

# Special Cabinet

**Date: Thursday, 31st March, 2022**

**Time: 6.30 pm**

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

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

## Agenda

**To: All Members of the Cabinet**

Chief Executive and other appropriate officers  
Press and Public

You are invited to attend a virtual 'informal' meeting of the Cabinet on Thursday 31 March 2022 via Zoom (the link will be provided). This informal virtual meeting will help to inform the decision-making meeting on 1 April 2022. This virtual meeting will be conducted in the normal manner but, as any decisions made will not be legally enforceable, they will be formally made on 1 April 2022.

The agenda is set out overleaf.



**Jo Morrison**

**Democratic Services**

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## NOTES:

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

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

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

### 3. **Recording at Meetings**

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

Additional information and Protocols and procedures relating to meetings

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

**Cabinet - Thursday, 31st March, 2022**

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**A G E N D A**

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

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

- (a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.
- (b) The nature of their interest.
- (c) Whether their interest is **a disclosable pecuniary interest** or an **other interest**,  
(as defined in Part 2, A and B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests)

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

4. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR
5. QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

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

6. STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Councillors and members of the public may register their intention to make a statement. 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.

7. WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Pages 5 - 8)

The West of England Combined Authority draft Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) is scheduled to be considered by the West of England Combined Authority Committee on 8 April 2022. This meeting provides Cabinet the opportunity to consider its key priorities for the SDS.

The Democratic Services Officer for this meeting is Jo Morrison who can be contacted on 01225 394358.

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<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>		
MEETING	<b>Cabinet</b>	
MEETING	<b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2022</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		<b>E 3349</b>
TITLE:	<b>West of England Combined Authority Spatial Development Strategy</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>		
None		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 The West of England Combined Authority draft Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) is scheduled to be considered by the West of England Combined Authority Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022. This meeting provides Cabinet the opportunity to consider its key priorities for the SDS.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to set out its key priorities for the West of England Combined Authority draft Spatial Development Strategy (SDS).**

## **3 THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The SDS is being prepared by WECA in collaboration with the constituent Unitary Authorities of Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, and South Gloucestershire Council). The purpose of the SDS is to set out the strategic spatial framework for the sub-region's housing, employment, infrastructure and other growth over the next 20 years. Once adopted, the SDS will form part of the Unitary Authority statutory Development Plans and must be taken into account when planning decisions are taken in any part of the sub-region. Planning applications should be determined in accordance with it, unless there are sound planning reasons (other material considerations) which indicate otherwise.
- 3.2 The Unitary Authorities' will need to review and update their Local Plans accordingly and all subsequent Development Plan Documents and Neighbourhood Plans have to be in general conformity with the Spatial Development Strategy. The SDS will set the development requirements for each of the Unitary Authorities,

including housing (implementing the Government's Standard Methodology) and employment land. It will need to take account of national requirements to seek to address the full needs for development across authority boundaries.

- 3.3 The SDS is underpinned by key evidence which will also be relevant to the preparation of UA Local Plans, such as assessments on housing needs, employment space, carbon impact, land availability, transport and other infrastructure, and renewable energy. The SDS will need to be informed by the West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy and supported by an Infrastructure Investment Delivery Plan.
- 3.4 The next step in the preparation of the SDS is the agreement and publication of the draft SDS for a statutory 12-week public consultation where members of the public, statutory consultees and any other interested parties will be invited to comment on the draft SDS. To proceed to consultation, the SDS requires the agreement of all four authorities.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 Under the legislation establishing WECA, the Metro Mayor is required to publish a Spatial Development Strategy and keep it under review. As the strategic plan for the West of England Combined Authority Region, the Strategy sets out the direction of travel for the sub-region's housing, employment, infrastructure and other growth over the next 20 years. Part 4 of the West of England Combined Authority Order 2017 provides WECA with the power to exercise functions relating to the Spatial Development Strategy.
- 4.2 The preparation of the SDS must also be informed by a sustainability appraisal and meet the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- 4.3 Authorities involved in plan-making are required to cooperate with each other and other bodies when preparing plans which address strategic, cross-boundary matters. This includes strategic policies in spatial development strategies and local plans. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out that these authorities should produce, maintain, and update one or more Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) throughout the plan-making process. A number of SoCG have therefore prepared for the SDS, including with adjoining authorities and other bodies.

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

- 5.1 The preparation of the SDS has been funded through the WECA Investment Fund as well financial and staff resources in the Combined Authority and Councils. Much of the SDS evidence base is also relevant to UA Local Plan work and joint commissioning of evidence has enabled financial savings for the authorities.
- 5.2 In light of the complexity and scale of growth arising from responding to national housing targets via the SDS, further funding has been made available from the WECA Investment Fund to support the preparation of Local Plans. The B&NES business case for drawing down funding from the Investment Fund to support for the preparation of its new Local Plan is pending approval. This will cover

masterplanning and transport work needed for the new Local Plan. Any costs over and above the Investment Fund would need to be met from a Council corporate contingency budget or one-off reserve.

## **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 WECA needs to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment as part of the preparation of the SDS and should respond to any identified adverse impacts, including in the arrangements for consultation. This will need to be a background paper to the SDS.

## **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 8.1 The SDS will direct growth for the Region over a 20-year period and in doing so it must seek to set a clear direction of travel towards net zero new development and climate adaptation). Its policies must provide a robust basis for the UAs to respond to the Climate Emergency in their own Local Plans.

## **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 Preparation of the SDS is a statutory obligation on WECA. In formulating the SDS, WECA will have needed to assess the reasonable policy options via a sustainability appraisal, which will also explain the justification for the selection of the preferred policy framework.

## **10 CONSULTATION**

- 10.1 The SDS has been developed in collaboration with the three Combined Authority Councils. As a plan-making authority, the Combined Authority is required to cooperate with other authorities and bodies when preparing the SDS, notably neighbouring authorities and infrastructure providers. Full details of the engagement undertaken and agreed positions and next steps is provided in the supporting Statements of Common Ground.
- 10.2 A public consultation "Spatial Development Strategy Future of the Region Survey" exercise in November 2020 was also undertaken to inform the Objectives and policy focusses which underpin the SDS.

<b>Contact person</b>	Sophie Broadfield (Director of Sustainable Communities) 01225477416 Simon de Beer (Head of Planning) 01225 477616
<b>Background papers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>The full feedback report on The Future of the Region survey.</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>The Future of the Region survey responses.</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Summary of the Spatial Development engagement process.</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Integrated Impact Assessment for the SDS – scoping report.</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Statement of Common Ground Version 3 - Summary</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Statement of Common Ground Version 3</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Evidence base for Net Zero Building Policy - Embodied Carbon</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Evidence base for Net Zero Building Policy - Operational Carbon for Non Domestic Buildings</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Net Zero New Buildings Evidence and Guidance to Inform Planning Policy</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Statement of Common Ground Version 2</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Employment Land Spatial Needs Assessment (ELSNA)</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Employment Land Spatial Needs Assessment (ELSNA) summary</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA)</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) summary</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Infrastructure Investment Delivery Plan (IIDP) Topic Paper: Issues and Options</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) Methodology Statement</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Scoping Report</i></u></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><u><i>WECA Area Statement of Common Ground Version 1</i></u></a></li> </ul>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	