case, [see 'The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review'](#).

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The table below demonstrates some of the actions that will be important in tackling both the ecological and climate emergencies, and some that are primarily focused on one of the Emergencies.

Actions that largely focus on net zero	Actions that deliver net zero and nature recovery	Actions that largely focus on nature recovery
<div> <div>Page 104</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofitting of homes to reduce heating costs • Delivering more electric vehicle charging points • Increasing renewable energy generation, including solar and wind • Reducing embedded carbon in construction </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging environmentally-friendly diets and food choices • Habitat restoration and creation, including woodlands • Development of an environmental decision-making tool • Reducing consumption and encouraging a circular economy • Reducing car use in favour of public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing pesticide use • Improved management of grassland sites and verges, and hedgerows • Removing river barriers and restoring natural flows • Reducing agricultural, industrial and domestic pollutant run-off • Integrating wildlife-friendly spaces into developments

Introduction

An Ecological Emergency Action Plan

We know what we need to do to tackle the ecological emergency in Bath and North East Somerset: protect and sustain our existing nature-rich sites; create bigger, better and better-connected habitats at scale; and manage all our land and water sympathetically for wildlife.

As well as benefitting nature, taking this approach across the district presents a huge opportunity to enrich our society, wellbeing and economy:

- Expanding and creating habitats, such as woodlands and wetlands, will sequester carbon and help us to tackle the Climate Emergency, provide natural flood management, and improve our water quality.
- More and better-managed grasslands and scrubland will increase insect and pollinator populations, boosting our food and soil security.
- More nature-rich green and blue spaces where people live and work will lead to happier and healthier communities, reducing the burden on our health and care system.
- A thriving natural environment underpins a sustainable economy, can produce a flourishing green tourism industry, and creates skilled jobs in ecology and land management.

Meeting the challenge of the Ecological Emergency requires action from organisations, businesses, communities and individuals across the region. B&NES Council recognises it has an important role to play in tackling the Ecological Emergency, both through its own delivery and through supporting others to take action (see Figure 4).

We held a series of internal and external discussions and workshops (2021-2022) to better understand what the council's most impactful actions for nature could be. Building on these, this Action Plan details what we will do to tackle the Ecological Emergency and become Nature Positive by 2030.



Figure 4: As a local authority, B&NES Council has different spheres of influence, and in each of these its role is different. The diagram above shows how the role of the council in tackling the Ecological Emergency changes as its direct influence decreases from 'direct control' to 'engaging and communicating'.

Our Vision and Priorities

Our Vision is to be Nature Positive by 2030

Our vision is to be nature positive as an organisation by 2030. This means that B&NES Council will be making a positive contribution to nature recovery, with all parts of the council integrating the response to the Ecological Emergency into their decision-making. It will also mean that we are taking a regional and national lead in responding to the Ecological Emergency, working in step with communities and partners across the district to restore nature.

We have set out three guiding Priorities to inform the actions in this document, so that each action in our Action Plan contributes to one or more of these Priorities.

For an explanation of why we have chosen these three priorities and how we will monitor success in delivering against these, please see Appendix 1.



Increase the extent of land and waterways managed positively for nature across B&NES



Increase the abundance and distribution of key species across B&NES



Enable more people to access and engage with nature

Some of our work to date

B&NES Council formally declared an Ecological Emergency in July 2020, recognising the need for an urgent and decisive response to restore nature.

Since then, we have expanded our Green Transformation team to provide the capacity needed to tackle the Ecological Emergency and to deliver Strategic Green Infrastructure¹⁰ (GI) Projects that will benefit both nature and people. And we have taken forward new planning policy for securing Biodiversity Net Gain¹¹, ahead of the Environment Act requirements, and has strengthened other planning policies to help protect and restore nature.

We have also been taking action on the ground via several initiatives and projects:

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Bathscape (Strategic GI Project)

The Bathscape is the beautiful natural landscape surrounding the World Heritage city of Bath, with its undulating grasslands and woodlands offering a haven for residents, visitors and nature.

The Bathscape scheme was launched in 2018 with the aim of improving the management and use of the landscape for people and nature. So far, working in partnership with eleven organisations, we have sown eight new areas of flower-rich meadows, provided advice to better manage 47 hectares of woodland and over 40 grassland sites, created eighteen new walking trails, and much more.

Next steps: We will continue working towards our objectives of caring for 80 hectares of woodland and 100 grassland sites across the Bathscape, as well as creating 12 new flower-rich meadows by 2024, with a view to extending the Scheme beyond 2024.

¹⁰ 'Green infrastructure' is a term used to describe the network of natural green and blue spaces in an area, including woodlands, grasslands, rivers and lakes, hedges, parks, gardens, allotments and amenity space.

¹¹ Biodiversity Net Gain is the requirement that all development must have a net positive impact on biodiversity of at least 10%.

[For more information.](#)

Some of our work to date

Somer Valley Rediscovered (Strategic GI Project) and the Limestone Link

The Somer Valley Rediscovered project aims to improve biodiversity and people's access to and connection with nature in the Somer Valley, which covers Radstock, Midsomer Norton and Westfield, the large villages of Paulton and Peasedown St John, and the surrounding countryside and smaller villages.

A successful £1.1 million bid to the West of England Green Recovery Fund is providing the funding needed to create nature-rich areas across 34 hectares of green space in the Midsomer Norton and Radstock area, which will include tree planting, grassland restoration, and hedgerow expansion. We have also appointed a project manager for Somer Valley Rediscovered, who has been working with local communities and town and parish councils to shape this work.

Next steps: As well as delivering improvements across 34 hectares of green space, we will continue engaging local communities to identify further opportunities for restoring nature and improving the wellbeing of local communities.

Additionally, we are working in partnership on a wider vision for the Limestone Link, a corridor for nature and people connecting the protected landscapes of the Cotswolds and Mendip Hills.

WaterSpace (Strategic GI Project)

Through Waterspace, we are working in partnership with the Environment Agency, the Canal & River Trust, Wessex Water, South Gloucestershire Council and Bristol City Council to take a holistic and integrated approach to improving the River Avon corridor, from Dundas Aqueduct through to Bristol.

This includes Bath River Line, a new, riverside linear park in Bath that will connect green spaces and enable people to better enjoy the river environment, as well as proposals to improve biodiversity and access to nature along the River Avon between Bristol and Bath (WaterSpace Connected).

Next steps: We are submitting a funding case for the western section of the River Line (between Newbridge and Green Park). A second phase will consider the eastern section (from Pulteney Weir to Batheaston); this section of the route will be defined following further consultation.



Some of our work to date

Biodiversity Net Gain

The Environment Act will require all developments to deliver a minimum 10% 'net gain in biodiversity' from November 2023, which means that development must leave nature in a better state than before.

We have adopted a requirement for developments in B&NES to deliver biodiversity net gain in early 2023, ahead of the national requirements, to ensure we are accelerating action to recover nature.

Next steps: Our biodiversity net gain policy will be formally adopted in the spring of 2023 and has been influencing planning applications from 1 November 2022.

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Let's get Buzzing

The Council's Let's Get Buzzing campaign has seen B&NES Council take the lead in changing our management practices across 42 hectares of grassland across our parks, open spaces and verges to create wildflower meadows, benefit biodiversity, and increase communities' access to nature-rich areas.

The scheme is popular and much of this work has been achieved with help from volunteers. We have now launched a Neighbourhood Nature Area scheme to support volunteers in adopting the management of areas of open grass to benefit wildlife.

Next steps: We want to manage more of our council-owned parks and green space for wildlife, and creating more wildflower-rich grasslands will be a vital part of this. We will continue to work with local communities to ensure we are creating nature-rich habitat in the right places and in the right way.



Some of our work to date

Trees and woodland

One of the key actions in tackling the Ecological Emergency, as well as the Climate Emergency, is increasing tree cover across the district. In 2019 we announced an aim to plant 100,000 trees across B&NES by 2023, which we are on track to deliver through planting trees on council land, planting street trees, tree giveaways and more.

We have also mapped the best opportunities for increasing tree and woodland cover across B&NES, helping us to target planting and woodland creation in the most appropriate areas for nature and people, and we have secured funding for a Tree Officer post to boost our efforts to get trees in the ground.

Next steps: We will continue efforts to plant trees on council-owned land and to support local groups in their efforts to get trees in the ground. During the second half of the 2022/2023 planting period, we will prepare for a new phase of action beyond 2023.

We are also continuing our work in partnership across the West of England to deliver the Forest of Avon Plan, with the ultimate ambition of doubling tree and woodland cover by 2050.

Reducing pesticide use

Following the council's declaration of an Ecological Emergency, and the concerns shared by many residents about the use of weedkiller, in 2021 we took the decision to stop the use of pesticides containing glyphosate on our streets and pavements. The annual spray has been replaced with manual removal of weeds and mechanically sweeping, until other viable treatment solutions can be identified.

Glyphosate is now only used in very restricted circumstances, focussed on invasive weeds, such as Japanese Knotweed or Giant Hogweed, and treatment of tree stumps using injection where necessary.

Next steps: We are exploring more efficient alternatives to digging out and sweeping weeds, such as the use of biodegradable foam or heat-based treatments, which will need to be assessed for their carbon footprint and cost.

B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan

The Action Plan

The Action Plan below sets out how we intend to address the Ecological Emergency up to 2030. As resources are limited, we have focused on actions that we believe will make the biggest impact, while being realistic and achievable. And to keep the Plan as focussed and concise as possible, we have not included actions that are already embedded in our operations (such as our policy to restrict the use of pesticides to very restricted circumstances, and existing planning policies related to the natural environment).

Although the Plan focuses on what we can do as a council, many of the actions will involve working in partnership with communities, organisations and businesses across B&NES and beyond. We will continue to support and engage with the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP), the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (BACP) and Natural History Consortium, in particular, to ensure we are maximising opportunities for collaboration and partnership working. Appendix 3 provides more detail on our partnership working on the natural environment.

This is a live Action Plan that will be updated as progress is made, further evidence comes to light, and new opportunities arise. We recognise the importance of reporting progress against the Action Plan, which we will do on an annual basis.

The actions in the table below are organised under the following themes:

1. Mainstreaming nature recovery in leadership and decision-making
2. Increasing the extent of land and water managed positively or nature
3. Increasing investment into nature-based solutions and wildlife-friendly interventions
4. Enabling more people to access and engage with nature
5. Improving our evidence base and monitoring
6. Working in partnership

Each action has one or more Service Areas named against it, demonstrating which Service Area(s) within the council will be principally involved in its delivery. For every action, the Green Infrastructure and Nature Recovery team will support the identified Service Area in its delivery.

B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan

A note on our Strategic Green Infrastructure (GI) Projects

The Strategic Green Infrastructure (GI) Projects being led by B&NES Council (Bathscape, Chew Valley Reconnected, Somer Valley Rediscovered and WaterSpace) each have their own programme of activities. Delivery of these Projects is a crucial part of our efforts to address the Ecological Emergency but, to avoid duplication, we have only included the most significant and new actions for nature's recovery related to these Projects in this Action Plan

For further information on the Strategic GI Projects, please go to the following links where websites exist:

- [Bathscape](#)
- [Somer Valley Rediscovered](#)
- [WaterSpace](#), including [Bath River Line](#)



B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan



Theme: Mainstreaming nature recovery in leadership and decision-making

Outcome	Action no.	Action	Service Area(s) involved	Timeline
The strategic approach and decision-making across the council are based on sustainable principles that contribute towards nature recovery	1.1	Integrate the Nature Positive vision & priorities into the strategic framework that will be set out in the next Corporate Strategy (2024-).	Strategy	2023
	1.2	Roll-out and embed a council-wide decision support tool to ensure potential impacts on nature inform all major decisions and projects across the council, and conduct an analysis of our biodiversity footprint to support this.	Climate & Environmental Sustainability	2023-24
	1.3	Produce and deliver an Ecological Emergency literacy training programme for council employees and members.	Business Change	2023-24
Council employees have a good understanding of the Ecological Emergency and the action they can take to address it in their work	1.4	Produce and deliver an Ecological Emergency literacy training programme for council employees and members.	Green Infrastructure (GI) & Nature Recovery	2023

B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan



Theme: Mainstreaming nature recovery in leadership and decision-making

Outcome	Action no.	Action	Service Area(s) involved	Timeline
Our planning system is making a positive contribution to nature recovery and improves people's access to nature on their doorstep.	1.5	Produce a guidance note for renewable energy projects, including solar and wind developments, to embed management for nature into their schemes.	Climate & Environmental Sustainability	2023-24
	1.6	Ensure policies and guidance in the new Local Plan address the Ecological Emergency and improve access to nature, and consider adopting Building with Nature standards.	Planning	2023-25
	1.7	Evaluate the feasibility of setting a higher requirement for biodiversity net gain, above the mandatory figure of 10%.	Planning GI & Nature Recovery	2023
We are minimising the impact of our procurement and purchasing on nature.	1.8	Review and update the council's approach to food to integrate opportunities to reduce the impact of food production on nature.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023-24
	1.9	Incorporate standards related to nature recovery in the council's minimum standards for procurement.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023

B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan



Theme: Increasing the extent of land and water managed positively for nature

Outcome	Action no.	Action	Service Area(s)	Timeline
<p>The management of council-owned land maximises opportunities for nature recovery, while considering other uses and the needs of residents.</p>	2.1	Identify and deliver opportunities for nature recovery and biodiversity net gain on the following sites as a priority: Entry Hill, Odd Down Sports Ground, The Approach Golf Course and Lansdown, and then on B&NES Council's wider estate.	Commercial Estate Leisure GI & Nature Recovery	2023-24
	2.2	Package together and fund already-identified opportunities for improving the management of our parks and green spaces for nature.	Parks and Green Spaces Bereavement Services	2023-24
	2.3	Design, fund and deliver a training programme for operational staff on how to better manage parks and green spaces for nature.	Parks and Green Spaces	2023-25
	2.4	Adjust cutting regimes of highways verges where there is scope for improved management for nature.	Highways Parks and Green Spaces	2023-24

B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan



Theme: Increasing the extent of land and water managed positively for nature

Outcome	Action no.	Action	Service Area(s) involved	Timeline
We are continuing to increase tree and woodland cover on our estate, and we are managing our existing trees and woodland to improve their condition for nature.	2.5	Produce a B&NES Tree and Woodland Strategy for 2023-30, including plans for increasing tree and woodland cover, and improving woodland management on our own estate.	Parks and Green Spaces GI & Nature Recovery	2023
Page 116 Our Strategic Green Infrastructure Projects are delivering large-scale interventions for nature recovery across B&NES.	2.6	Create an improved 45-hectare nature park at Somerdale, Keynsham as part of WaterSpace Connected.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023-24
	2.7	Extend the Bathscape Partnership Scheme to 2025 and develop the project through to 2030.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023-25
	2.8	Deliver 34 hectares of improved, nature-rich green space in and around Midsomer Norton, Westfield and Radstock as part of Somer Valley Rediscovered.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023-25
	2.9	Establish the Chew Valley Reconnected Partnership (CVRP) to coordinate activity among stakeholders and communities to enhance the natural environment of the Chew Valley	GI & Nature Recovery	2023-24

B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan



Theme: Increasing investment into nature-based solutions and wildlife-friendly interventions

Outcome	Action no.	Action	Service Area(s)	Timeline
Nature-based solutions are being used to reduce pollution from roads and urban areas.	3.1	Identify priority areas for nature-based solutions to localised flooding and runoff of pollutants from the road network and developments; and facilitate partners, including Bristol Avon Rivers Trust and FWAG SW, delivering targeted solutions with landowners.	Highways Maintenance GI & Nature Recovery	2023-24
	3.2	As part of the development of the Local Plan 2025, require developments to deliver Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) that meet adoptable standards and benefit wildlife.	Highways Maintenance Planning	2023-25
The number of artificial barriers to fish passage has been reduced and rivers are in a more natural state.	3.3	Work with Bristol Avon Rivers Trust to restore the River Chew. This will involve identifying, costing and evaluating options for removal or retrofitting of weirs and other barriers to fish passage within the Chew catchment, river habitat restoration, and accessing funding for priority projects.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023-30

B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan



Theme: Increasing investment into nature-based solutions and wildlife-friendly interventions

Outcome	Action no.	Action	Service Area(s)	Timeline
Development and infrastructure projects are integrating positive interventions for wildlife as a matter of course, including bats and nesting birds, and are minimising any negative impacts on wildlife.	3.4	Pilot bat-friendly lighting to reduce the impact on light pollution on wildlife along the Avon River corridor (as part of WaterSpace) and use this to inform our approach to street lighting.	GI & Nature Recovery Highways Maintenance	2023-24
	3.5	Produce a toolkit of ecological interventions for highways, infrastructure and regeneration projects that are easy to deliver at low cost and that can contribute to delivery of biodiversity net gain.	GI & Nature Recovery Regeneration and Housing	2023-24
There is greater investment into nature-based solutions across the district, enabling us to accelerate nature recovery while tackling climate change and meeting other societal challenges.	3.6	Scope out opportunities for the use of nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation (carbon sequestration) and adaptation across the district, and options for funding/financing these.	Climate & Environmental Sustainability GI & Nature Recovery	2023-24
	3.7	Use the Invest in B&NES website, as well as other established channels of communication, to better communicate the opportunities to invest in nature for businesses.	Business and Skills	2023

B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan



Theme: Enabling more people to access and engage with nature

Outcome	Action no.	Action	Service Area(s)	Timeline
Communities are supported in managing their local green and blue spaces for nature through the Neighbourhood Nature Areas scheme.	4.1	Seek funding for a dedicated post (or posts) for the Neighbourhood Nature Areas scheme, supporting communities in active management of their local green and blue spaces for nature.	Parks and Green Spaces Bereavement Services	2023-24
Individuals and communities are aware of the actions that they can take to tackle the Ecological Emergency and of the benefits that this could provide to them.	4.2	Create a dedicated council webpage on the Ecological Emergency, and use this as a hub to communicate the work we are doing to address the Ecological Emergency and how residents can contribute towards nature recovery.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023
	4.3	Embed tackling the Ecological Emergency within the Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan, explore opportunities for celebrating our natural environment as heritage, and better integrate the Ecological Emergency within communications related to heritage.	Heritage GI & Nature Recovery	2023-24
We are maximising opportunities to improve people's health and wellbeing through access to and engagement with nature.	4.4	Work with partners to establish a social prescribing network within B&NES and make available grants for providers of nature-based activities to build their capacity.	Public Health	2023-24

B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan



Theme: Enabling more people to access and engage with nature

Outcome	Action no.	Action	Service Area(s)	Timeline
	4.5	Incorporate actions to improve people's access to nature within the developing Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset.	Public Health	2023
Page 120 There are more and better opportunities for people to enter a career in the natural environment.	4.6	Create apprenticeships, work placements and/or other opportunities for work within the GI & Nature Recovery team, land management and/or ecologists within B&NES.	Business and Skills GI & Nature Recovery	2023-25

B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan



Theme: Improving our evidence base and monitoring

Outcome	Action no.	Action	Service Area(s)	Timeline
<p> We have a framework in place that enables us to monitor changes in the natural environment and evaluate the success of our actions for nature recovery. </p>	5.1	Produce a 'State of Nature' framework for B&NES, including an 'ecological baseline' and wildlife index for B&NES to measure progress against, and targets for nature recovery.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023
	5.2	Trial repeatable techniques for monitoring wildlife populations (such as insect traps or standardised bird counts) on sites owned or managed by B&NES Council, to help evaluate the effectiveness of interventions for nature.	GI & Nature Recovery	2024-26
	5.3	Continue to monitor change in tree canopy cover across B&NES, updating the figure at least every three years based on a baseline of 16.5% in 2020.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023

B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan



Theme: Improving our evidence base and monitoring

Outcome	Action no.	Action	Service Area(s)	Timeline
Evidence on the natural environment is used to target action to recover nature and improve people's access to nature.	5.4	Survey the condition of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) within B&NES to identify those that lack management plans or are in unfavourable condition and use this evidence to prioritise improvements in management, with an initial focus on SNCIs under B&NES Council ownership.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023-26
	5.5	Combine access to green space mapping with data on multiple deprivation to identify priority areas for improving access to good-quality green space.	Public Health GI & Nature Recovery	2023
We are better and more regularly monitoring people's engagement with nature.	5.6	Include questions in the council's Voicebox survey from 2023 onwards that monitor people's interest in and engagement with nature.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023-30
We are efficiently reporting our progress on tackling the Ecological Emergency within the council and externally as required.	5.7	Develop and implement a single corporate reporting approach that aligns reporting to government on the implementation of the enhanced NERC duty on Local Authorities with internal reporting on delivery of the Ecological Emergency Action Plan.	Gi & Nature Recovery	2023

B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan



Theme: Working in partnership

Outcome	Action no.	Action	Service Area(s)	Timeline
Communities are supported in leading on nature recovery in their locality.	6.1	Produce guidance and a template to support parish and town councils in producing Local Nature Action Plans, and ensure these are linked with Avon Wildlife Trust's Wildlife Champion Network	GI & Nature Recovery	2023
We are continuing to work closely with partner organisations to deliver strategic opportunities for nature recovery.	6.2	Support the Forest of Avon Trust and Avon Needs Trees in delivering the 'Great Avon Wood' within B&NES, providing a new woodland for nature and people, and in their work to establish more trees and woodlands across B&NES.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023-25
	6.3	Engage with the Beaver Management Group to identify opportunities for restoring biodiversity, re-naturalising waterways and delivering nature-based solutions to flooding, as well as potential challenges, related to the beaver population in B&NES	GI & Nature Recovery	2023-25
	6.4	Work with National Trust and local residents to establish a nature-rich, accessible wildlife corridor from Bath to Bathampton Meadows.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023-30

B&NES Council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan



Theme: Working in partnership

Outcome	Action no.	Action	Service Area(s)	Timeline
	6.5	With partners, ascertain the need and capacity for a sustainable strategy for long-term restoration and management of key grassland sites across B&NES or the wider West of England region.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023
Page 124 We are working in partnership with farmers, landholders and other partners to improve the management of land for nature across B&NES.	6.6	Enable and support partners in engaging farmers and landholders on managing land for nature in strategic locations and directing them to funding to do so, focusing initially on the Somer Valley and the River Avon corridor.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023-30
	6.7	Support farmers in creating farmer clusters within B&NES, enabling us to engage with farmers and landholders at a landscape scale; and work with the Duchy of Cornwall, FWAG SW and other partners to spread good practice from exemplar farms.	GI & Nature Recovery	2023-25

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Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	9 March 2023	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3426
TITLE:	Joint Community Safety Plan	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1 Public consultation responses		
Appendix 2 the Joint Community Safety Plan		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report sets out the current position on the Council's draft Joint Community Safety Plan to Cabinet for consideration and feedback

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to agree the Joint Plan and recommend it for adoption at Council.

3 THE REPORT

Background and engagement to date

- 3.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are statutory bodies required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (and subsequent amendments). The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out a duty for the 'responsible authorities' to work together to develop crime and disorder audits and implement reduction strategies.) The 'responsible authorities' that form the CSPs are the local Authority, Police, Health, Probation and the Fire and Rescue Service. In B&NES we have a unique approach to the governance and delivery of community safety priorities. Our community safety and safeguarding governance arrangements to look holistically at how the needs of children, adults at risk, families and the wider community could be met sits within the remit of the B&NES Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP).

3.2 The Joint Community Safety Plan sets out how all partners will work together to protect vulnerable people, prevent crime and build strong, resilient communities. It focuses on collective priorities with a shared vision, and actions. The Joint Community Safety Plan serves as both the Community Safety Plan and the local Police & Crime Plan for Bath & North East Somerset.

3.1 It sets out the PCC and Council's community safety objectives and planned activities for the next three years, identifying the key issues upon which we will focus to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Bath & North East Somerset. The plan utilises the data we hold on crime in Bath and North East Somerset and reflects priorities and concerns raised by local people.

3.1 Avon & Somerset Police provide regular policing updates to the 'Connecting Communities' Area Forums and this allows for local concerns to be raised and projects identified. An analysis of the Connecting Communities Forum reports and feedback has identified a number of differences in concerns raised across B&NES. Most recently the Forums have highlighted issues of river safety, rural crime particularly related to agricultural buildings, vehicles, sheds and garages and antisocial behaviour.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The Joint Community Safety Plan is the overarching strategic plan which outlines the key priorities of the Responsible Authorities over the next 3 years for reducing crime and disorder and improving community safety.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 No additional resource implications have been identified.

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 Equality Impact Assessment noted that the plan sets out how all partners will work together to protect vulnerable people, prevent crime, and build strong, resilient communities, focusing on collective priorities with a shared vision, and actions.

7.2 The Joint Community Safety Plan has been presented to the Independent Equality Advisory Group.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 This report contains information on the council's draft Joint Community Safety Plan. No climate issues have been identified in the production of this report.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The draft Joint Community Safety Plan was subject to an online consultation designed to collect comments from residents and interested stakeholders. Results are below.

10.2 Chief Executive, Legal and Finance all consulted as part of scrutiny process.

10.3 Public consultation carried out, see appendix 1

Contact person	Samantha Jones, Inclusive Communities Manager Samantha_jones@bathnes.gov.uk
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Appendix 1: Public consultation responses

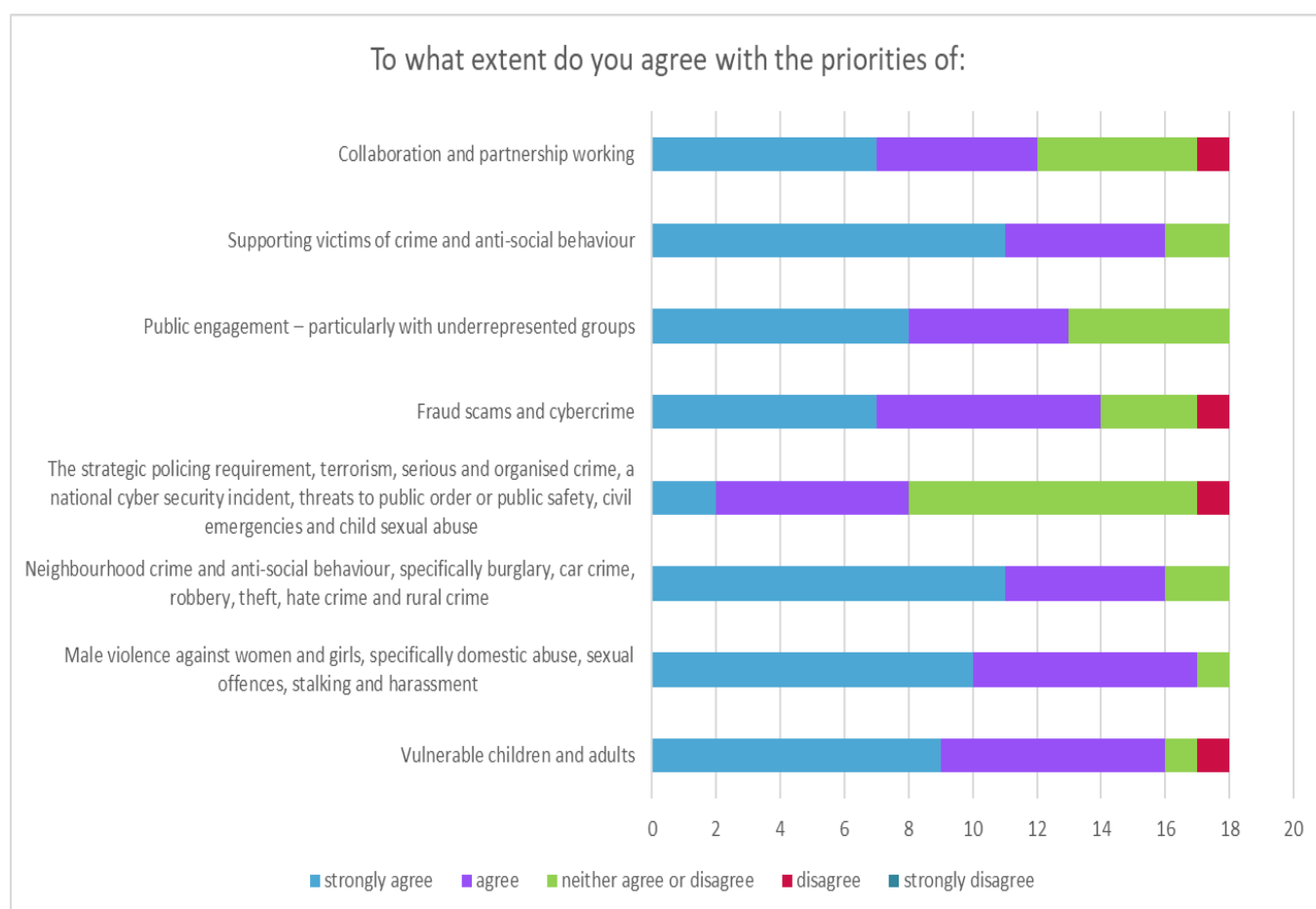
A variety of topics were raised as concerns by respondents and only two respondents raised the same concern, calling for action now.

Police and Policing

- The positive impact on crime resulting from police being on the street
- Police over street marshals having greater impact on crime affecting city centre businesses.
- Need for custody cells in Bath
- Caution against targeting young people
- The priority '*Protecting the most Vulnerable from Harm*' includes child sex abuse and terrorism, one person interpreted this as a strategy for facilitating physical road closures in Bath

Road Safety

- Greater enforcement on speeding and antisocial driving supported by a wider range of technological solutions



Contact person	Samantha Jones Inclusive Communities Manager tel. 01225 396364
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	



Joint Community Safety Plan

Bath & North East Somerset Council

and

**Avon and Somerset Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner**

2022 – 2025

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Introduction

The Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Bath & North East Somerset Council have a clear shared aim, to take every opportunity to protect the public and promote safer communities. Its success and that of all partner agencies depends on dedicated teams of staff working together across agencies to keep communities safe.

Our joint working includes tackling domestic abuse, addressing local anti-social behaviour, preventing people from being drawn into terrorism, and working in partnership to combat serious organised crime and to reduce serious violent crime.

In Bath & North East Somerset, we have redefined our community safety and safeguarding governance arrangements to look holistically at how the needs of children, adults at risk, families and the wider community could be met. A unique Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) was established in 2019. The BCSSP governance arrangements were developed in partnership with the existing members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, Safeguarding Adult Board and the Responsible Authorities Group (the former Community Safety Partnership) to meet the statutory requirements of the three Boards which it replaced.

This plan sets out how all partners will work together to protect vulnerable people, prevent crime and build strong, resilient communities. It focuses on collective priorities with a shared vision, and actions that we, collectively, will take to achieve the best outcomes for individuals, families and communities. It sets out the PCC and council community safety objectives and planned activities for the next three years, identifying the key issues upon which we will focus to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Bath & North East Somerset. The council, Avon & Somerset Police and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) have worked closely together to prepare this document. This plan reflects our shared priorities and serves as both the Community Safety Plan and the local Police & Crime Plan for Bath & North East Somerset.

The plan utilises the data we hold on crime in Bath and North East Somerset and reflects priorities and concerns raised by local people.

Through this plan we ask for your support, because only together can we keep our communities in Bath and North East Somerset safe and, importantly, feeling safe.

Bath and North East Somerset – An Overview

Bath and North East Somerset is a diverse area which includes the World Heritage Site City of Bath as well as vibrant towns, villages and rural communities. The latest population [2021 United Kingdom Census](#) shows there is an estimated 193,400 residents in B&NES an increase of 9.9% since 2011.

Bath & North East Somerset Council covers approximately 135 square miles. Bath is the largest urban settlement in the area, acting as the commercial and recreational centre of the district. It is home to just over 50% of the B&NES population and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Keynsham lies to the west of Bath and is a traditional market town comprising just over 9% of the total B&NES population.

Midsomer Norton and Radstock are in the south of the district with approximately 12% of the total population split between them. They both have a strong heritage of mining and industry stemming from the North Somerset coalfield.

The rest of the district comprises 69 diverse rural communities of varying sizes and characteristics, including a line of villages along the foothills of the Mendips, the Chew Valley and the Cotswolds villages around Bath.

Ethnicity data from the 2021 census is not yet available. According to the 2011 Census 94.6 % is from white groups and 5.4% of the population is from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups. The largest BME groups are:

- Chinese (1912 people) 1.1%
- Other Asian (1160 people) 0.7%
- Asian (Indian): (1116 people) 0.6%
- Mixed white and Asian (954 people) 0.5%,
- Mixed white and Caribbean (951 people) 0.5%
- Black Caribbean (672 people) 0.4%

The 9.9% increase in the size of the population (from an estimated 176,016) to an estimated 193,400 is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%) and the South West (7.8%). This growth has come from a combination of increasing student numbers at the two Universities and an increasing number of new housing developments.

- As of 2021, B&NES is the 11th most densely populated LA in the South West
- Since 2011, there has been a 17.5% increase in people aged 65 years and over in B&NES, lower than the national increase of 20.1%.
- We have also seen an increase of 8.2% in people aged 15-64 years and
- an increase of 7.6% in children under 15 years.

Despite being an area with generally good health and low crime, there is significant variation within the area. Compared with the most affluent communities in the area, the most deprived communities experience a range of inequalities and poorer life outcomes.

Partnership Working in Bath and North East Somerset

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) aim to reduce crime and the fear of crime, address risk, threat and harm to victims and local communities. They aim to empower and strengthen communities through the delivery of local initiatives. CSPs are statutory bodies required under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (and subsequent amendments). The 'responsible authorities' that form the CSPs are the local Authority, Police, Health, Probation and the Fire and Rescue Service.

Their function is to:

- Act as a legal body for CSP work, ensuring compliance with statutory duties and addressing community safety issues,
- Ensure systems and processes are in place amongst partners to deliver their duties and address arising issues,
- Set priorities, determine policy and strategic direction.

The CSP is committed to:

- Strengthening the voice of children, adults, families, and communities
- Strengthening and improving the work on 'Think Family and Community'
- Improving strategic decision making and leadership by having one cohesive conversation
- Focusing on shared strategic objectives to achieve the greatest impact and improve outcomes for children, adults, families, and the community
- Reducing duplication and therefore helping us to use our resources more effectively across the area

The Avon & Somerset PCC sets out a Crime Plan and the current 2021-25 crime plan has four overarching priorities:

1. Preventing and fighting crime
2. Engaging, supporting and working with communities, victims and partner organisations
3. Leading the police to be efficient and effective
4. Increasing the legitimacy of, and public confidence in, the police and criminal justice system

This community safety plan sets out how we aim to support delivery of the Avon & Somerset Crime Plan in the local Bath and North East Somerset area. For the council, this covers wide ranging responsibilities, including delivery of those services that help to create healthier communities and address the underlying causes of crime, but also respond to those concerns and broader issues that contribute to making people feel unsafe in their communities - for example antisocial behaviour, environmental crime, fly tipping and rogue trading. We can only do all this effectively by working in partnership.

Policing and Crime in a Local Context

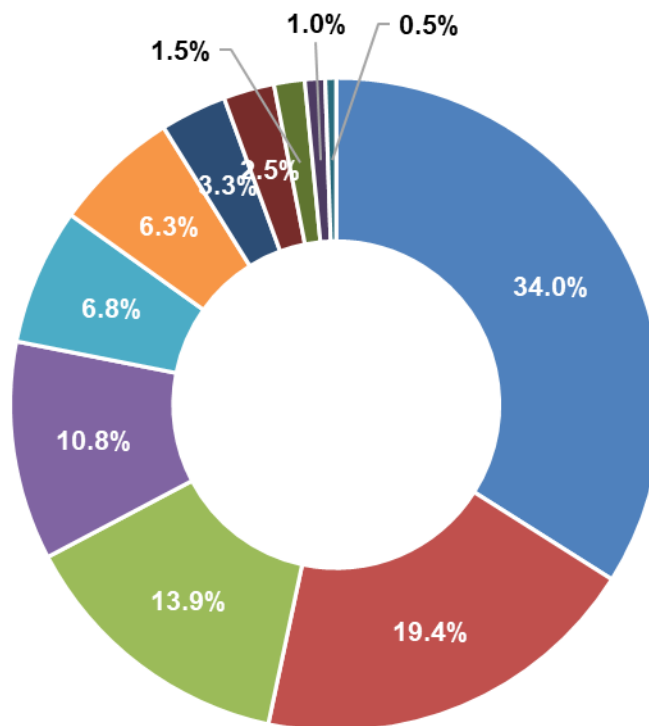
Overall, the Bath and North East Somerset area remains a safe place, but in the context of all public agencies facing immense challenges in maintaining this; with rising crime trends and changing crime patterns, this puts a pressure on local resources. We are required to prioritise our work according to our strategic assessment of crime and disorder in our area which is built on a range of data including recorded crime and feedback from local agencies and communities. This is set out below.

The number of people identified as vulnerable in Avon & Somerset is significant and placing increasing demand upon public sector services. Neighbourhood policing teams have an important role to play in supporting and protecting vulnerable people, through reassurance, monitoring and, where necessary, intervention, either in partnership with other agencies or as the lead agency. All statutory partners work closely with local communities through their local forums to inform our priorities.

In Bath and North East Somerset, in the last year, there were just under 12,000 recorded crimes. This is a 15% increase on the previous year and heading back towards pre-pandemic levels. Reports of anti-social behaviour reduced by -11.6% (380 fewer reports).

The Covid-19 pandemic impacted on crime and the demand for policing services during 2021. Levels of crime and demand for police services are returning to pre-pandemic levels.

B&NES Crime by type Apr-19 to Mar-22



- Violence Against The Person
- Theft
- Public Order Offences
- Arson and Criminal Damage
- Vehicle Offences
- Burglary
- Sexual Offences
- Drug Offences
- Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society
- Robbery
- Possession of Weapons

Feedback from Local Communities

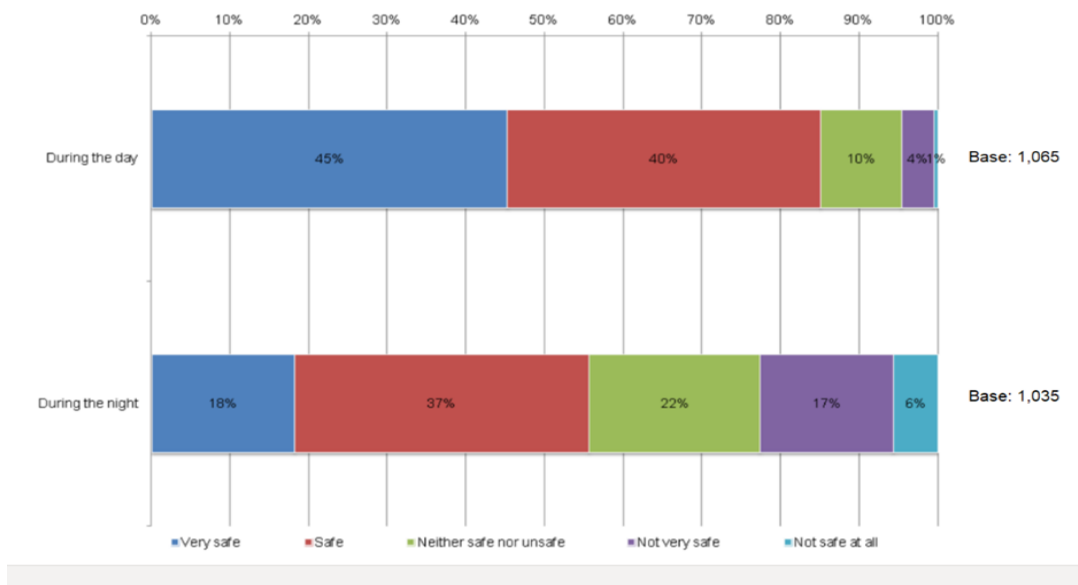
Avon & Somerset Police provide regular policing updates to the 'Connecting Communities' Area Forums and this allows for local concerns to be raised and projects identified. An analysis of the Connecting Communities Forum reports and feedback has identified a number of differences in concerns raised across B&NES, and these are set out below.

Most recently the Forums have highlighted issues of river safety, rural crime particularly related to agricultural buildings, vehicles, sheds and garages and antisocial behaviour.

Bath & North East Somerset Council undertakes a "Voicebox" survey of local residents. In the latest survey a number of questions were asked about people's concerns relating to violent crime

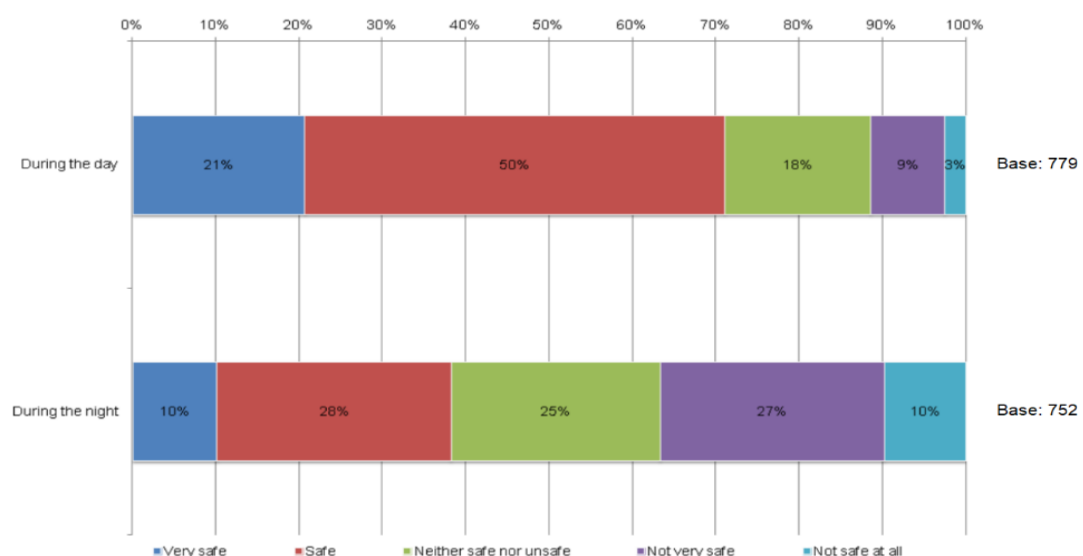
- 85% said they felt very safe or safe from violence outside the home in B&NES during the day, 5% outlined they felt not very safe or not safe at all.
- 56% said they felt very safe or safe from violence outside the home in B&NES during the night, nearly a quarter (23%) outlined they felt not very safe or not safe at all.

Chart 1: How safe do you feel from violence outside the home in Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES)? (Q29)



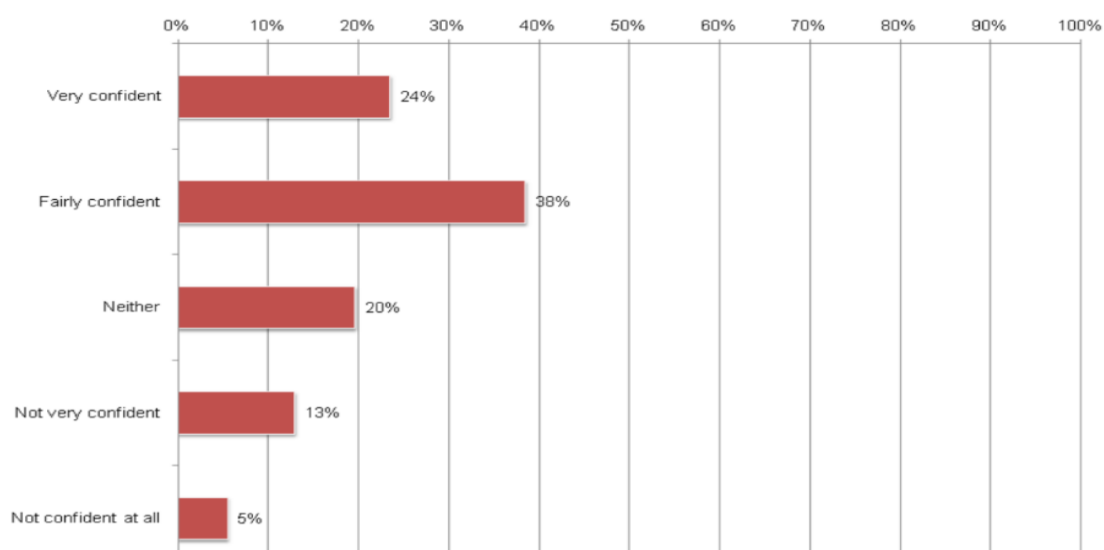
- 71% said they felt children are very safe or safe from violence outside the home in B&NES during the day
- 11% said they felt children are not very safe or not safe at all
- 38% said they felt children are very safe or safe from violence outside the home in B&NES during the night
- 37% said they felt children are not very safe or not safe at all.

Chart 2: How safe do you feel children are from violence outside the home in Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES)? (Q30)



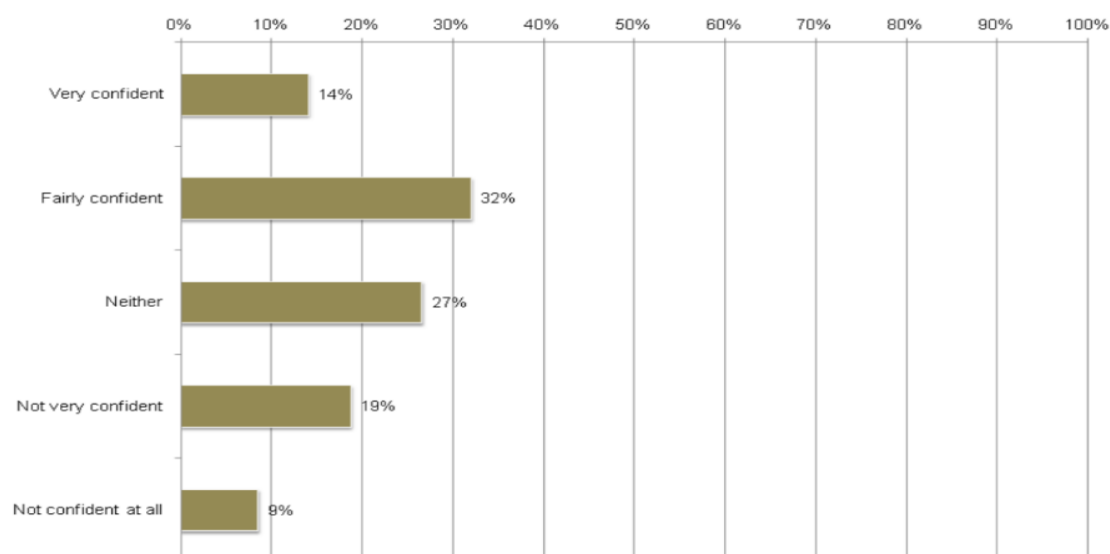
- 62% said they would be very or fairly confident about reporting concern about violence in their local area
- 18% said they would be not very confident or not confident at all

Chart 3: As a B&NES resident, how confident do you feel about reporting concern about violence in your local area? (Q31)



- 46% said they would be very or fairly confident about recognising the signs of child exploitation e.g., county lines, online grooming
- 27% said they would be not very confident or not confident at all

Chart 4: How confident are you about recognising the signs of child exploitation e.g. county lines, online grooming? (Q32)



Strategic and Emerging Issues in B&NES

A range of community safety issues are raised at the BCSSP's Vulnerable Communities sub-group, where the agenda reflects changing crime patterns and addresses local concerns. It takes a strategic overview of the emerging priorities raised by local partners, particularly those where there may be gaps or where demands are increasing due to external pressures and legislative changes. Partnership resources are coordinated to address new and emerging concerns.

The B&NES Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) covers the whole local authority area, paying particular attention to central Bath, which was identified by Police as a location where levels of serious violence are high, relative to the rest of the B&NES area.

The VRU is seeking to better understand the relationship between anti-social behaviour and serious violence; it will also focus on the urban areas of Keynsham and Midsomer Norton. It identifies other hotspot areas already recognised through regular multi-agency mapping to keep abreast of the changing picture of violence and exploitation.

A needs assessment was carried out in 2020 and is refreshed annually. In 2021- 2022, the group focused on the following key issues:

- Domestic abuse
- Youth violence and exploitation
- Protecting vulnerable adults, the street population in Bath
- Demand for drugs
- The impact of COVID-19 on vulnerability and violence

Due to a significant shutdown of the night-time economy during the COVID-19 lockdown periods, there has been a decrease in night-time economy violence, but it has been reported that 'gang' and organised violence have become more prevalent. These incidents can occur during the daytime and involve weapons.

What we can Deliver Together

Historically, significant central government funding was available to support the work of Community Safety Partnerships. However, external funding for community safety has declined significantly in recent years and the only dedicated funding of this type is now allocated by the OPCC. The OPCC awards a grant to support activities to address local priorities; the current grant has been awarded from 2022 for a three-year period. This grant goes towards funding the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) domestic abuse service, the youth crime prevention service and the young people's substance misuse service.

Local partner organisations agree the level of resources they commit to the work of the BCSSP, against a backdrop of financial challenges for all partners. In some cases, the level of support can be quantified, for example, investment by the Council in the CCTV control room operations, and in other cases support is “mainstreamed” through the day-to-work of services such as:

- a) The multi-agency Youth Offending Service brings together staff from a range of backgrounds including Police, Health, Social Care, Youth Services, Education and the National Probation Service.
- b) The Council's Trading Standards team, which takes firm action against illegal businesses and those selling illegal products.
- c) The Council's Public Protection team working alongside police on tackling serious organised crime, county lines, modern slavery and rural exploitation.
- d) Licensing and enforcement, which deal with a wide range of local concerns including fly-tipping and noise.
- e) Extensive network of public space CCTV cameras.

External partners such as Registered Social Landlords provide significant resources to address anti-social behaviour through specialist tenancy support. In many cases, partners also provide significant ‘in kind’ support and partner resources, for example in sharing data which we use to ensure that people are offered the support they need.

Public sector agencies are operating under significant financial challenges, increasing resource pressure on partners to address the assessed needs set out above means that we need to:

- Prioritise our resources based on helping those who most need our help, particularly targeting our work on helping and protecting the most vulnerable people.
- Involve communities more in what we do and support them in addressing local concerns.
- Work better together to share resources and identify new ways of working.

Priorities

Local Priority 1: <i>Protecting the most Vulnerable from Harm</i>	
Links to Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Plan Priority 1: <i>Preventing and Fighting Crime</i>	
Focus on:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable children and adults • Male violence against women and girls, specifically domestic abuse, sexual offences, stalking and harassment • Neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour, specifically burglary, car crime, robbery, theft, hate crime and rural crime • The strategic policing requirement, terrorism, serious and organised crime, a national cyber security incident, threats to public order or public safety, civil emergencies and child sexual abuse • Fraud, scams and cybercrime 	
Key Objectives:	
1.	<p>Implement, monitor, and evaluate our partnership investment in reduction of Violence Against Women and Girls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to respond to and manage Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR), learning from the outcomes of DHRs and implement changes to working practices where necessary. • Continue to identify opportunities for longer-term funding to reduce domestic abuse and improve outcomes for survivors. • Continue to address the MARAC self-assessment 2022 regarding capacity to consider case for review by implementing the new online system. • Implement the Government's Safer Streets funded programme, delivering targets and to budget. • Support the Police VAWG plan through the joint 'Night Time Economy Operations' and BCSSP sub-group activities.
2.	<p>Strengthen the role and effectiveness of the Bath & North East Somerset Hate Crime and Community Cohesion Partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the B&NES Hate Crime and Community Cohesion Partnership's (BHCCCP) remit provides an integrated, proactive approach to monitoring patterns and trends and using data to challenge, influence and champion change needed in services to tackle hate crime and incidents effectively. • Seek assurance about the effective work of the Hate Crime Case Review Panel.
3.	<p>Continue to seek assurance about and actively work across the Avon & Somerset partnerships on Child Sexual Exploitation, Anti-Slavery Partnership and Modern Slavery / human trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and enable the reporting of, discovery of, and response to, incidents of modern slavery and exploitation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively participate in the Avon & Somerset Anti-Slavery Partnership and develop proportionate local initiatives across partner organisations and with services to identify and respond to incidents.
4.	<p>Seek assurance about multi-agency practice and effectiveness in areas of community safety, children/adult safeguarding cross over</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised crime, specifically around cuckooing¹. County lines Sexual exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable adults
5.	<p>Seek assurance about compliance with legislative changes regarding responsibility for 'Prevent'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet our Prevent duties and help other partners to do so, including raising awareness of reporting method for online extremist material working with community groups to raise awareness of radicalisation and in particular the role of social media.
6.	<p>Seek assurance regarding responses to fraud, scams and cybercrime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of the types and prevalence of scams fraud and cybercrime, in particular building fraud, doorstep crime and cold calling and scams involving older people. Publicise the nation advice on staying safe from scams, fraud and cybercrime and investigate where there is a local origin.

Why this is a local priority?

- Complex crimes with high levels of associated risk, such as Child Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), modern slavery and human trafficking, are increasing and this rise is expected to continue
- It is widely acknowledged that children and young people experiencing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) are more likely to develop complex trio behaviours / dependencies in adulthood.
- Early intervention (particularly in 'complex trio' work focussing on substance and alcohol misuse, mental ill health and domestic abuse / violence) is a key factor in reducing service dependency in later life.
- Hate crime reports in B&NES increased by 6.3% in 2021.
- It is believed that only 5% of mass marketing fraud is reported. It is recognised that there is significant under reporting in relation to mass marketing fraud – and that vulnerable people due to age or capacity are more likely to be targeted.
- The nature of crime is changing. We need to be open to new ways of working which deliver outcomes in a smarter way, including greater working across boundaries.
- Child Sexual Exploitation continues to rise, with reports increasing over the last year. The PCC has brought together contributions from across the force area to provide specialist support to address Child Sexual Exploitation. The BCSSP draws professionals together focussing on this as well as topics such as modern slavery and

¹ Cuckooing is a practice where people take over a person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation. It takes the name from cuckoos who take over the nests of other birds. There are different types of cuckooing: Using the property to deal, store or take drugs.

human trafficking which also require significant regional co-ordination and specialist training and support including actively participating in the regional Anti-Slavery Partnership.

- County lines is becoming more prevalent in Avon and Somerset. Police teams have developed a system where persons vulnerable to being 'cuckooed' are identified through intelligence/information sharing and local Beat Managers visit these individuals on a regular basis to offer support and advice. The Homeless Prevention Worker assists in identifying those vulnerable to 'cuckooing', particularly those living on the streets but who have tenancies.
- The Counter Terrorism Strategy 2018 places a duty to "have due regard to the need to prevent people from, being drawn into terrorism". It applies to a range of public bodies including colleges, universities, councils, health, probation and police. Again, local activity depends on access to regional and other intelligence. Avon and Somerset Counter Terrorism Local Profile informs partners of threats, vulnerabilities and risks. Prevent is part of the Contest strategy which aims to reduce the risk to the UK from terrorism. Prevent's aim is to stop people becoming radicalised. "Lone Actors" present the highest threat to Avon and Somerset. We work closely to protect "crowded places" with work ongoing on designing and securing protective measures.

Local Priority 2: <i>Strengthen and improve local communities to improve outcomes for local people.</i>	
Links to Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Plan Priority 2: <i>Engaging, supporting and working with communities, victims and partner organisations</i>	
Focus on:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public engagement – particularly with underrepresented groups • Supporting victims of crime and anti-social behaviour • Collaboration and partnership working 	
Key Objectives:	
1.	Reduce the impact that anti-social behaviour has in our communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the Police and other partners agencies work closely with Area Forums on key community safety issues
2.	Continue the commitment to support neighbourhood policing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek assurance about the support and promotion of collaboration between public and private sector organisations working within the night-time economy sector to reduce impacts on local residents; and that there is continued multi-agency enforcement visits to licensed premises to ensure they are safe and do not create nuisance. • Seek assurance about continued commitment to active participation in local community fora.
3.	Strengthen the resilience of local communities by seeking assurance about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued focus on river safety campaigns with partners and students • Work with the Student Community Partnership and with educational establishments individually as appropriate on a range of projects to promote safety, e.g., awareness of drink spiking. • Work alongside partners to promote safety on our streets particularly in response to national campaigns regarding women's safety in public areas. • Work alongside community groups to facilitate closer partnership working to problem solve local issues. • Work on hate crime through the Hate Crime Partnership and encourage families and friends to report concerns.

Why this is a local priority?

- A high proportion of people report feeling safe in their local area (88%). However, local residents say they require more 'reassurance' through visible policing.
- Work with our Community Forums and our experiences in Midsomer Norton and Keynsham shows the benefits of local communities coming together to address local concerns.
- Safer streets and drinks spiking campaigns, along with the Bath and Bristol Rugby Clubs #Mates Matter campaign on river safety shows the benefits of tapping into local networks for community outreach and engagement.

- Fraud is increasingly being carried out online, by phone and text messaging. This is usually not locally based, the preparators are unknown and are therefore difficult to identify. The Government's 'Beating Crime Plan' published in 2021 states that fraud now accounts for "approximately 42% of all crime against individuals and costs society at least £4.7 billion a year. Fraud can include: fraud by false representation, fraud by failure to disclose information and fraud by abuse of position.

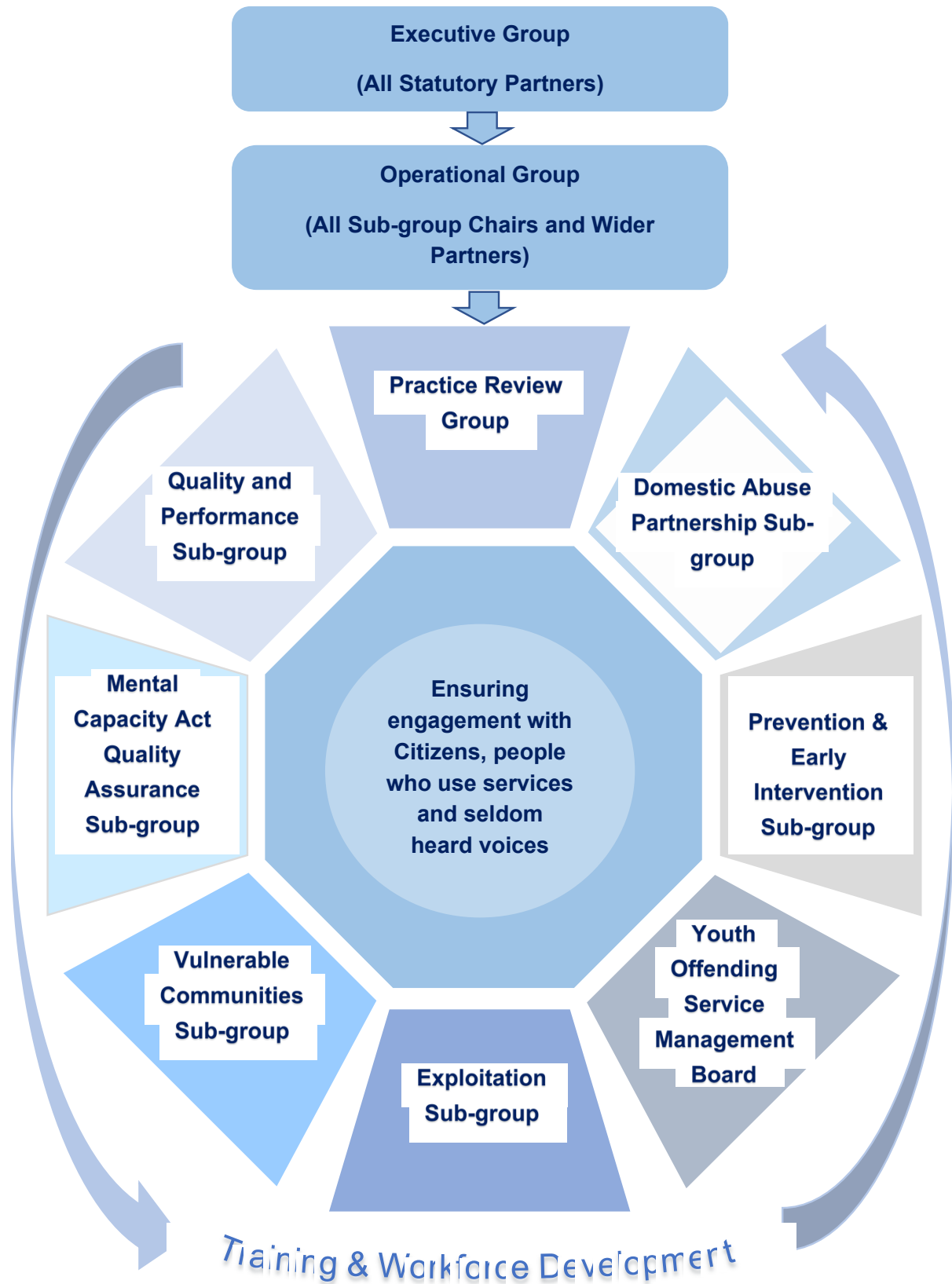
Key performance Indicators

Key performance indicators:	
1.	Police recorded total crime for the B&NES area
2.	Police recorded serious cases involving young people as victims of abuse, CSE, Modern Slavery and VAWG
3.	The number of people referred to the IDVA service who take up the offer of support
4.	Police recorded hate crime
5.	Police recorded fraud with vulnerable victims
6.	The number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police and domestic abuse prosecutions
7.	Police recorded Anti-Social Behaviour
8.	Establishment and success of joint working initiatives between police and housing services around 'cuckooing'
9.	NTE incidents recorded by Police from licensed premises
10.	Victim satisfaction

Acronyms

ACES	Adverse Childhood Experiences
B&NES	Bath and North East Somerset
BCSSP	Bath & North East Somerset Community Safety & Safeguarding Partnership
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DVA	Domestic Abuse and Violence
IDVA	Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor
LSAB	Local Safeguarding Adults Board
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children's Board
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NTE	Night Time Economy
OPCC	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
RAG	Responsible Authorities Group
RUH	Royal United Hospital
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VRU	Violence Reduction Unit

Appendix 1 – BCSSP Structure



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Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	9 th March 2023	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3346
TITLE:	Heritage Services Business Plan 2023 - 2028	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Heritage Services Business Plan 2023 - 2028		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The report introduces the Heritage Services Business plan for approval. The Plan sets out the strategy to rebuild visitor numbers and financial performance on a sustainable basis, whilst maintaining the high standards of visitor experience conservation and presentation that underpin commercial success.

The outlook for the visitor economy remains unclear; the assumptions upon which the Plan is built have greater degrees of uncertainty in the outer years.

The Plan proposes a budget for 2023/28 that consists of £21M of external income and £12.8M of expenditure. With internal re-charges and income this results in a profit of £8.2m.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to;

- 2.1 Approve the Heritage Services Business Plan

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Business Plan is included as an appendix to this report along with a copy of the Heritage Services Strategy.

STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

3.2 N/A

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

4.1 The Plan 23/28 plan is deliverable within current resource limits. The outer years of the plan will be reviewed year on year to assess any foreseeable resource implication.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

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

6 EQUALITIES

6.1 Whilst the service conforms to best practice as set by the council and statutory legislation there are specific actions and approaches that could be taken in the context of its conservation, presentation and engagement activities. These in turn will impact on the audiences the service reaches and the staff it employs. These will be crystallised over 23/24 with a clear action plan established to move forward in this area.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 The Service is taking a number of measures to address the climate and nature emergency. Existing plans already in place include:

- Energy capture: investigate replacing defunct energy capture equipment at the Roman Baths installed in 1993 with new state-of-the-art kit, to reduce running costs at the Pump Room / Roman Baths complex and supply energy to the new World Heritage Centre and Clore Learning Centre.
- Retail deliveries: the Service will retain its temporary retail warehouse in its non-city-centre location to eliminate multiple merchandise supplier delivery journeys into central Bath.
- Electric van: in tandem with the item above, the Service has leased an electric van to make consolidated retail merchandise deliveries from the warehouse to the Service's museums.

The journey to net zero will begin in earnest in 23/24. The service will undertake to create a strategy looking forward to 2030 that will set out what actions need to be taken to reach net zero within its own carbon boundary. Further to this, the service will also work with stakeholders to initiate a sustainable tourism strategy for BANES.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 The Business Plan has been reviewed and approved at both the Council's Senior Leadership Team and Informal Cabinet.

Contact person	Robert Campbell, Head of Heritage Services +44(0)7815 018899
Background papers	N/A
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Heritage Services Business Plan 2023–2028

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1. Summary

This is the annual revision of the Heritage Services Business Plan (the Plan). This revision of the Plan sets out the Services' Vision and Mission as it recovers from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, responds to the changing economic situation and its impact on visitor business.

Heritage Services expects to deliver a financial surplus in 2022/23 of £8.2 million.

The Plan sets out the recovery of visitor numbers and financial performance; income is expected to return to pre-pandemic levels next year and to hit 2019/20 profit levels in 2024/25.

The Service will continue to respond to the climate and ecological emergency through a comprehensive baseline study, which will measure its current carbon footprint. The Service will use this to develop a pathway to net zero over the next financial year.

The Service will continue to develop plans for the relocation of the Fashion Museum, within the Milsom Quarter and the creation of a Fashion Collection Archive in Locksbrook. It will complete repairs to the Victoria Art Gallery roof to protect the collection displayed there as well as open a new Community and Education space at the Gallery.

The Service will continue to invest to protect and conserve the Council's heritage assets, improve the visitor experience, enhance commercial performance, and develop its staff to deliver the Plan's outcomes.

2. Service Vision and Mission

During the last year the Service has set a new Vision and Mission. This has been developed through engagement with Service staff and volunteers and ratified through the Council's Senior Leadership team and the Heritage Services Advisory Board, made up of industry experts, senior officers and cabinet members.

A document outlining the Service's new strategy is included as an appendix to this Business Plan.

2.1. Vision

The Service's vision is to: **Learn from the past, understand the present, shape the future**

There are three over-arching aims to achieve between now and 2030:

- Return the Service to pre-COVID profitability;
- Move the Fashion Museum;
- Achieve Net Zero.

2.2. Mission

The Service's Mission is to:

- Create memorable, relevant and emotionally charged experiences for local, national and international audiences;
- Conserve the monuments, buildings and collections in our care;
- Be supporter centric – building long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with people who engage with us;
- Act commercially to generate significant income from our activities and work to contribute to the wider economic prosperity of the region;
- Offer an unparalleled customer experience for everyone;
- Be a leader in sustainable and responsible practice in the Museums, Heritage and Archive sector.

2.3. Strategic Priorities

The Service has six strategic priorities which it will deliver on over the course of the Plan:

1. To provide maximum access to our buildings, monuments and collection to as wide an audience as possible to facilitate learning, understanding and emotional connection;
2. To be a supporter focussed organisation;
3. To maximise income;
4. To operation efficiently and effectively as an organisation;
5. To bring benefit to Bath, the South-West and the UK;
6. To act as an environmentally sustainable and responsible organisation in everything we do.

3. Business Strategy

The business strategy is set out below, under the six priorities discussed in section 2.

3.1. Performance Overview

Roman Baths

Visitor numbers at the Roman Baths have exceeded budget through Q3 of 2022/23. The budget was for 60% of 2019/20 visitors. At the end of the Summer, performance was on budget. Since mid-August performance has accelerated. Figure 1 below shows footfall relative to budget, pre-pandemic and prior year.

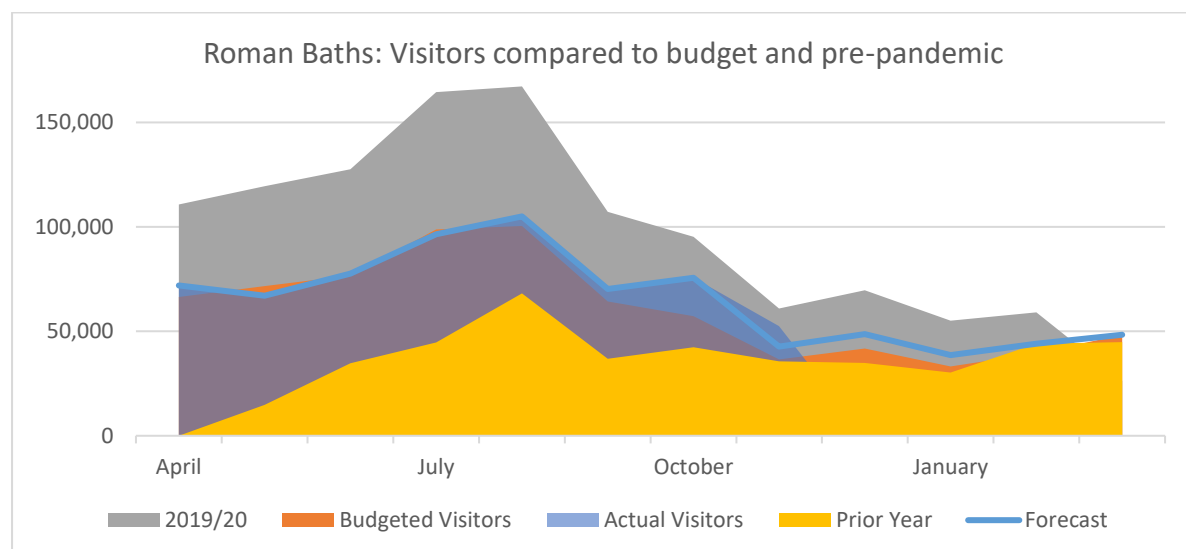


Figure 1: Roman Baths visitor numbers

It's noteworthy that the autumn performance followed the significant changes in the value of the Pound in the autumn, which stimulated an acceleration in the recovery of international tourism.

Secondary spend in retail and in the Pump Room has also been significantly higher than forecast. In part this has been driven by higher than budgeted visitor numbers; however, retail spend per visitor (SPV) has been up has been up over £0.50 visitor through-out this year. Part of the growth in SPV this year has been driven by cost pressures in the supply chain, which have increased cost of sales and therefore the selling price of products. The result in retail is testament to the work of the Retail Team who have had to balance the need to maintain margins, provide value to our visitors and maintain supplier relationships.

The chart below in figure 2 provides a longer-term view of the pandemic's impact and recovery, shown alongside the visitors to Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) funded museums (chosen as comparators due to their high visitor numbers, national significance and large tourist markets and including: the Science Museum, V&A, Natural History Museum) over the same time period.

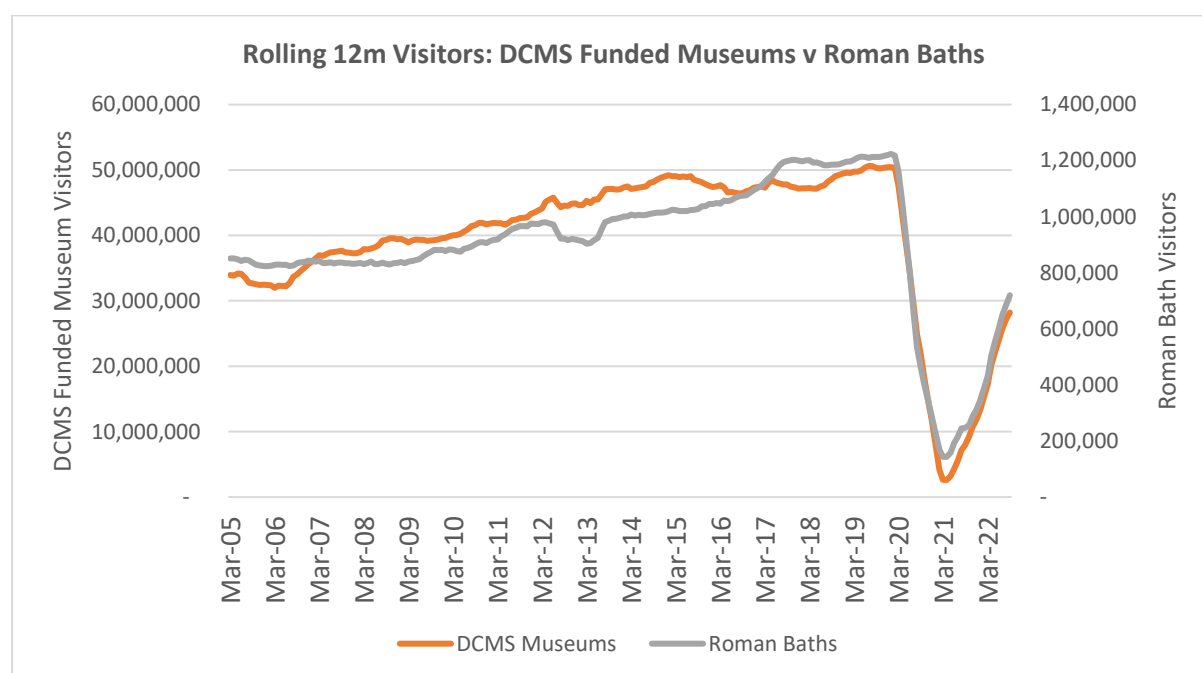


Figure 2: Rolling 12 month DCMS funded museum and Roman Baths visitor numbers

The chart shows that the impact of COVID was even more acutely felt in the (heavily London weighted) based DCMS portfolio; the Roman Baths lost 88% of visitors compared to 95% for the DCMS sites. Our recovery trajectories have been similar although ours slightly steeper since the middle of summer. The Roman Baths had recovered to 59% of pre-COVID total at end Sept, compared to 56% for the DCMS museums.¹ One of the major limiters on the rate of recovery has been the absence of the Chinese market throughout 2022 due to strict COVID restrictions in mainland China that made international travel much more difficult.

¹ More broadly, the chart sets some of the longer-term context for the Roman Baths, in the build up to COVID. The London 2012 Olympic effect, which saw a drop in London museum visitation, was much more acutely felt outside London, as London became the centre for tourist activity that summer. The Brexit referendum (and weakening of GBP) drove a steady increase of visitors to both sets of attractions. The impact of terror attacks in 2017, which saw a switch out of London to “smaller, safer” cities. This chart shows that switch very clearly in May – Aug 2017. Then COVID, which came just after the Roman Baths’ busiest ever year. The fuller impacts of the pandemic have been set out in previous versions of the Plan and are not repeated here.

Fashion Museum

The Fashion Museum closed to the public on the 30th October 2022. The budgeted visitor numbers of 38,000 were just exceeded, with 38,039 people visiting the museum prior to it's closure. During the final month in particular, the number of local residents visiting was significantly higher than average.

The plans for relocating the Fashion Museum are discussed in section 3.4 below.

Victoria Art Gallery

Visitor numbers at the Victoria Art Gallery have been below budget through the majority of this financial year. This is due to fewer than anticipated people visiting exhibitions in the early part of the year.

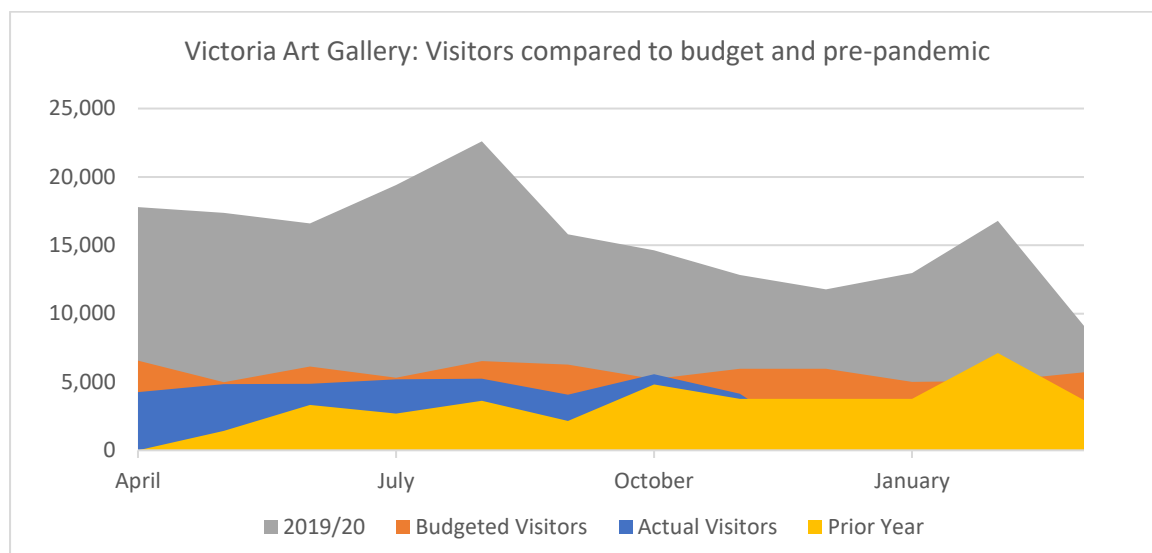


Figure 3: Victoria Art Gallery Visitor Numbers

The Gallery's audience is typically a slightly older audience than the Roman Baths and this section of society have been more cautious about returning to situations where there is an increased level of mixing.

Despite this, retail sales and commission on sales of work have been ahead of expectation. This commercial success has been driven by the Mary Feddon and Peter Brown exhibitions in particular.

3.2. Future targets

The financial summary and key future targets are set out in appendix 1 and 2 respectively, alongside the prior year actuals and current year forecast. Figure 4 below shows the expected recovery of both income and profit.

	2021/22 (actual)	2022/23 (forecast)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
External turnover (£000)	14,347	18,123	21,005	24,054	27,449	28,314	28,926
Net Profit (£000)	4,002	5,623	8,233	10,102	12,940	13,327	13,394
<i>Profit as a % of income</i>	27.9%	31.0%	39.2%	42.0%	47.1%	47.1%	46.3%

Figure 4: Heritage Services income and profit

The Plan projects growth in visitor numbers and visitor-driven income from the current performance outlined above. Heritage Services income will return to pre-pandemic levels in 2023/24 however it will be 2025 before visitor numbers return to the levels seen in 2019.

The financial targets for the Service absorb the anticipated pay award to be agreed by the Council for each year of the plan, as well as other inflation pressures on the cost base. Through the lifetime of the Plan, pay is expected to be the biggest cost pressure facing the Service.

Further to this Heritage Services has agreed with B&NES Council that, in principal, the Service will retain over-achievement on budget surplus, year-on-year, to act as a smoothing reserve to support capital funding requirements going forward. This principal will be reviewed each year as part of the Council's annual budgeting process.

3.3. Action Against Strategic Priorities

3.3.1. To provide maximum access to our buildings, monuments and collections to as wide an audience as possible to facilitate learning, understanding and emotional connection

At the Roman Baths the Service will review and deliver a revised audio-tour, to bring the narrative at the site in-line with the most-up-to-date understanding of Roman Britain. The Service will also create an audience development plan for the Roman Baths and Clore Learning Centre that provides strategic direction to the Service's efforts in engaging with different audiences, including those who we have not traditionally welcomed at our sites.

This engagement plan will ensure that the revised interpretation in the audio-tour reflects the interests of these audience groups. It will also align our engagement endeavours with other Council activities (e.g. with Public Health and the Adult Social Care team).

A programme of temporary exhibitions will continue to be delivered at the Victoria Art Gallery. We will also open a new space in the building dedicated to learning, community engagement and commercial activation.

A new audience development plan for Bath Record Office will be devised so that the archives and local studies can reach wider and more diverse audiences. In turn, this will improve its collecting strategy and ensure its relevance to our communities. We will also look to improve public access to the searchrooms at the Guildhall.

The Re-Fashioning Bath project will be progressed – a fuller explanation of this project is noted in 3.4 below

3.3.2. To be a supporter focussed organisation

Heritage Services will continue the role-out of the Discovery Card to residents across B&NES, particularly focussing on increasing take-up in areas of the population who haven't previously held Discovery Cards.

The Service will conclude a re-structure creating a new Fundraising, Marketing and Supporter Development team. One of focus of this team will be to undertake feasibility on

the implementation of a new audience segmentation approach and Customer Relationship Management system – both vital to us developing long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with our audiences.

3.3.3. To Maximise Income

Heritage Services will seek to maximise income generating opportunities across its areas of operation.

Roman Baths

- Continue to maximise revenue through admission income and retail, whilst maintaining value for money scores at their current level.
- Implement the findings of a consultancy review of the Roman Baths retail offer to deliver additional sales and profit.
- Develop products with partners which encourage overnight stays in the region in order to deliver maximum economic benefits from visitors.
- Launch of the children's guidebook, alongside a review of our family offer.
- Ensuring that experience is at the heart of our product offering, using the site and collection as the backdrop against which people can create amazing memories.

Victoria Art Gallery

- Continue to engage loyal repeat visitors and extend this audience through the high quality programme of temporary exhibitions.
- A review of the cross site promotion between the Roman Baths and the Gallery to try and drive more visitors from the Baths to the Gallery.

Cross Service

- Continue to integrate the Council's historic venue hire business – improving the customer proposition, the venue marketing and the pricing of products.

3.3.4. To operate efficiently and effectively as an organisation

At the Roman Baths the Service will deliver a new Conservation Management Plan, which will inform our capital and conservation investment in the future. At the Bath Record Office

the team will progress with implementing digital preservation so that collections in digital format are securely stored and accessible.

Across the Service we will continue to progress a strategic approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion by delivering an assessment of our overall operation in this context.

We will continue to improve the management and maintenance of our capital infrastructure. Major projects will include remedial work to the roof of the Victoria Art Gallery and investment in the Building Management Systems of both the Roman Baths and Victoria Art Gallery.

An integral part of the strategy going forward will be ongoing investment in the Service workforce. We will continue to build an even stronger performance culture with staff engagement, wellbeing and development at its heart. Some actions we will explore include:

- The ongoing development and delivery of a comprehensive staff engagement and internal communication plan so that all staff are well informed and also able to contribute to the continuous improvement of the service
- Creating an integrated training plan for staff at all levels of the service
- A review of ways to recognise exceptional performance
- Using the new Clear Review system to ensure all staff have an up-to-date forward job plan, linked explicitly to our strategy, that is reviewed on a regular basis. These plans will also focus on developing staff for the benefit of the Service, our customers and their own personal and professional goals. We will also systematically embed our expectations and actions related to health and Safety, the climate crisis and diversity, equality and inclusion into these plans
- Developing a wellbeing strategy specific to Heritage Services – taking the best of the work undertaken by the council and tailoring it to our specific circumstances
- Encouraging further initiatives which encourage cross site working to break down silos and develop a single service culture

In order to deliver on the Strategic Priorities outlined in this document the Service will also need to increase its staffing complement. The current structure and staffing levels reflect the Service's ability to deliver on its pre-Covid priorities, namely surplus generation at the Roman Baths. With the new strategy promoting a wider emphasis for the Service additional staff will be required. The prospective increases in cost base will be confirmed and enacted

over 23/24 but their potential impact has been taken into account when considering the surplus income figures noted in this Plan.

3.3.5 To bring benefit to Bath, the South West and the UK

Heritage Services will use its platform and influence to:

- Represent B&NES on the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Cultural Compact to deliver on the WECA cultural strategy;
- Represent B&NES as a board member of Visit West and work with Visit West to deliver the destination development plan for the region;
- Represent The Roman Baths and Pump Room as a board member for the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions;
- Work with Bath's Cultural and Creative Ambition Board to establish how the Council can contribute further to the cultural offer across the district;
- Work with other teams within the Council's Sustainable Communities Directorate to contribute to the Economic Strategy and Local Plan to ensure they recognise and include a vision for a sustainable visitor economy within B&NES over the lifespan of those plans.

23/24 will see the World Heritage Management (WHM) function move from Heritage Services to the Planning Service. The WHM team have worked well within Heritage Services and this has coincided with a period when the focus of the Council's efforts in this space have related more to the interpretation and engagement aspects of Bath's inscription – specifically in delivering the new World Heritage Centre and securing the second World Heritage Site Inscription as part of the Great Spas of Europe. Looking forward, the WHM function will be more concerned with the impacts of development, sustainable tourism and green transformation on the Outstanding Universal Values for which Bath is inscribed. This means it will be better situated within the Planning Service – making it more integrated into a wider range of the Council's activities and providing excellent advice and education to colleagues directly grappling with these upcoming issues. As part of this move the Council

will be investing in a dedicated resource to manage the ongoing activity related to the Great Spas of Europe Inscription whilst retaining a full-time position to deliver on issues more specifically related to Bath. These changes demonstrate the Council's commitment to Bath's dual World Heritage Inscription and will help to ensure that the benefits of both are maximised going forward. The Head of Heritage Services will retain his place on the World Heritage Advisory Board and will work closely with the Planning Service on all aspects of WHM related to interpretation and engagement – the strengths of Heritage Services.

3.3.6 To act as an environmentally sustainable and responsible organisation in everything we do

The Service has made progress in some areas in the last 24 months, most significantly in the form of an energy capture scheme, taking the heat from the Kings Spring and converting this to energy to provide heat to the Clore Learning Centre, World Heritage Centre and overall Pump Room building complex.

The relocation of the retail stock warehouse to the outskirts of Bath has removed supplier deliveries from the city centre and the Retail team are awaiting the delivery on an electric van to move stock between the warehouse and the Heritage Services shops, further reducing the impact of the operation.

However, the Service has not yet developed an overall strategy to achieve net zero, in line with the climate emergency declaration made by the Council. Work will be undertaken in order to develop this strategy over the next 12 months. This work will be delivered in four stages and the Service will complete stage 1 and 2 in the 2023/24 financial year.

- Establish baseline of emissions. Heritage Services has commissioned a study to establish a baseline, from which to set and measure carbon reduction targets.
- Develop a pathway to net zero. From the baseline study we will create a pathway to net zero, identifying the priority areas to reduce.
- Create a comprehensive climate action plan. Informed by the pathway to net zero we will develop an action plan to reduce emissions as quickly and efficiently as possible. This will include strategies including asset replacement, procurement and supply chain management, reduced usage and influencing staff and visitor behaviour.

- Measure and report against the climate action plan. This will form a standing agenda item for the Heritage Advisory Board and future iterations of this plan will also report on progress against this objective.

3.4. Re-Fashioning Bath (relocating the Fashion Museum and Collection)

3.4.1. Project overview

The Fashion Museum is one of the world's great museum collections of historical and contemporary fashionable dress and Designated by government as a collection of outstanding significance. The collection contains over 100,000 artefacts and has been exhibited in the Assembly Rooms in Bath, which the Council has leased from the National Trust, since the 1960s. Pre-COVID it attracted 100,000 visitors a year to the city of Bath.

The National Trust have decided to take possession of the building to create a new heritage experience celebrating the Georgian era in Bath and the Fashion Museum closed to the public in October 2022.

Creating one of the most significant cultural infrastructure projects in the country, the Council aims to establish a new Fashion Museum in Bath City Centre and a purpose-built home for the collection in Locksbrook. Both places should play a pivotal role in the economic, cultural and social future of the city, preserving access to one of the world's great museum collections as well as delivering regeneration, economic, skills, placemaking and wellbeing benefits across the region.

The Museum

The Council has acquired the Old Post Office building within the Milsom Quarter of the city. This will be the new home of the Fashion Museum with permanent displays, temporary exhibitions, dedicated learning and community spaces and secondary spend opportunities such as retail, food and beverage and venue hire options.

Initial modelling suggests that the museum should attract 250,000 visitors per year. It will allow audiences not only to consider the beauty and craftsmanship of historic and

contemporary fashion, but to use the collection as a lens to understand themselves and the world around them better. Visitors will be encouraged to engage in issues such as sustainability, identity and social justice.

The Fashion Collection Archive

The intention is for the collection which is not on display to be stored in a purpose-built facility, co-located with Bath Spa University, at a site in Locksbrook. The facility will be built to minimise carbon footprint and should be an exemplar of contemporary museum storage.

The Service will look to renew its memorandum of understanding with Bath Spa University. The Fashion Collection Archive will meet the needs of a diverse range of people, including designers, makers, researchers and film studios, to access and experience the collection for their own purposes.

Tackling Deprivation

The aim is for both facilities to be hubs for inclusive cultural engagement – with programming and activities targeted at those in some of the most deprived communities in B&NES. The Service envisages that the operations of both sites be underpinned by a strong cohort of volunteers, placement and internship opportunities. This may include the use of the collection in skills based courses to target long-term unemployment and the creation of a 'hub and spoke' model to extend programming into deprived communities via pop-ups in vacant units and using existing local infrastructure. We will work in partnership with Council departments and third-party providers to reach those communities who would benefit most from engagement with this project. All Discovery Card holders in B&NES will have free access to both facilities.

3.4.2. Interim storage and engagement

Whilst a new permanent home is created the collection is housed at Dents glovemakers, one of the UK's leading heritage fashion brands. The costs associated with this storage are built into the Plan.

The collection will be as open as possible, with a range of engagement activities during the time it is in temporary accommodation. Heritage Services will run digital engagement and

community consultation workshops for the new Fashion Museum project. This Service will continue to loan objects from the Fashion Museum collection to exhibitions world-wide as well as exploring the opportunity for temporary exhibition opportunities across Bath and the South West.

3.4.3. Project costing and overview

The project costs are estimated at £34m. The funding plan for the project is as follows:

- Funding has already been secured for the acquisition costs of the Old Post Office site and feasibility and design work on both the Locksbrook and Old Post Office sites. This funding will progress the schemes to RIBA stage 3 and planning application.
- A fundraising campaign will contribute to the remaining project costs alongside other funding routes currently under review.
- The aim is for the new museum to open in 27/28, this is dependant on a successful fundraising campaign to enable contracts to be awarded.
- An independent charity will be launched in 2023 to support the project.

4. Risk

There has perhaps never been a greater level of uncertainty when revising the Plan. The recovery following the COVID 19 pandemic is still not fully established, whilst inflationary economic pressures restrict the level of disposable income that potential visitors have to spend on leisure activities.

The Plan assumes that there will be no new impacts as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic and projects steady growth back to pre-pandemic visitor numbers in 2025.

The Plan assumes that the trajectory of recovery will not be significantly impacted by the global economic pressure referenced above. The Roman Baths has performed well during previous recessions benefiting from a staycation effect (as domestic audiences chose not to go abroad or not to holiday within the UK, but still undertake day trips). It is also important to note that international tourists benefit from the current low value of the Pound and also tend to represent the more affluent sections of society and are therefore better able to absorb the impact of inflation than other demographics of society.

The Plan assumes that there will be no new adverse impact caused by security, economic or environmental events, but it should be noted that terrorism continues to pose a risk. The proposed city centre counter-terrorism measures are designed to reduce the risk of such an event. Potential further international uncertainty driven by geopolitical incidents also casts a shadow over the future years.

Within the Council's General Reserves via the Robustness of Estimates calculation, a risk of £2.5m was recognised in 2022/23. This was assessed as medium risk; the Plan recommends that this risk provision is maintained.

There are inherent risks to the Fashion Museum relocation project. These principally relate to the funding of the project and the impact that securing funding may have of the timeline of the project. However, the risk noted in the Plan last year, in relation to the temporary storage of the collection has been resolved with the agreement to house the collection with Dents.

The pathway to net zero, discussed above, is currently uncoded and unfunded. The work to establish the interventions required, due to take place in the next twelve months, will inform the budget requirements for this work.

Throughout 2022 the Service has experienced significant staff shortages, particularly in Facilities and Retail staff. Recruitment challenges were exacerbated by the protracted pay negotiations which delayed the 2023 pay award. The staff shortages, coupled with high visitor numbers through the summer placed pressure on staff and increased focus has been paid to mental health wellbeing over 2022 with a focus on staff recognition, improved communication and workload management.

The widened remit of the Service, and the challenges and opportunities presented by the post COVID world, require a review of the staffing structure and complement in the Service. Any increase in cost base will need to be well judged so that it can solidify, and/or grow, the overall surplus to be returned.

Appendix 1: Financial Summary

Heritage Services Business Plan 2023-28

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Business Plan Summary

	Prior Year Actuals		Current Year	2023/24 Financial Year	Plan Years			
	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	Budget £'000	Budget £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000
Admissions	(2,503)	(8,495)	(14,573)	(17,528)	(21,004)	(24,144)	(24,875)	(25,379)
Retail Sales	(238)	(1,155)	(1,657)	(2,283)	(2,009)	(2,261)	(2,362)	(2,447)
Room Hire	(44)	(369)	(742)	(714)	(492)	(502)	(512)	(522)
Catering	(45)	(264)	(373)	(334)	(344)	(354)	(365)	(376)
Other Income	(11)	(378)	(204)	(308)	(181)	(164)	(177)	(178)
Grants/Contributions	(12,668)	(3,687)	(97)	(22)	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)
Total Income	(15,509)	(14,347)	(17,646)	(21,189)	(24,054)	(27,449)	(28,314)	(28,926)
Employee Costs	4,524	5,003	5,311	5,629	6,176	6,419	6,675	6,938
Premises Costs	1,240	1,277	1,390	1,628	1,789	1,889	1,997	2,111
Transport Costs	40	44	50	30	31	32	33	34
Supplies & Services	1,116	1,936	2,505	3,080	3,080	3,279	3,401	3,517
Other Costs	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maintenance	326	386	597	509	539	550	562	574
Investment	396	249	474	495	766	770	750	790
Total Expenditure	7,643	8,895	10,329	11,371	12,383	12,940	13,418	13,964
Internal Income	(2,539)	(2,719)	(3,307)	(3,981)	(4,118)	(4,237)	(4,364)	(4,496)
Recharge codes	4,264	4,170	4,899	5,566	5,709	5,828	5,955	6,087
Internal Recharges	1,725	1,451	1,593	1,585	1,591	1,591	1,591	1,591
(Surplus) / Deficit	(6,141)	(4,002)	(5,725)	(8,233)	(10,081)	(12,918)	(13,305)	(13,371)
Operating Margin	39.6%	27.9%	32.4%	38.9%	41.9%	47.1%	47.0%	46.2%
Operating Margin (pre investment)	42.2%	29.6%	35.1%	41.2%	45.1%	49.9%	49.6%	49.0%
Wage %	29.2%	34.9%	30.1%	26.6%	25.7%	23.4%	23.6%	24.0%

Appendix 2: KPI Targets

	2021/22 (actual)	2022/23 (forecast)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Roman Baths visitors (000s)	431	785	888	1,044	1,200	1,236	1,266
Victoria Art Gallery visitors (000s)	40	66	66	71	71	71	71
World Heritage Centre visitors (000s)	0	70	88	104	120	124	127
Roman Baths income per visitor (£)*	21.68	22.08	22.48	22.19	22.13	22.15	22.09
Education visitors at Roman Baths (000s)	4,733	6,745	19,499	20,880	24,000	24,720	25,320
Community Participants	988	19,283**	18,700	19,000	19,300	19,500	19,700
Discovery Cards Issued (000s)	0	23,000	5000	5,500	6000	6,500	30,000***
Social media followers	129,923	194,077	212,191	237,443	262,939	291,678	324,259
Discover Card holder visits (000s)	11,984	11,760	14,208	16,704	19,200	19,776	20,256
Net profit per Council Tax household (£)	47.18	66.31	95.13	119.11	152.58	157.15	157.94
* admission income plus retail sales & other sales and restaurant commission ** includes activities run at the Fashion Museum, which has closed *** Discovery Cards have a 5 year renewal lifecycle meaning those issues in 22/23 will begin to expire in 27/28							



Heritage Services

Strategy
2022–2027



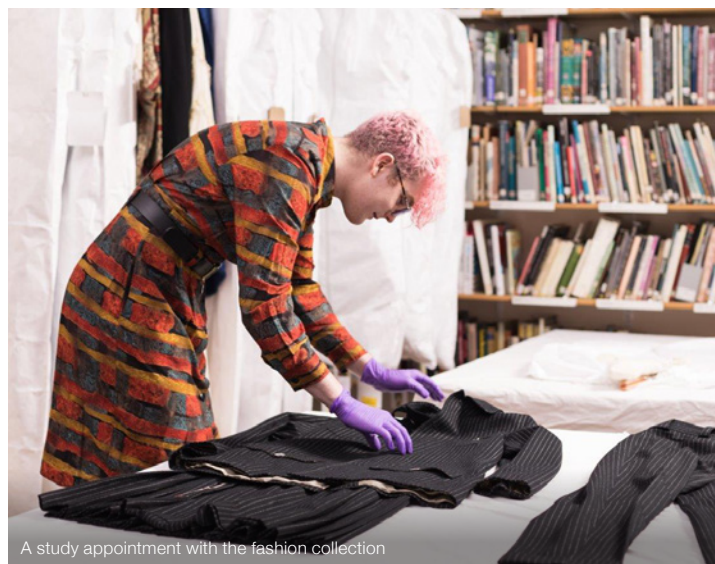
Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Who we are

Heritage Services is an essential part of Bath & North East Somerset Council; responsible for stewarding the public facing heritage assets in the council's care.

The council established Heritage Services as an independent business unit in 2005 allowing the service greater financial freedom and agility delivering, in return, an agreed surplus for the council. Heritage Services is unique amongst UK local authorities in operating at no cost to the local taxpayer; the service is singular, within the council, in self-funding all cost increases. Instead, the service provides reductions in council tax to residents and helps fund the council's delivery of cardinal services, such as social care, schools, and housing.



Vision

This statement informs all of our work. It is the guiding principal by which we seek to bring benefit to the world:

Learn from the past,
understand the present,
shape the future

Page 179

We have three overarching priorities that this Strategy will deliver on:

1.

Return the service to its pre-Covid profitability

2.

Move the Fashion Museum

3.

Achieve Net Zero by 2030

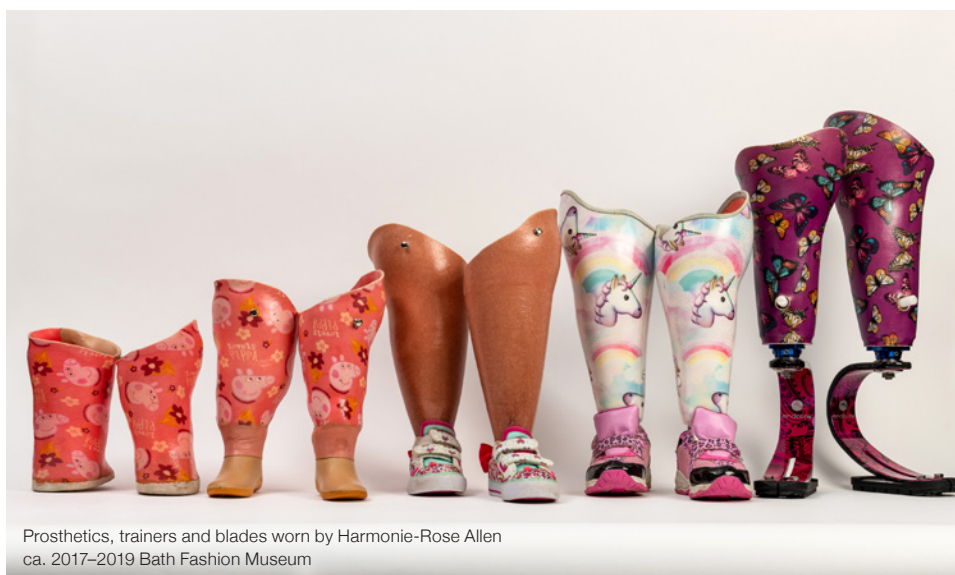


Mission

- ▶ Create memorable, relevant and emotionally charged experiences for local, national and international audiences
- ▶ Conserve the monuments, buildings and collections in our care
- ▶ Be supporter centric – building long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with people who engage with us
- ▶ Act commercially to generate significant income from our activities and work to contribute to the wider economic prosperity of the region
- ▶ Offer an unparalleled customer experience for everyone
- ▶ Be a leader in sustainable and responsible practice in the Museums, Heritage and Archive sector



A study appointment with the fashion collection



Prosthetics, trainers and blades worn by Harmonie-Rose Allen
ca. 2017–2019 Bath Fashion Museum



Dress of the
Year 2021

Mission: Corporate link

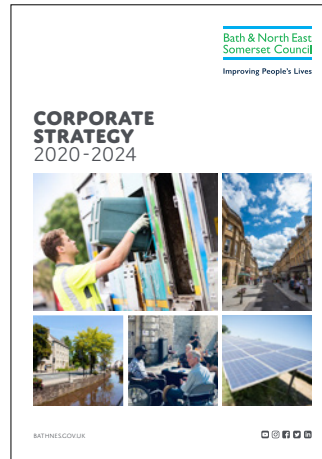
We **improve people's lives** directly through the experiences and opportunities we offer and indirectly via the surplus we return for use by the council



We will **tackle the climate emergency** within our own carbon boundary and strategically through our influence within the sector



We will **give people a bigger voice** by making community participation, audience evaluation and co-creation central to how we approach what we do



Culture

This is how we do things in Heritage Services. It is everyone's responsibility to live these values when they work for us:

Bold



- ▶ We'll do whatever it takes to make sure people love their interactions with our sites and collections
- ▶ We set aspirational goals, try new things, embrace change and learn from our mistakes
- ▶ We look outwards to help us continuously improve what we do
- ▶ We use data and research to help us set the right outcomes, make the right decisions and understand how things have gone

Empowered



- ▶ When someone performs well we recognise this and celebrate it
- ▶ Everyone knows what is expected of them and what good looks like so they can take the initiative and get things done
- ▶ Everyone understands our audiences and how to give them what they need
- ▶ Everyone is focussed on their personal development and, if they have them, of their staff too

Supportive



- ▶ We care about each other and want to make sure we are enjoying ourselves at work
- ▶ We can make sure everyone has what they need to get the job done – including the right equipment and enough time
- ▶ We work collaboratively across the service, council and with external stakeholders

Transparent



- ▶ We all know what the plan is, why we are doing it and make an effort so everyone knows what is happening
- ▶ We listen to our supporters and work with them to improve how we do things
- ▶ We listen to our colleagues and actively encourage constructive criticism from any person in the service to contribute to our continuous improvement
- ▶ We learn lessons, make sure we embed best practice and don't repeat our mistakes

Strategic Priorities

1.

To provide maximum access to our buildings, monuments and collections to as wide an audience as possible to facilitate learning, understanding and emotional connection

2.

To be a supporter focussed organisation

3.

Maximise income

4.

To operate efficiently and effectively as an organisation

5.

To bring benefit to Bath, the South West and the UK

6.

To act as an environmentally sustainable and responsible organisation in everything we do



Cover (clockwise from top left): The Roman Baths by torchlight, The Fashion Museum Collection, Bath Record Office and The Victoria Art Gallery.

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Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	9 th March 2023	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E3442
TITLE:	Quarter 3 Strategic Performance Report 2022/23	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Annex 1 - Strategic Indicator Report quarter 3 2020/21		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report is presented using the Council's **Integrated Reporting Framework (IRF)**. It updates Cabinet on the progress made against a key set of strategic performance measures which assess our progress on delivering the Corporate Strategy and key aspects of service delivery.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to:

- 2.1 Note progress on the delivery of key aspects of the Council's service delivery, details of which are highlighted in section 3.6 and Annex 1.
- 2.2 Indicate any other key service areas to be highlighted and included in the strategic indicator report.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Full Council adopted a new four-year Corporate Strategy at its meeting on 25th February 2020. The document set a new direction for the Council, reflecting the aims of the administration elected in May 2019 and providing a clear approach to the Council's activities and priorities.

3.2 The Corporate Strategy is the Council's overarching strategic plan. It sets out what we plan to do, how we plan to do it, and how we will measure performance over the next four years. It contains a new framework for what we will focus on and how we will work, as follows:

- 1) We have one overriding purpose - **to improve people's lives**. This brings together everything we do, from cleaning the streets to caring for our older people. It is the foundation for our strategy, and we will ensure that it drives our commitments, spending and service delivery.
- 2) We have two core policies - **tackling the climate and ecological emergency** and **giving people a bigger say**. These will shape our work.
- 3) To translate our purpose into commitments, we have identified three principles. We want to **prepare for the future, deliver for residents** and **focus on prevention**. These, in turn, help us to identify specific delivery commitments across our services.

3.3 The Council collects and monitors a wide range of key performance indicators to measure its delivery. Many of these are of a statutory nature and need to be reported to central Government, and there are also many local indicators developed by services to allow them to measure the delivery of Council services.

3.4 The Council has developed its own in-house **Integrated Reporting Framework (IRF)** which enables officers to monitor many aspects of the Council's delivery and performance. The framework is a dashboard-based online tool that allows the collection and monitoring of performance data directly from the Council's main business systems in many instances and is now used as the main tool for officers to measure progress. The IRF currently collects and monitors information on the following.

- Service performance through a set of agreed performance indicators
- Finance Overview
- Risk Management
- Contracts and Commissioning Intentions
- Corporate Data and Intelligence

3.5 The IRF has over 200 performance indicators that officers use to measure Council performance. Many of these are of a statutory nature and need to be reported to central Government. There are also a lot of local indicators developed by services to allow them to measure the delivery of Council services. This is considered far too many to meaningfully report to Members through the democratic process, therefore a strategic set of indicators (shown at Annex 1 to this report) has been chosen to allow Members to focus on some key areas of delivery.

3.6 Members will be aware that progress against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and some aspects of service delivery has been impacted by the COVID pandemic and more recently the impacts of rising inflation creating the need to reallocate resources (staffing and finance) away from addressing these priorities. Despite this, some good progress has been made, a full summary is shown reported in Annex 1. A summary of some of the performance is shown below:

- The 2022 residents survey Voicebox indicated that 84% of residents are happy with the local area as a place to live and 59% are satisfied with the Council. Both results are taken from the first release of the data and are subject to review and validation.
- Key education attainment indicators have been reported for the first time since 2019, the key stage 4 average 8 attainment score for all pupils was 52% which is higher than the national and regional average of 49%.
- The Early Years Foundation stage achievement gap continues to be an issue with a gap of 28% reported against a national average of 20%.
- Work continues developing a more meaningful measure of traffic numbers and congestion. However, the latest data available indicates that average traffic volumes have now returned to the levels before the COVID Pandemic.
- Over 75% of environmental issues are now being reported online through Fix my street, it is hoped that this will improve even further as this will form part of the work for the Councils new Customer Contact strategy
- Children on an Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP) has increased by over 9% since the beginning of the year to 1,938 plans, this is a drain on Council resources, however in common with other Local Authorities, B&NES continues to see an increase in the number of children on Plans
- We are above our target for supporting adult service users in employment. Employment is a significant factor in improving people's mental health and this demonstrates our support for some of our most vulnerable adults.
- We have a statutory responsibility to ensure that people's needs are being met by at least an annual review for adult social care, currently our performance is at 59% which is under our target of 80%. Pressure across the health and social care system is impacting on timeliness of reviews. The Provider's review resource has been redirected to prioritise initial assessments and any reviews carried out are risk stratified to ensure that the waiting list is managed to avoid needs being left unmet
- The number of children looked after by the Council has recently increased to 63 per 10,000, this has a large effect on Council resources and can be attributed to a small number of larger families and an increase in the requirements to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.
- Children with Child Protection plans remain very consistent and are low compared to similar local authorities' areas
- The Adult Social care admission rates are under our target in December but annual performance against the target remains at risk as Q4 usually sees increased admissions to care homes.
- While the net number of new homes delivered in 2022 was below the annualised target of 676 at 634, overall delivery across the Core Strategy period exceeds the requirement.

- 3.7 Officers are currently reviewing the corporate performance framework with the intention of developing a revised set of performance indicators to be able to report on a revised corporate strategy which should be adopted by the administration following the May 2023 local elections.
- 3.8 Directors are currently developing comprehensive Service Plans for service delivery in 2023/24 and a new Corporate Delivery programme (CDP) will be written to ensure we can report against the key commitments in the 2023/24 Service plans. This first report will be reported to Cabinet in quarter 2 2023/24.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Council has a wide range of powers which allow it to deliver the Corporate Strategy. It should be noted however that the government has introduced an extensive range of new legislation, regulations and guidance during the last 18 months, which may influence how certain aspects of the Strategy are delivered. It was subject to a full Equalities Impact Assessment when adopted and it is important that equalities are actively pursued as we implement the strategy.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 Council agreed the resourcing requirements for 2022/23 at its Budget meeting in February 2022.

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 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 7.1 A detailed report was presented to Council in January 2021 on our progress in tackling the climate and ecological emergency. The current report provides an opportunity to re-emphasise how these commitments are reflected as “core policies” in delivering the Corporate Strategy. Tackling the climate ecological emergency is also at the centre of our renewal vision.
- 7.2 Monitoring the effectiveness of delivering on Climate Change is one of the key components of the strategic report. Indicators are being developed to allow further monitoring against the Council target during 2023/24.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

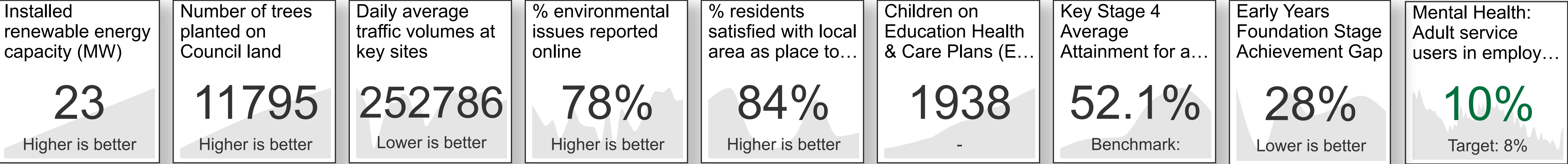
9.1 This report has been cleared by the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

Contact person	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steve Harman, Head of Corporate Governance & Business Insight• Jon Poole, Business intelligence Manager
Background papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Strategy
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

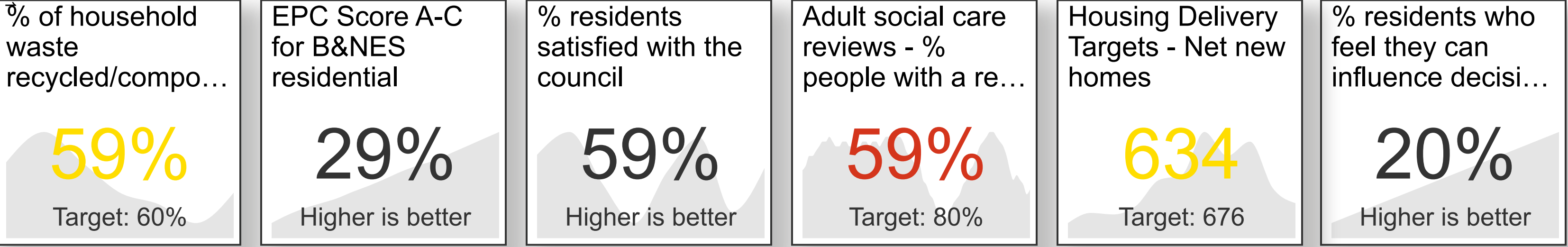
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Strategic Indicator Summary

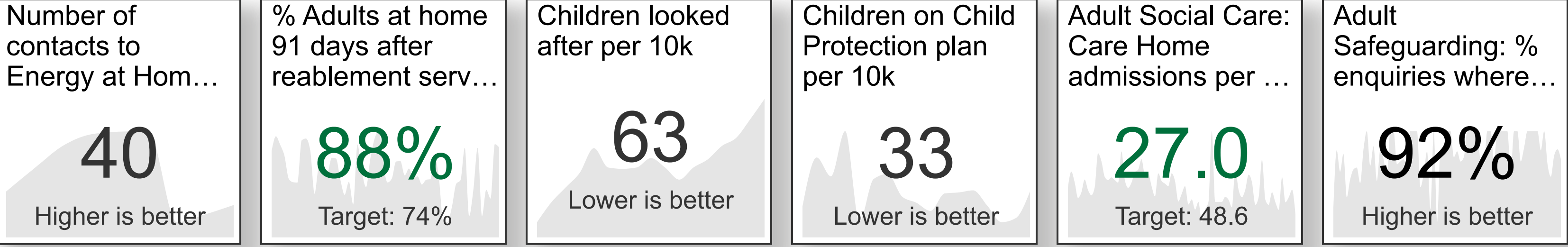
Preparing for the Future *Click on an indicator to see more*



Delivering for Residents *Click on an indicator to see more*



Focusing on Prevention *Click on an indicator to see more*



Strategic Indicator Report

Preparing for the future

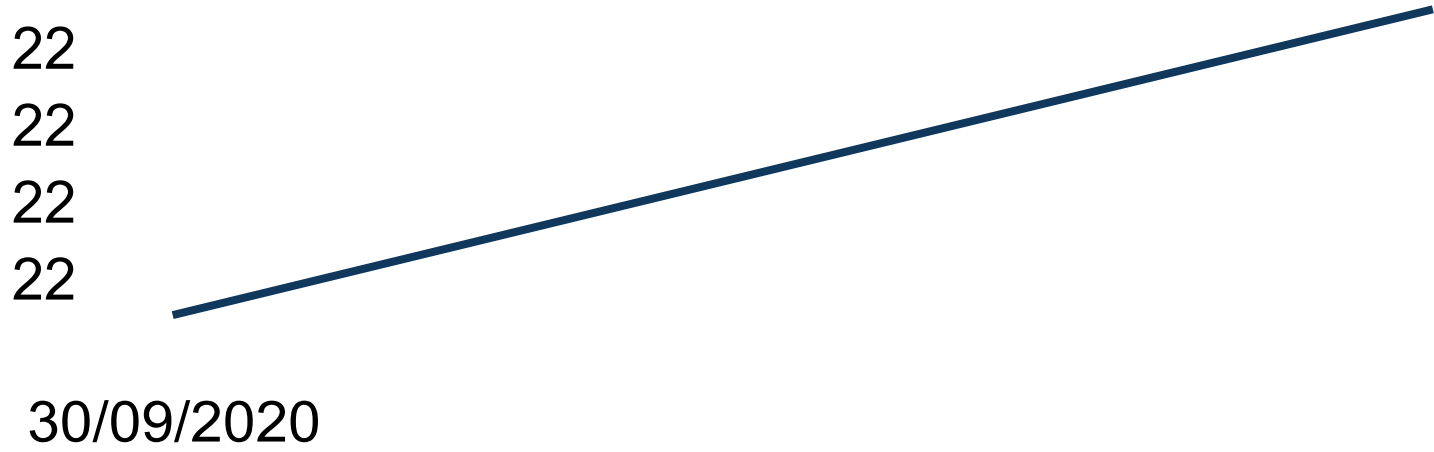
Our area is changing. We must change with it and help local residents prepare for the future. We want to promote high-quality, high-skill jobs, for example, in the new green jobs sector and in new technologies. At Bath Quays, we are creating a vibrant commercial quarter in the heart of the city which is delivering new jobs and homes. We also have a programme aimed at making our high streets more attractive places to visit, including greener ways of getting around the area and support to businesses.

We will work with partners, organisations such as the West of England Combined Authority, and local communities, to secure long-term investment in our local infrastructure. Our priorities for this are sustainable transport, homes and energy. So that they can take advantage of these changes, we want to help our young people acquire and enhance the skills they need to achieve their ambitions. To do this we will also need to address inequalities of outcome in education, particularly in the early years.

We also need to make the most of new technology, and be smarter and more flexible in the ways that we work. We need to be clearer about what we can and cannot provide. Increasingly, we will ask residents to self-serve for our more transactional services, so that we can better support people who need our help the most.

Installed renewable energy capacity (MW)

Frequency: Annually

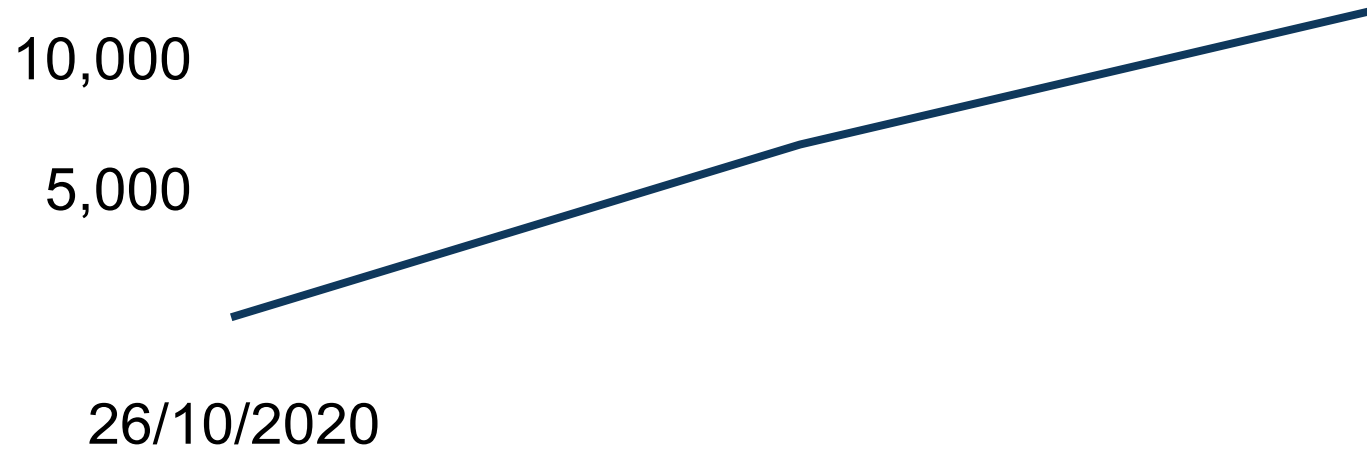


23

In 2022, we expect to see a rise as the Council's own initiatives come online and large planning applications move to development. A revision of the methodology is currently in progress prior to publication of 2022 data.

Number of trees planted on Council land

Frequency: Annual

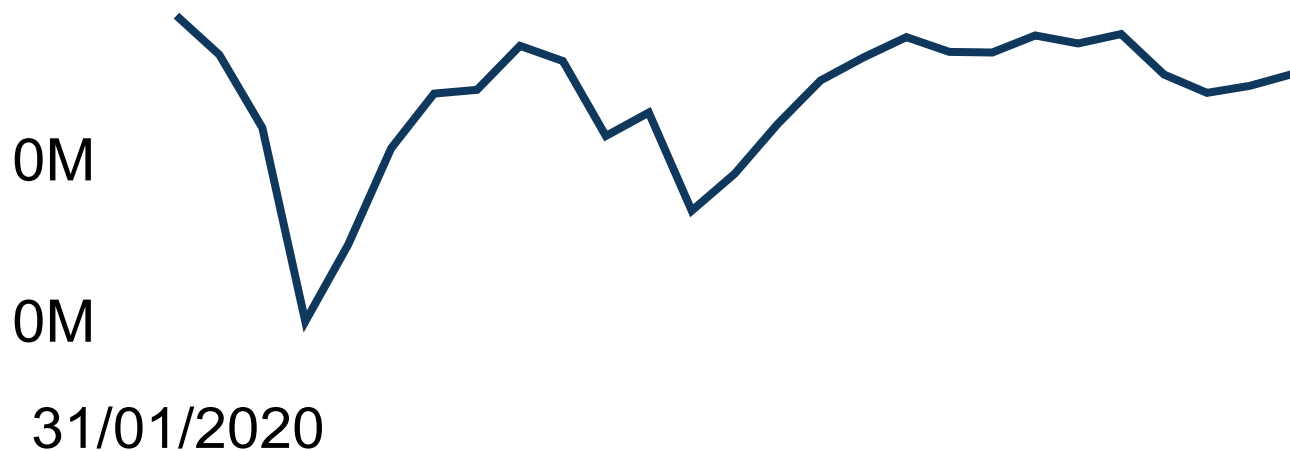


11,795

The council has an ambition to plant 100,000 trees in the district - not just on council land. This indicator is the planting under Council control.

Daily average traffic volumes at key sites

Frequency: Monthly



252,786

Ongoing monitoring across 22 key sites across B&NES shows that the reduction in average volumes over Covid-19 lockdowns quickly returned to near previous levels. Data last updated in March 2022. Data quality work to ensure that a complete dataset is available continues during 2022/23.

Strategic Indicator Report

Preparing for the future

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% environmental issues reported online

Frequency: Monthly



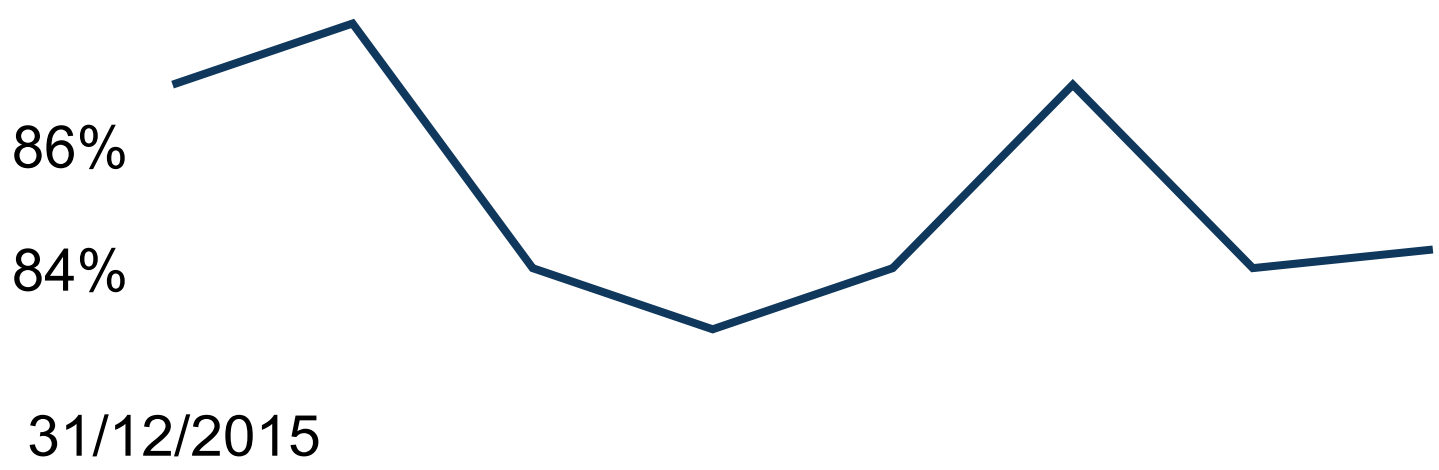
78%

31/12/2022

Performance remains consistent for this measure, which will be reviewed as part of the Council's emerging Customer Contact Strategy.

% residents satisfied with local area as place to live

Frequency: Annual



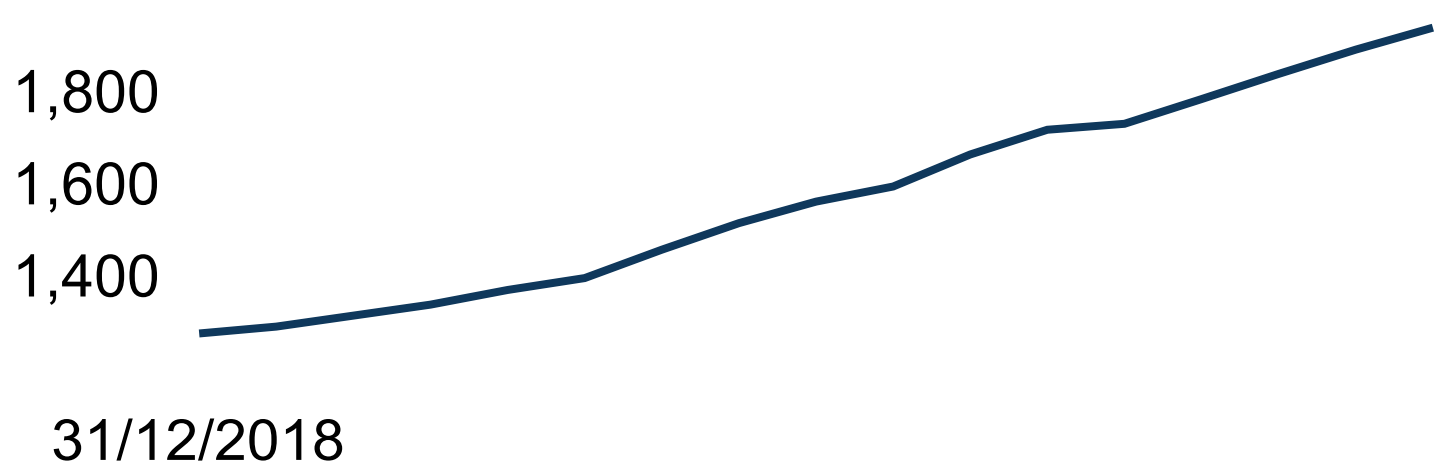
84%

31/12/2022

Rates for this indicator remain consistently high, based on the first release of 2022 Voicebox data. As is standard with the first release, these results are subject to review and validation.

Children on Education Health & Care Plans (EHCP)

Frequency: Daily/Live



1,938

31/12/2022

In common with other Local Authorities, B&NES continues to see an increase in the number of children on Plans

Strategic Indicator Report

Preparing for the future

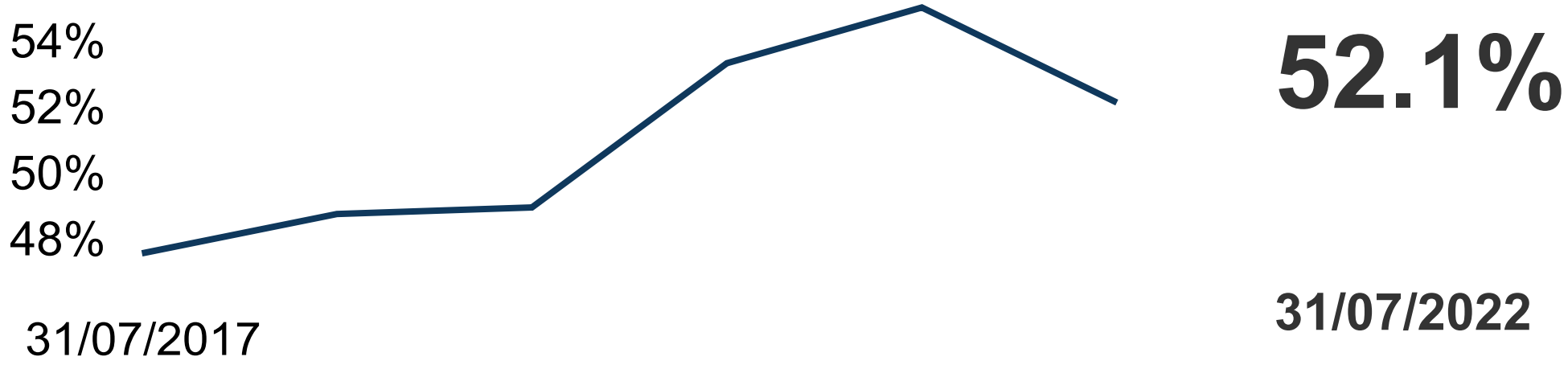
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Key Stage 4 Average Attainment for all pupils

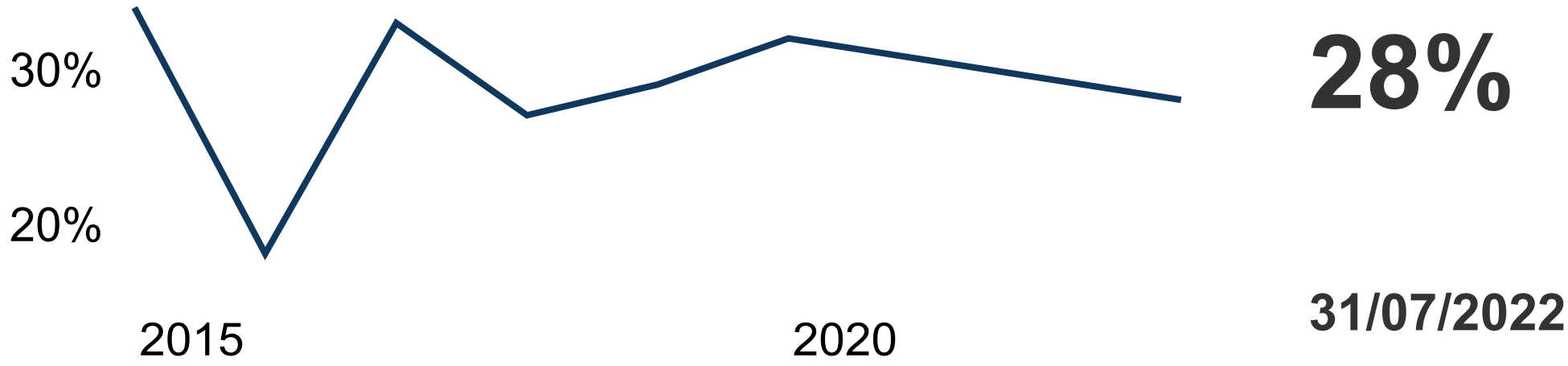
Frequency: Annual



While the rate for B&NES reduced in 2022, the average Attainment 8 score of 52% was higher than the national and regional averages (each at 49%).

Early Years Foundation Stage Achievement Gap

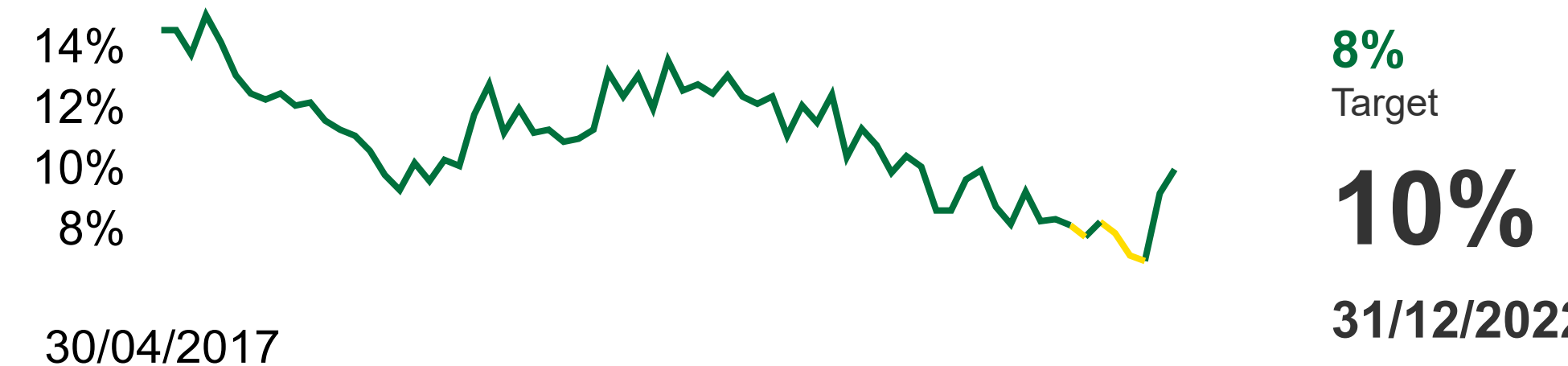
Frequency: Annually



The attainment gap between B&NES children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and those not eligible (non-FSM) is 28%: 47% of the FSM cohort achieved the standard (GLD) vs 75% of the non-FSM group. This is wider than the national gap (20%), as higher numbers achieved GLD in the B&NES non-FSM group.

Mental Health: Adult service users in employment

Frequency: Monthly



Performance has seen improvement over Q3 22/23 to its highest level since June 2021. The service has undertaken an audit to better understand how data quality has affected reported performance, and the matter is regularly discussed at service performance meetings.

Strategic Indicator Report

Delivering for residents

Access to housing, and getting around our area are key local concerns. We are determined to secure more affordable and social housing, improve the quality of rented housing, make our housing stock green and tackle fuel poverty.

We will also facilitate significant improvement of the transport infrastructure and encourage behaviour change to forms of transport other than the private vehicle. This will enable a major shift to walking, micro mobility (cycling), car-sharing, buses, and rail.

Alongside the introduction of the Clean Air Zone, we have wider ambitions for a more pedestrian-friendly city centre and reducing the impact of cars in residential streets through better traffic management, and reductions in ‘rat-running’.

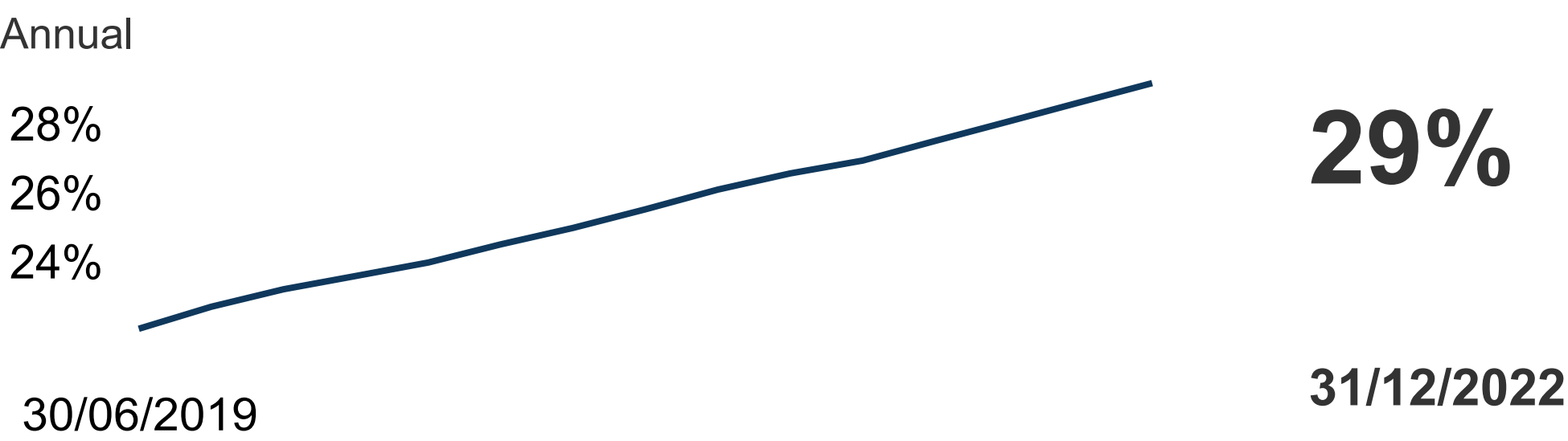
To support this, we need to understand the views and needs of our local communities. We are committed to improving how we involve local people in our decision making, such as on local transport schemes, ensuring that they have a greater say in how their services are designed, funded and run.

% of household waste recycled/composted



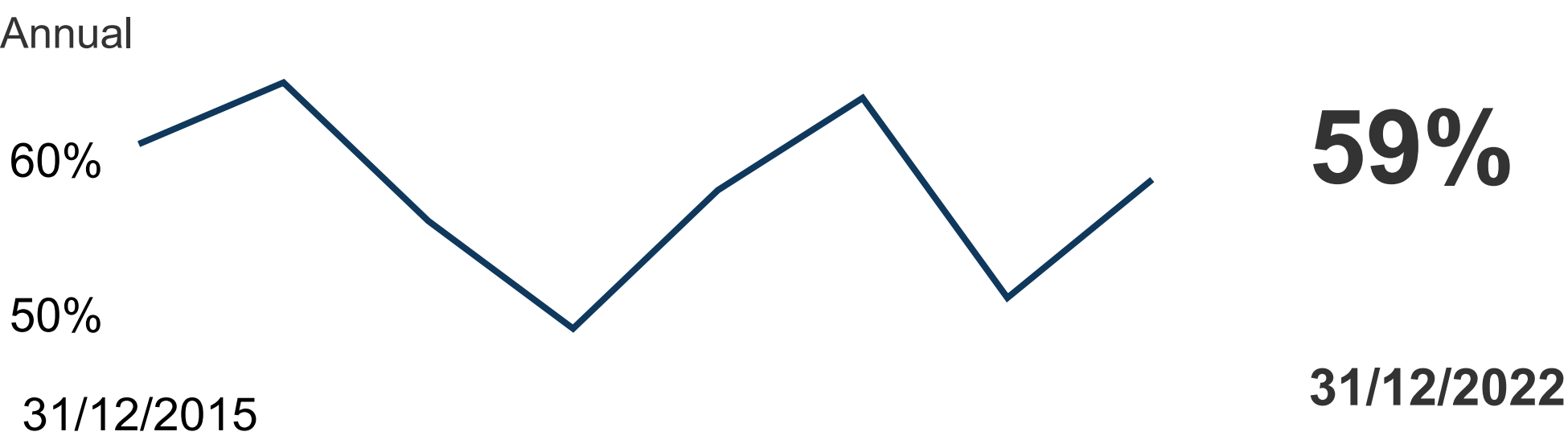
When considered alongside the below-target amount of waste produced per household, the service is progressing towards its zero waste ambition. Please note that the indicator is now reported as a 12-month average as the target is measured at annual intervals.

EPC Score A-C for B&NES residential



Shows the % of properties with a satisfactory energy efficiency rating. Trend shows a positive direction of travel.

% residents satisfied with the council



Satisfaction with the council increased by over 7% in the latest results, based on the first release of 2022 Voicebox data. As is standard with the first release, these results are subject to review and validation.

Strategic Indicator Report

Delivering for residents

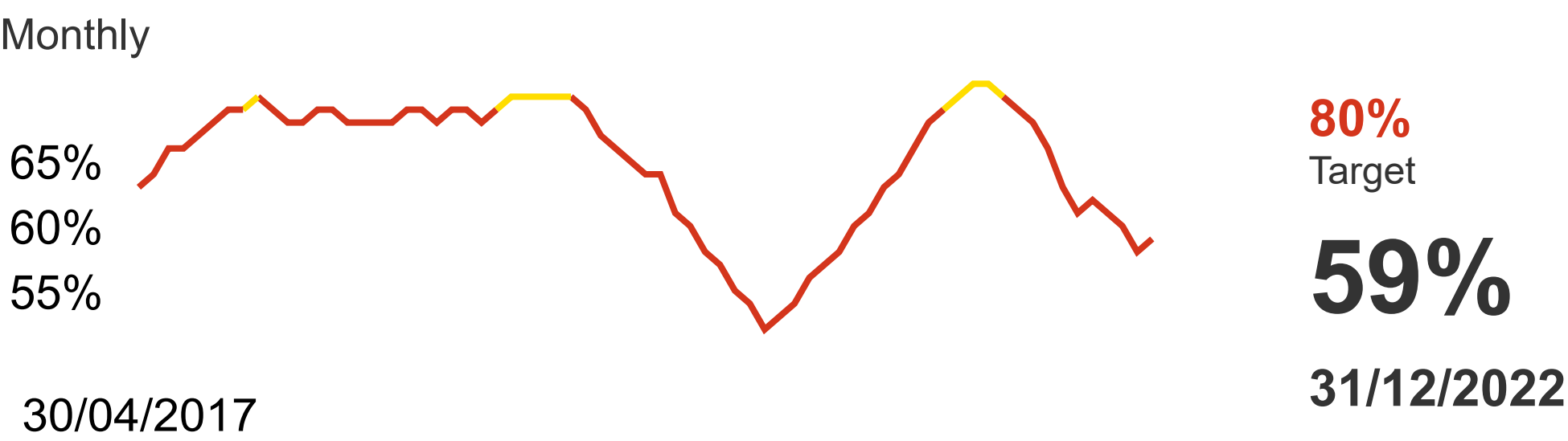
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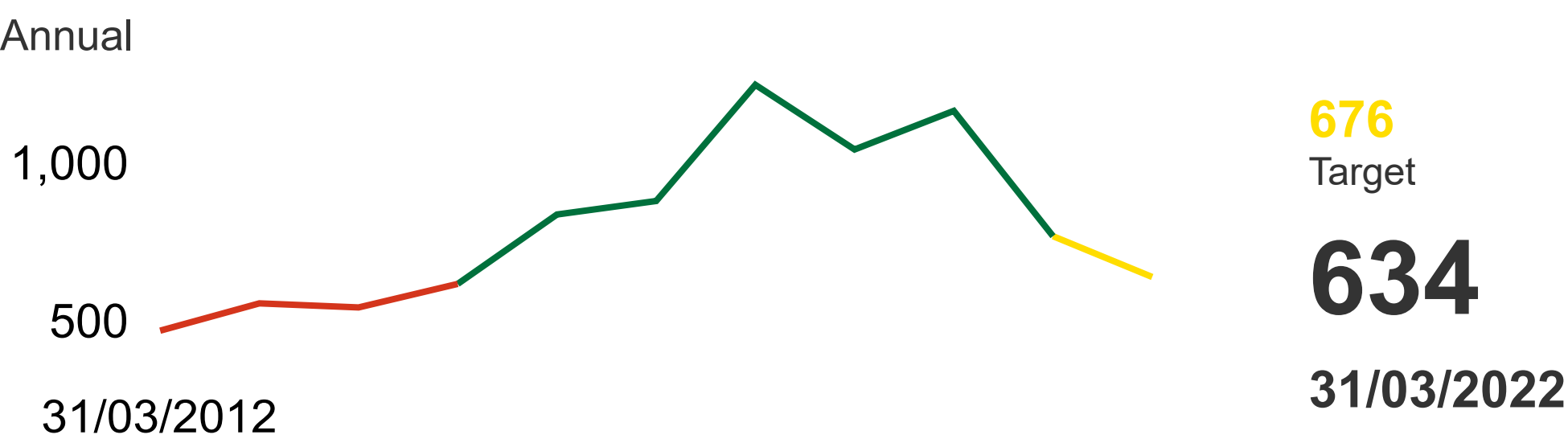
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Adult social care reviews - % people with a review



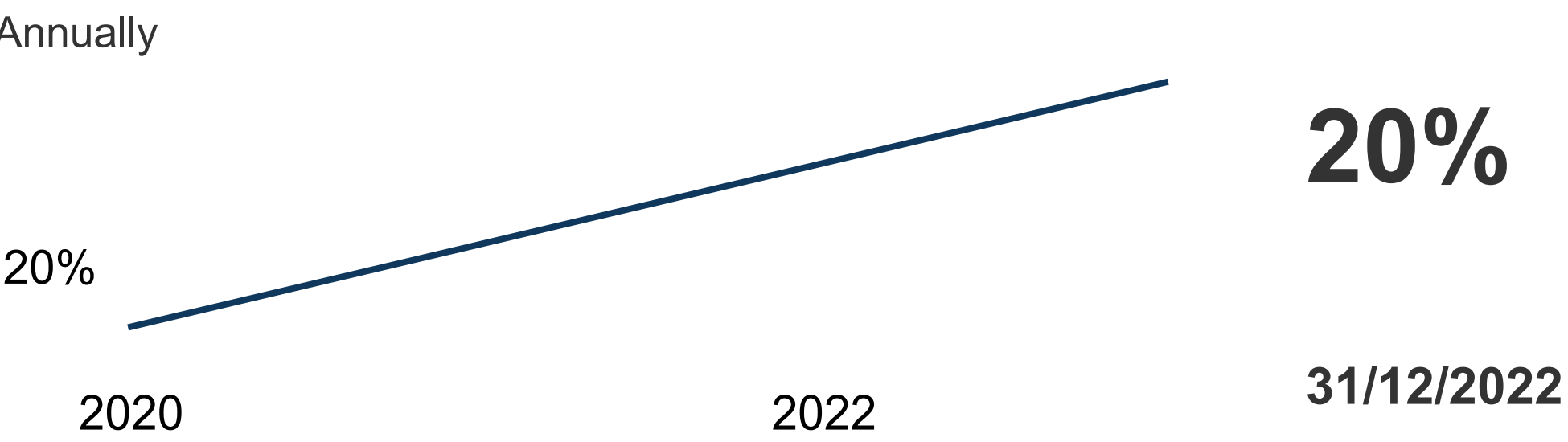
Pressure across the health and social care system is impacting on timeliness of reviews. Providers are prioritising initial assessments and any reviews carried out are risk stratified to ensure that the waiting list is managed to avoid needs being left unmet.

Housing Delivery Targets - Net new homes



While the net new homes delivered in 2022 were below the annualised target, the cumulative supply over the Core Strategy period exceeds the requirement. The Local Partial Plan Update has allocated additional sites to mitigate any future shortfall.

% residents who feel they can influence decisions about their local area



There has been a small increase in the proportion of people who feel that they can inform decisions made by the council, based on the first release of 2022 Voicebox data. As is standard with the first release, these results are subject to review and validation.

Strategic Indicator Report

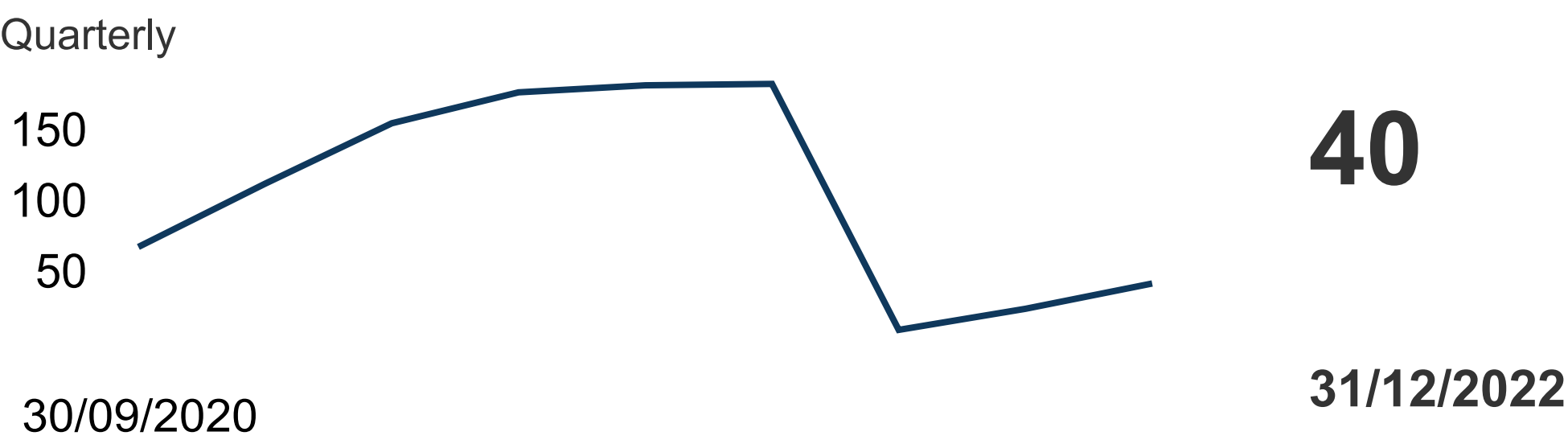
Focusing on Prevention

Having a clear approach to prevention is essential to improving people’s health and wellbeing, sustaining the social care and health services we all value and rely on, and strengthening our local economy. For example, properly insulated homes are cheaper to run and help prevent cold-related ill health as well as contributing to addressing the climate emergency. Bath's Clean Air Zone is also a good example of how we are preventing ill health through reducing air pollution.

People should receive the support they need in the most efficient, effective and timely way, reducing demand for later and more costly interventions. Everyone has a part to play and our residents should be supported to stay healthy, live well and be independent for as long as possible, making good choices for their own health and wellbeing. For example, we can promote active travel, such as walking and cycling.

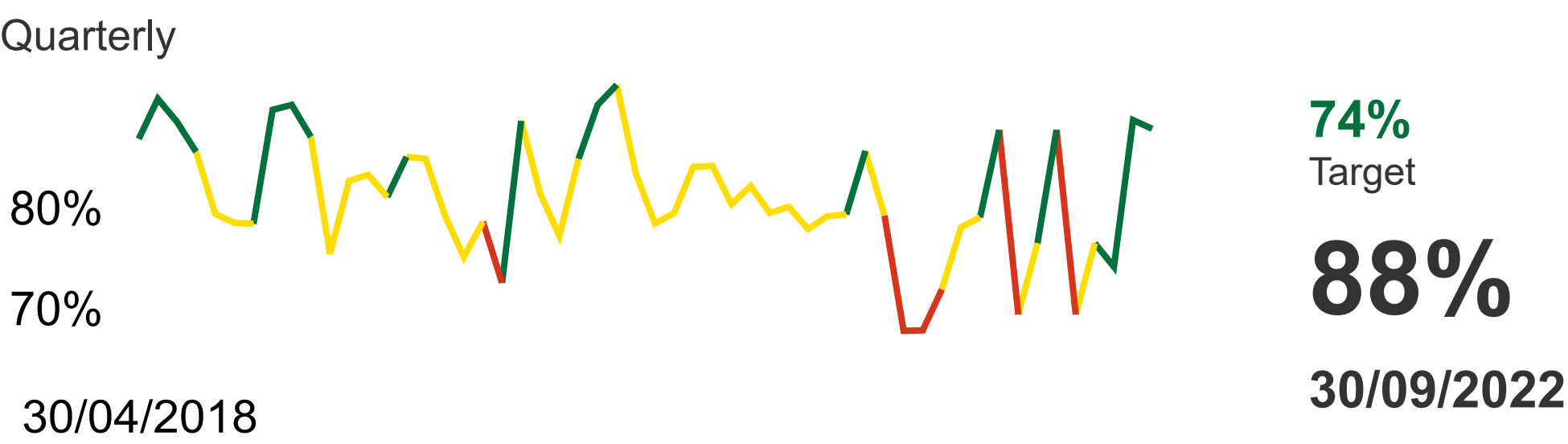
We cannot do this alone and we will need to build on our joint working arrangements with partners, voluntary organisations, parishes, and residents, through growing initiatives such as Compassionate Communities, which was exemplified in the creation of the Compassionate Communities Hub. We will always ensure that we continue to protect and support our most vulnerable residents.

Number of contacts to Energy at Home Info Centre (cumulative)



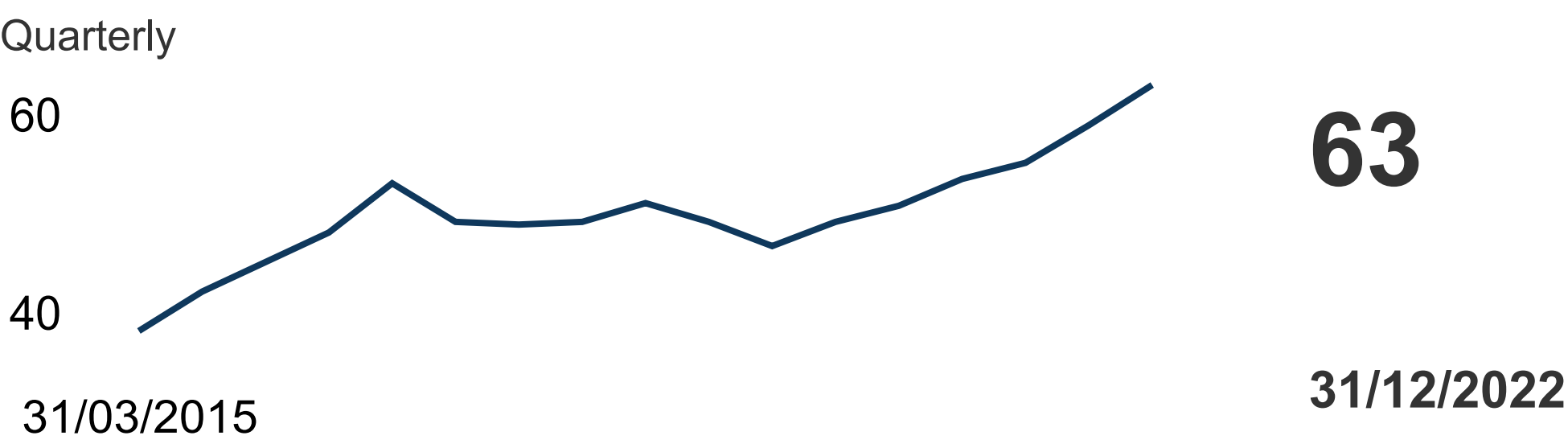
The new in-house service provides information and signposting for residents. The service is being actively promoted through a range of communications channels. The cumulative count has started again from the beginning of 21/22 to monitor in-year demand.

% Adults at home 91 days after reablement service



Performance recovered above the targeted level despite the challenges around the complex needs of people using the services, including end-of-life patients. These challenges remain and continue to risk achievement of the target in future quarters.

Children looked after per 10k



Recent increases in children in care can be attributed to a small number of larger families and an increase in the requirements to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children .The latter trend is expected also to be seen nationally with National Voluntary Dispersal Scheme and is anticipated to continue to increase, locally , regionally and nationally for 2022/2023

Strategic Indicator Report

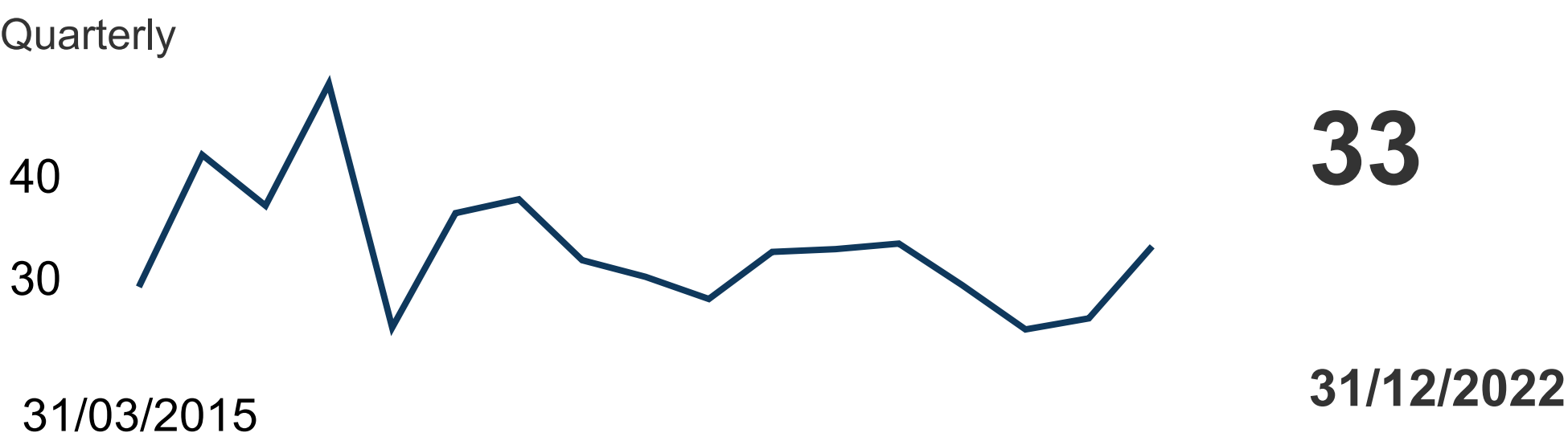
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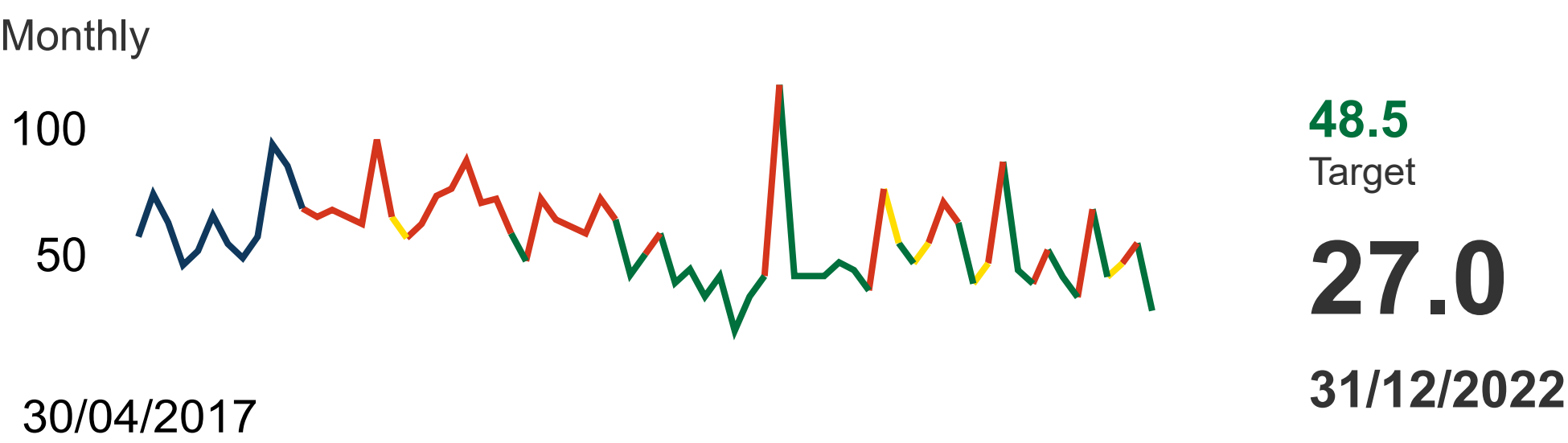
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Children on Child Protection plan per 10k



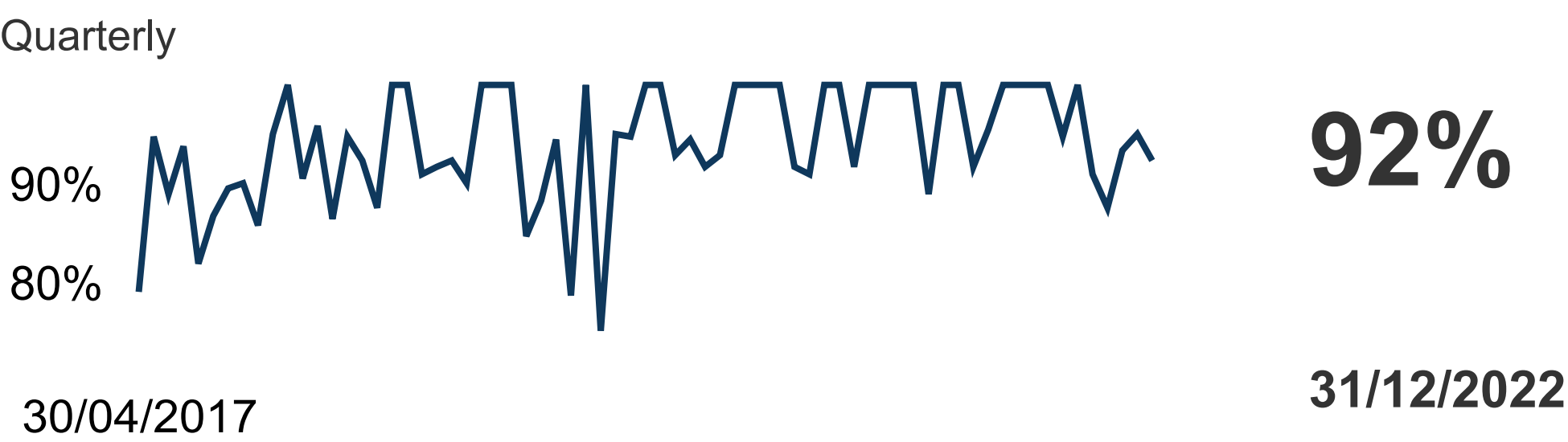
Rates are low compared to similar authorities. Attributed to good management of risk and in line with our practice framework principles and values.

Adult Social Care: Care Home admissions per 100k



Performance has been on target in December 2022 but the month-on-month rate remains variable. Funding arrangements continue to be different to those in effect prior to the pandemic, so data from 21/22 onwards is not directly comparable to previous years.

Adult Safeguarding: % enquiries where risk removed/reduced



The rate remains high as practice continues to minimise harm and risk.

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING	Cabinet	
DECISION DATE:	9th March 2023	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3429
TITLE:	Milsom Quarter Update	
WARD:	Kingsmead Ward	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1: King Edwards School - Intervention Options Report (Draft Feb 2023)		
EXEMPTED ITEM		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Two issues regarding the Milsom Quarter Masterplan delivery are raised in this update paper:
- 1.2 King Edwards School building: The current poor state of the building has a negative impact on the aims and objectives set out for the area in the Milsom Quarter Masterplan. A listed building at risk, the former school building has been vacant since the school closed in 1986, it has remained in private ownership since 1989 and despite gaining planning consent in 2012 and again in 2021 for conversion to a hotel and restaurant it has now been vacant for 37 years. Cabinet decision E3380 included an instruction to officers to explore options to enable the former school building to be brought back into use in the form of an update report to Cabinet. This report addresses this request.
- 1.3 Old Post Office meanwhile uses: As part of the Milsom Quarter delivery programme a grant funded workstream has been set up to support meanwhile uses in the Post Office building to bring activity back to New Bond Street and generate an income to support the Fashion Museum redevelopment. Meanwhile uses may require units to be let at rents that are below open market rental value because the rent reflects the fact that a. the tenancy is short to ensure future development opportunities can be exploited and b. the proposed tenants are representative of the high quality and compatible uses that this Milsom Quarter project wishes to encourage with other fashion adjacencies. Typically, this could require a case-by-case exemption via single member decision. However, a decision is now sought to approve this in principle to allow this workstream to progress more quickly, building on Cabinet Decision E3380 item 3.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Proposal 1

Confirm the Council objectives with regards to the King Edward's School building as being the following:

- (1) Assist in expediting the delivery of a suitable scheme for the King Edward's School building to bring it back into use;
- (2) Safeguard its listed building status;
- (3) Ensure the building makes a positive contribution to the broader regeneration of Milsom Quarter and Bath city centre in general;
- (4) Avoid excessive cost and risk for the Council.

2.2 Proposal 2

To delegate approval to the Director of Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the s151 Officer, to agree to 'meanwhile use' lettings (as described in paragraph 3.7) of vacant units within the Old Post Office block at less than open market value for regeneration purposes, on the basis that the benefit of the regeneration led meanwhile use proposals outweighs the need to achieve best consideration on a case by case lettings basis.

3 THE REPORT

King Edward's School building

- 3.1 As set out in Cabinet Decision E3380, the condition of the old King Edwards School building is poor and in its current state the building itself is at risk and detracts from the wider regeneration of the Milsom Quarter.
- 3.2 A review of possible approaches to bring the building into better use, including options, risks, costs and other aspects was carried out, with the findings summarised in a report - Appendix 1.
- 3.3 The review covered a range of options which are generally available to Local Authorities to safeguard and bring disused buildings back in to use, these include a range of heritage and town planning interventions and acquisition interventions, specifically:
 - (1) Grants: work with the landowner to identify and bid for heritage related grants.
 - (2) Urgent works notice: applicable by LPA if works are required urgently for the preservation of the building.
 - (3) S215 Notice: applicable by LPA where requirement to improve the appearance of a building if it is considered harmful to the amenity of the area.
 - (4) Repairs Notice: applicable by the LPA to specify urgent works necessary to repair a building.

- (5) Negotiation and acquisition: direct engagement with property owner to persuade the property owner to fully implement their planning consent without further delay or to negotiate to acquire the property on the open market
 - (6) CPO: powers of Compulsory Purchase under an appropriate Enabling Act
- 3.4 The pros and cons of each option were considered, including the risks and costs associated to each and next steps are recommended as follows:
- (1) Agree clear objectives for the Council in relation to the building (see Proposal 1 above).
 - (2) Swiftly (i.e. within a couple of months) arrange an inspection of the building with a view to establishing whether repairs to protect the fabric are needed.
 - (3) Develop and implement a negotiation strategy with the objectives of incentivising the landowner to make the building wind and watertight, if necessary, to progress improvements and or redevelop the building in line with a suitable scheme or sell the building to enable its use by another party.
 - (4) Should negotiations not be successful, to consider the case for acquisition by the Council including by Compulsory Purchase to bring the building back into active use, and make a subsequent decision.
- 3.5 This proposed strategy is defined in more detail in Appendix 1.

Old Post Office Meanwhile Uses

- 3.6 Delegated authority is sought to enable Officers to agree short term meanwhile lettings in principle within the Old Post Office Block at potentially less than open market value thereby facilitating meanwhile uses as active uses in an otherwise vacant building whilst a scheme for redevelopment of the Fashion Museum is produced. This would work alongside the arrangements already approved to 'allow surplus rental income from the Old Post Office (after holding costs) to be ring-fenced for use to support revenue costs associated with the Fashion Museum redevelopment project and the cross subsidy of meanwhile use projects which align with the vision and values for the Fashion Museum development' in line with the Cabinet Decision E3380 on 10th November 2022 (Proposal 3).
- 3.7 Meanwhile use is defined as a temporary use while the development of the development scheme for Fashion Museum at the Old Post Office is underway. Once the scheme is delivered these uses will revert to open market value.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The statutory considerations associated with the redevelopment, and any acquisition, to implement the proposals at the old King Edward's School are set out in Appendix 1. These include the suite of compulsory purchase enabling powers, guidance, the Compensation Code, planning acts, National Planning Policy Framework, guidance and Local Plan Policies.
- 4.2 The Council can choose to lease property at less than best value where there are clear reasons to do so, this includes the delivery of wider regeneration objectives where the benefits deliver corporate objectives.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 The proposed strategy will incur additional costs for the Regeneration team, the Local Planning Authority and legal teams in the form of officer time (or equivalent) and the commissioning of external technical and legal support.
- 5.2 Initial work to develop this proposal will be met from within existing budget from within the Regeneration team, once the resource requirement has been fully defined a funding request for use of the Council's revenue budget contingency reserve will be put forward to the Council's Section 151 Officer for agreement in consultation with the Cabinet Member for resources and Chief Executive.

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 There are no specific equalities issues flagged relating to the proposals.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 B&NES Council has declared both a Climate and Ecological Emergency and is looking to provide leadership to enable carbon neutral B&NES by 2030 and enable greater citizen engagement. Any discussions on bringing the building back into use will need take consideration of this and meet relevant Council policies.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The range of options considered for the King Edward's School site are set out in Appendix 1 and summarised in section 3.2 of this report.
- 9.2 Alternatively, there is a do-nothing option. This option would have the following impact:
- (1) Should the owner not bring the building back into use, this will remain as a vacant building, having a negative impact in the area and on the objectives set out in the Milsom Quarter masterplan. There is also a risk that the listed building may fall further into disrepair.
 - (2) If the owner took appropriate action to bring the building back into use in line with their planning consent, the outcome of the do nothing and proposed approach would be the same.

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 The Milsom Quarter Masterplan was subject to stakeholder engagement and public consultation as part of it's preparation (full details are included Cabinet report E3880).

Contact person	Simon Martin, Director Regeneration & Housing simon_martin@bathnes.gov.uk
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	<p>Cleo Newcombe-Jones, Regeneration Manager cleo_newcombe-jones@bathnes.gov.uk</p> <p>Guido Meloni – Milsom Quarter Development Lead guido_meloni@bathnes.gov.uk</p>
Background papers	<p>Draft Milsom Quarter Masterplan (Including summary document, summary animation and easy read/accessible versions) www.bathnes.gov.uk/milsomquarter</p> <p>B&NES Cabinet Minutes 10th November – Milsom Quarter Masterplan - Funding and Next Steps https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=122&MId=5530</p>
<p>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</p>	

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Access to Information Arrangements

Exclusion of access by the public to Council meetings

Information Compliance Ref: IG-1233250
Meeting / Decision: Cabinet
Date: 9 th March 2023
Author: Cleo Newcombe jones
Report Title: Milsom Quarter Update Exempt Appendix Title: Exempt Appendix 1: King Edwards School - Intervention Options Report (Draft Feb 2023)

The Exempt appendix contains exempt information, according to the categories set out in the Local Government Act 1972 (amended Schedule 12A). The relevant exemption is set out below.

Stating the exemptions:

3. *Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).*

The public interest test has been applied, and it is concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure at this time. It is therefore recommended that the exempt appendix be withheld from publication on the Council website. The paragraphs below set out the relevant public interest issues in this case.

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

If the Cabinet wishes to consider a matter with press and public excluded, it must be satisfied on two matters.

Firstly, it must be satisfied that the information likely to be disclosed falls within one of the accepted categories of exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972. Paragraph 3 of the revised Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act exempts information which relates to the financial or business affairs of the organisations which is commercially sensitive. The officer responsible for this item believes that this information falls within the exemption under

paragraph 3 and this has been confirmed by the Council's Information Compliance Manager.

It is necessary to weigh up the arguments for and against disclosure on public interest grounds. The main factor in favour of disclosure is that all possible Council information should be public and that increased openness about Council business allows the public and others affected by any decision the opportunity to participate in debates on important issues in their local area. Another factor in favour of disclosure is that the public and those affected by decisions should be entitled to see the basis on which decisions are reached. Other factors in favour of disclosure include:

- furthering public understanding of the issues involved.
- furthering public participation in the public debate of issues, in that disclosure would allow a more informed debate.
- promoting accountability and transparency by the Council for the decisions it takes.

Weighed against this is the fact that the exempt appendix contains strategic and financial information which could prejudice the commercial interests of the Council if disclosed at this time. It is in the public interest that the Council is able to deliver cost-effective solutions and achieve best value. This depends partly on the Council being able to protect its commercial position while the detailed terms of relevant schemes are agreed. It is also important that the Cabinet should be able to retain some degree of private thinking space while decisions are being made, in order to discuss openly and frankly the issues under discussion relating to any negotiations.

The Council considers that the public interest has been served by the fact that a significant amount of information regarding the report has been made available – by way of the main report. Therefore it is recommended that exemptions set out above apply. The Council considers that the public interest is in favour of not holding this matter in open session at this time and that any reporting on the meeting is prevented in accordance with Section 100A(5A).

Document is Restricted

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