

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 21st September, 2023

Present:- **Councillors** Michael Auton, Alex Beaumont, Colin Blackburn, Alison Born, Anna Box, Deborah Collins, Paul Crossley, Chris Dando, Mark Elliott, Sarah Evans, Fiona Gourley, Kevin Guy, Alan Hale, Ian Halsall, Dave Harding, Liz Hardman, Gavin Heathcote, Saskia Heijltjes, Oli Henman, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Dr Eleanor Jackson, Grant Johnson, Samantha Kelly, Hal MacFie, Ruth Malloy, Lesley Mansell, Matt McCabe, Sarah Moore, Ann Morgan, Michelle O'Doherty, Bharat Pankhania, June Player, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Paul Roper, Sam Ross, Onkar Saini, Toby Simon, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, George Tomlin, Malcolm Treby, Karen Walker, Sarah Warren, Tim Warren CBE, Andy Wait, David Wood and Joanna Wright

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Tim Ball, David Biddleston, Jess David, Steve Hedges, George Leach, John Leach, Paul May, Robin Moss and Alison Streatfeild-James

35 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure, as set out on the agenda.

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

37 MINUTES - 20TH JULY 2023

On a motion from Councillor Eleanor Jackson, and seconded by Councillor Liz Hardman, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of 20th July 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

At the request of the Chair, Council stood for a minute's silence in recognition of the recent death of Jane Tapper, former B&NES Councillor for Weston from 1999 – 2003 and Bill Carruthers, former Labour Council for Westfield, for the same period.

39 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

40 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Statements were made by the following people;

Chad Allen made a statement about English ivy. He explained how it takes over buildings, trees, walls, telegraph/lighting poles and can cause significant damage. He called on the Council to acknowledge that action was needed to remove this hazard. The statement was referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Jeff Manning made a statement, supporting a petition from the residents of Foxhill, which called on the Council to take a radical fresh look at its working relationship with Curo. He cited various examples of recent problems and called for closer engagement to resolve issues. A copy of the statement is linked to the online minutes and placed on the Minute book. In response to an offer from Councillor Kevin Guy to meet him and the ward member, Mr Manning replied that he would welcome that. Councillor Joanna Wright asked Mr Manning for his view of the mental health implications on residents if there were poor quality services, to which he replied that the effect was significant on the individuals and the community. The statement was referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Gavin Hambrey spoke on behalf of the Bath Riverside Residents' Association gull action group, and in his own capacity, about urban gulls. He outlined the problems they caused, the steps they had taken to improve the situation and called for further measures to reduce the negative impact gulls have on local residents. Councillor Kevin Guy asked if Mr Hambrey considered that Local Authorities need more power to deal with this issue; to which he responded that what was key was getting Natural England to understand the impact gulls are having on people. Councillor Grant Johnson asked what else might be done, taking into consideration that their protected status prevents the use of greater control measures. Mr Hambrey replied that the regulatory approach from Natural England needed looking at, and called for a collective voice about potential law changes. Councillor June Player asked if Mr Hambrey agreed that the Council should be engaging more robustly at a senior level to address the residents' concerns, to which he replied that he did agree. Councillor Tim Warren asked if egg removal was taking place, to which Mr Hambrey replied that targeted removal was taking place but the numbers were very limited, required a separate regulatory process each time and were funded privately by the management company. Councillor Joanna Wright asked if it would be helpful for the Council to host a portal where residents could register gull activity; Mr Hambrey replied that he believed there was already an arrangement such as this but anything that could be done to make that more widely known and used would be helpful. A full copy of the statement is linked to the online minutes and placed on the Minute book. The statement was referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Matt Cooper made a statement about the merits of switching to a plant-based diet and urged the Council to prioritise plant-based food options wherever they could. A copy of the statement is linked to the online minutes and placed on the Minute book. In response to a question from Councillor Kevin Guy, Mr Cooper confirmed that he would be pleased to meet with Councillor Sarah Warren to discuss this. Councillor Grant Johnson asked Mr Cooper if this proposal was not counterintuitive to a sustainable diet as it would lead to greater deforestation to provide enough protein and higher levels of waste. Mr Cooper referred the councillor to the National Food strategy and the Committee on Climate Change, both of which state that a significant reduction in meat and dairy options are necessary in order to meet our Paris climate

obligations. Councillor Joanna Wright asked which other Councils had committed to this and what type of measures were involved. Mr Cooper replied that 12 Councils had passed a motion to move towards plant based eating. Oxfordshire County Council had adopted this fully, and various other Councils including Leeds, Norwich and Exeter were taking steps such as no meat on certain days or no meat for internal events. The statement was referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

The Chair thanked the members of the public for their statements.

41 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023-24

Council considered the Youth Justice Plan for 2023-24 which had been previously considered by the Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel and supported by Cabinet.

On a motion from Councillor Paul May, seconded by Councillor Liz Hardman, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to

1. Agree that the Youth Justice Plan fulfils the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and can be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.
2. Adopt the Youth Justice Plan as part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework that can be accommodated within the Council budget; and
3. Note that the Youth Offending Service Partnership Board is responsible for ensuring delivery of the Plan.

42 CORPORATE AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Council considered the annual report of the Corporate Audit Committee for its activity in 2022 - 2023, and a small amendment to the Committee Terms of Reference.

On a motion from Councillor Mark Elliott, seconded by Councillor Lucy Hodge, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The Annual Report of the Corporate Audit Committee is noted; and
2. The revised Corporate Audit Committee Terms of Reference are approved.

43 POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

The Council considered the annual report of the work of the Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels for 2022-2023.

On a motion from Councillor Michelle O'Doherty, seconded by Councillor Lucy Hodge, it was

RESOLVED to note the contents of the Policy Development and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-2023.

[Notes:

- 1. The above resolution was carried with two Councillors abstaining.]*

44 MOTION FROM THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - ANIMAL WELFARE

This item had been withdrawn.

45 MOTION FROM CLLR HAL MACFIE - REMOVING KERB & RAISED SURFACES IN KEYNSHAM HIGH STREET CONTRAFLOW CYCLE LANE

This item had been withdrawn.

46 MOTION FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP - STAFF SAFETY

The Council considered a motion concerning staff safety.

On a motion from Councillor Sam Kelly, and seconded by Councillor Sarah Evans, it was

RESOLVED that

Council backs the new Violence, Aggression, Threatening and Challenging Behaviour (Staff Safety) Policy, which is being rolled out by Bath and North East Somerset Council, and the associated campaign to tackle unacceptable, violent, and aggressive behaviour towards Council workers.

47 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Council noted the questions and responses that had been circulated.

Councillor Dave Harding made a statement about rural buses in the Chew Valley. He explained that the Demand Responsive Transport arrangement was not reliable or regular and people were becoming isolated, missing appointments, concerned about losing jobs etc. A recent WECA Mayor event had been disappointing for all the residents that had attended. Councillor Fiona Gourley, as Member Advocate for Rural Communities, has now drafted a petition calling for reliable public transport to be restored in North East Somerset and he urged all Councillors to support this. Councillor Joanna Wright asked if Councillor Harding would be signing the 'Take the West of England buses back into public control' petition which 2360 people have signed so far, to which he replied that he had not yet seen the petition. Councillor Fiona Gourley asked if Councillor Harding considered it appropriate that the WECA Mayor has spent £8 million pounds on free birthday buses for areas where services already exist and £4 million pounds on branding, when there are entire areas of B&NES who have lost their bus service. Councillor Harding responded by referring councillors to a National Centre for Public Research paper published in 2020

prepared for the Department of Transport entitled “Impact of interventions encouraging a switch from cars to more sustainable modes of transport” in which it says that interventions that used temporary financial or other rewards do little to encourage change once the reward has ended.

On closing the meeting, the Chair permitted Councillor Eleanor Jackson to check if Councillor Harding was aware of the statement she had made at the May 2023 meeting on this subject and the petition from Mrs Harrington, to which he confirmed that he had been present at that meeting, but would be happy to receive any relevant information from Councillor Jackson.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm

Chair

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

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COUNCIL MEETING 21ST SEPTEMBER 2023

STATEMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Public

1. Chad Allen English Ivy
2. Jeff Manning Petition – “Poor service levels for routine services and certain aspects of the estate environment”
(*statement circulated*)
3. Robbie Bentley Public transport issues
4. Gavin Hambrey Urban gulls (*statement circulated*)
5. Matt Cooper Sustainability and health benefits of BathNES council adopting plant-based menus (*statement circulated*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

Page 8

P	01	Question from:	Chad Allen
Does the CAZ data include pollution from aviation, transport and buses?			
Answer from:			Cllr Sarah Warren
Yes – the CAZ is concerned with total nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) concentrations for all sources ((traffic, domestic, aviation, industry etc.) There is however no means by which to split out the contributions from individual sources. NO ₂ concentrations are greatest at the roadside – indicative of the significant contributions from traffic.			
P	02	Question from:	Chad Allen
If not, can this information be included in the next annual report?			
Answer from:			Cllr Sarah Warren
There is no means to split out the contributions of NO ₂ to identify its origin. NO ₂ concentrations are highest at the roadside indicative of the overwhelming contribution traffic is likely to have.			
P	03	Question from:	Chad Allen
How many cemeteries does B&NES own?			
Answer from:			Cllr Tim Ball

The council owns seven cemeteries, and we are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of 31 closed cemeteries across the district that are owned by the diocese and or parish.

P	04	Question from:	Tracy Carter
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In February 2023 at full Council, the Council, under the Leadership of Councillor Kevin Guy, voted against a proposed amendment to item 8 Budget and Council Tax for school streets in B&NES. However, the Leadership team clearly stated that they supported measures to protect young people outside of schools. As schools have returned for the new academic year, which schools in B&NES have had the 'no parking' road markings refreshed to ensure dangerous parking does not take place outside of schools?

Answer from:	Cllr Manda Rigby
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At Full Council the Cabinet strongly supported the development of school streets but rejected the motion as alternative funding streams needed to be identified to those proposed by Cllr Wright.

Since budget setting, Cabinet has identified the suitable alternative funding of £200k which is now allocated to the development of school streets. The work is in progress to develop a suitable scheme.

From an enforcement perspective, we have existing legal powers to tackle vehicles that park on yellow school keep clear marking and welcome intelligence from the public and school staff about locations where this may be a regular problem so that our resources can be prioritised, in cooperation with the Police, so that dangerous and anti-social parking around our schools can be addressed. If road markings are faded and worn, they can be reported via Fix My Street at <https://fix.bathnes.gov.uk/>

These reports can be passed to the council's parking team at parking@bathnes.gov.uk

P05	Question from:	Nicolette Boater
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Thankyou Cllr. Wood for your grateful and thoughtful reply to the first of two questions I asked Cabinet a fortnight ago (page 20-21 of the [7.9.23 Cabinet Q&A document](#)).

Your affirmation that the Council understands the importance and urgency of the multiple challenges facing our locality, and recognises the

“synergies” between its two core policies is reassuring. (Though given the uncertain complex world the Council is operating in, and that policy interdependence carries the risk of negative as well as positive tipping points, perhaps fool hardy in ruling out the possibility that the Council’s relative lack of attention as to how it will raise its game in regard to “listening to and working with residents” could be an Achilles’ heel “in regard to the delivery of the Corporate Strategy”.)

I also welcome your recognition of

- “massive opportunity to engage communities early to identify priorities, “co-design” solutions and show imagination and flexibility as we deliver” and your perception of the role of the Area Forums in this, and that
- the Council is integrating Doughnut Economics principles into its core strategies and its forthcoming Local Plan, and working with D.E.A.L. (Doughnut Economics Action Lab) to include local citizens, businesses and community groups to do so.

However this raises the question for me as to whether the Council’s Connecting Communities Fora which have served us well over the years but in my view are now doing so less well, might be redesigned or modified to better enable the more inclusive, respectful and contextual Council-communities conversations so vital to unleashing, nurturing and amplifying the creativity and collaboration the increasing challenges facing our locality demand of us all.

Is this something you, and/or the officers with relevant decision-making authority, would also like to discuss further?

Answer from:

Cllr Dave Wood

I would like to thank the questioner for her positive response to my answer to her question at cabinet. We regularly review the format and approaches we use for our Area Forums, and I as cabinet member am always happy to hear people’s experiences about how they are working, and ideas they have for their future development.

P06

Question from:

Nicolette Boater

Thankyou Cllr. Guy for your reply to the second of two questions I asked Cabinet a fortnight ago (page 21-22 of the [7.9.23 Cabinet Q&A document](#)).

And thankyou for acknowledging and apologising on behalf of the Council that I was not credited with the page 3 strapline (“...strong and resilient societies, economies and ecosystems evolve and thrive on diversity, inclusion and connectivity.”) and several other expertise-laden comments I made in the June 2021 ‘[Bath with NES: Ambitious together](#)’ , whereas those from individuals affiliated with anchor institutions or prominent businesses were so named.

Given that

- the report has been published by Council, a lead partner in the Future Ambition Board;
- the report has become a core policy making strategy for our locality;
- the Council’s renewed commitment to treating citizens with “Equality” and “Respect” in its 2023-27 Corporate Strategy; and
- the systemic effects of this lack of recognition on someone who contributed her time and expertise on a voluntary basis;

a. What steps will the Council be taking to ensure that at least the online version of the report is updated with all my contributions attributed to me by name?

and

b. What changes will the Council consider making to its Equality Impact Assessment procedures and proformas to prevent this sort of unconscious bias going unchecked?

Answer from:

Cllr Kevin Guy

- a) I do not think it’s an appropriate use of the resources of the Council or its partners to go back and edit and republish a document published over two years ago on behalf of a partnership grouping.
- b) As this document was produced by a consultancy on behalf of the partnership, I will ask officers to look at how we work with such contractors in future to ensure contributors are happy with how their contributions are to be treated.

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The residents of Foxhill call on B&NES council to take a radical fresh look at its working relationship with Curo - FROM A RESIDENT'S POINT OF VIEW - not just a theoretical officer's updated point of view.

The quality of some services has fallen to a depressing low. Grass cutting and rubbish collection among others. Members are invited to witness a complete absence of joined up thinking where there are two bins, very close to 88 Selworthy House where at least one small child lives. One is a regularly emptied recently installed bin, barely 2m from a dog waste bin which has been overflowing with bags of dog faeces for more than a year.

The outcome of the review needs to be a much better understanding, for all residents, of who is responsible for what. So that problems and requests can be addressed to the relevant staff who will take responsibility for doing whatever is agreed to be done. Often, problems fester simply because residents don't know who to talk to. See 3 below.

We also wish to register our deep concern about the much depreciated level of consultation and information regarding new developments. Here are three current examples

- 1) Only after a murder had happened in July at a house in Drake Avenue, did we learn that this family home was being used for emergency housing during the Covid crisis. If the crisis is officially regarded as over, we request an urgent return to the normal planning and licensing rules.
- 2) A current RETROSPECTIVE Planning Application for a property just 50m from the example above, which is an established source of concern over anti-social behaviour, drug dealing etc was notified to only ONE resident ie the already traumatised owner of the house next door. Not a single public notice was seen in the area.
- 3) In her formal comment on the application above a Senior Environmental Services officer raised no objection, having said "*there have been no complaints*". If this wasn't so fundamentally untrue, it would be comical. We note that officers comments have since been removed.

Our ward councillors have a good working relationship with the Minister at St Andrews Church Community Centre and we are sure that, between them, they could muster a small representative group of helpful and positive minded residents to help with a review.

Presented to Council by Hon Alderman Jeff Manning

21 September 2023

SPEECH

27 years ago - in this magnificent room - it was my privilege to chair the very last meeting of the former Bath City Council. It had a proud history of building hundreds of homes across the city. Members and former members of all parties were due some credit for the excellent standard of maintenance, the neat and well kept open spaces.

look now at the rotting fences laden with massively over grown shrubs - shabby paintwork - the new litter and dog poo bins being installed and emptied just a few feet from an old and the dreadful out of control state of grass cutting and so on.

In those days EVERYTHING that mattered to a council tenant was a matter for the council - full stop - dead simple!

Of course the council was generally blamed for things that people were unhappy about - that's human nature - - - and probably always will be - but nowadays - - rightly or wrongly - - there is an impression of muddled responsibilities .

Statement on Urban Gulls in the City of Bath
Gavin Hambrey
Thursday 21st September 2023

I first moved to Bath in 1997 and have witnessed the increasing number of gulls in the city and their increasingly aggressive behaviour. I have had a sandwich snatched from my hand, drawing blood, I have been hit on the head by a gull whilst walking, and I have witnessed a gull take ducklings from the canal.

I speak as an individual but also represent a gull action group of the Bath Riverside residents' association, which represents the interests of hundreds of residents.

I moved to the Riverside development early last year but was not prepared for the serious impact that these creatures have upon me and many other residents. Similarly to last year, from March through until very recently, I was awoken every morning from around 3am by an extraordinary amount of noise and was unable to get back to sleep.

This sustained period of around four hours of sleep a night leaves me unable to function properly in a social and professional capacity. With a demanding job and often working from home, it has been impossible to escape the situation and I have had to seek refuge with friends and family.

I know, from other residents, that the collective anxiety of the Riverside community grows as each nesting season approaches and the torture of sleep deprivation begins.

I have been divebombed by gulls on my balcony and have endured large quantities of their waste being deposited onto my property.

In small numbers you might consider these issues to be manageable, so it is important to put them into context. The former Homebase site neighbours the Riverside development and, with the building demolished, gulls returned to the same location and nested on the ground. I recently walked past and counted in excess of forty juvenile gulls.

This year on the roof of the building adjacent to me, at the level of my windows and at a distance of no more than 50 feet, there were often ten or twelve adult gulls. There were often four or five on my balcony, two on the parapet above me, and three or four on a second neighbouring building. Given the proximity and numbers, I leave it to you to consider the consequences.

My health and wellbeing have suffered as a result of lack of sleep, anxiety, and being unable to concentrate with windows open even in the stifling heat of summer.

I have been very grateful for the support of Gordon Dugan, the council's Gull Officer, who has been attentive and reasonable. Gordon has collected evidence from a number of residents on the development and was able to agree some targeted nest removals with Natural England.

I contacted Natural England to ask about the protection afforded to gulls, their impact upon human health, and the rationale behind a general licencing framework that does not appear to consider local issues and impacts. Their response referred me to general licence terms and the protection of gulls as species of birds. On repeating my specific questions I was advised that they would provide no further information and would not respond to further correspondence from me.

I also contacted Wera Hobhouse who has in turn contacted Natural England, but unfortunately I understand that the position in which our MP finds herself is similar to mine.

I recently contacted the UK Health Security Agency to ask for their advice on the impact of urban gulls upon human health. It is obvious that a pragmatic approach is needed with input from multiple organisations to provide a proper framework for sustaining and controlling the gull population.

We are fortunate on the Riverside development to have a supportive management company which is, through engagement with Gordon Dugan to devise a strategy, implementing a series of proofing measures on key buildings on the development. However, the issue and impacts extend far beyond these buildings.

I note that the council is reviewing rubbish collections in the city centre and, as something within its control, this is welcome. However, it does not provide a silver bullet solution. As an individual I am tired and frustrated, and I am hugely disappointed not to have been heard by the public body that regulates this issue.

Matt Cooper statement – 21.9.23

BaNES prides itself on being one of the more forward thinking councils in the UK, putting climate considerations at the heart of governance. However, this awareness needs to include every aspect of council activities, including the provision of food. The science is clear that meat and dairy are major contributors to the climate and ecological emergencies, and it has been said that switching to a plant-based diet is *the single most effective thing* an individual can do to reduce their impact on the planet. The amount of research on this over the years is now vast.

However, it's not always easy for individuals to change their diets when they're surrounded by menus that are heavily biased towards meat and dairy options. This Council has the opportunity – and I think, the duty – to simply prioritise plant-based food options wherever they can, treating the climate emergency with the urgency it requires.

In the news last week, more than 650 academics called on British Universities to commit to 100% plant-based catering on campuses to fight the climate emergency. Meanwhile the UK central government is facing a legal challenge regarding its failure to introduce measures to reduce meat and dairy in its food strategy. It is ignoring the insistence of its own advisors that a food system based predominantly on plant-based foods must be the goal, and should be the default option in all public sector catering.

The south west has a large farming community. Genuinely supporting farmers means looking honestly at the future and recognising where change is necessary. Simply continuing with the status quo is a betrayal.

Many other councils around the country have already passed motions which raise awareness of the benefits of eating more plant-based foods and have voted to lead by example, by ensuring that all food provided at internal events is plant-based. Even if this only applies to refreshments at a very small number of events per year, it is a small step that sends a powerful message, and helps to normalise plant-based eating.

In the midst of a climate emergency, supporting a move towards healthy plant-based diets for Bath citizens is a logical and necessary next step. Will councillors meet with me to address any concerns they may have, over cost, inclusivity, choice, and local impacts of such a direction, and hear how it could be an enormous win for health, sustainability and budget?

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COUNCIL MEETING 21ST SEPTEMBER 2023

**STATEMENTS FROM
COUNCILLORS**

Councillors

1. Cllr Dave Harding - Rural buses

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M	01	Question from:	Councillor Karen Walker
<p>Most ward councillors at some point will make a request for double yellow lines, because of parking issues that causes safety concerns. I know there is a staff shortage in parking services, and there are not enough staff to enforce and give penalty fines to those that park on double yellow lines in the villages outside of Bath, so why in the City centre of Bath you see two parking enforcement officers working together?</p>			
Answer from:			Cllr Manda Rigby
<p>Civil Enforcement Officers are deployed for patrol across the whole of Bath & North East Somerset and patrols are allocated based on the number of factors that include the number and type of restrictions in an area; intelligence on reported contraventions; and the availability of resources. Officers are deployed via on-foot and mobile patrols with mobile patrols able to cover wider areas more readily.</p> <p>It is usual for higher levels of resource to be deployed where new restrictions go live, or where they are more concentrated, to support the adjustment of motorist behaviours and maintain the flow of the network in key areas where more restrictions are typically present; however, the number available at any one time is dependent on vacancies, leave, other absence and work patterns.</p> <p>The council has been successful in recruiting new officers to vacant posts during this year and our number of deployable staff is currently at 22 out of 30 posts. This will rise to 26 officers in September, but of course new staff will need to be trained and mentored before they are able to patrol alone.</p> <p>This training is undertaken whilst on the job, with a new officer accompanying a number of different experienced staff on patrol across many weeks as they gain experience and learn their new role, and this is typically what is taking place when the public see officers working together. Of course, there are other occasions when officers may accompany each other as they walk to their different patrol areas, often by the most direct routes, before going their separate ways. Whilst this may be perceived as them not working as they prioritise their prompt arrival at their assigned location, they will of course address vehicles clearly in contravention, noting that more thorough checks will be undertaken by the officer/s dedicated to patrol this area.</p>			

It should also be noted that whilst the role largely operates as a lone worker with officers being issued with equipment to support and protect them in their duties, such as radios and body worn video cameras, it may also be appropriate under some circumstances for officers to work in pairs for reasons of personal safety. Parking is an emotive topic and during their course of their duties our officers will encounter conflict situations whilst attempting to engage with motorists or take enforcement action. The council has a legal obligation to employees under the Health and Safety at Work Act, which is also reflected in its zero-tolerance approach towards unacceptable behaviour directed at staff, as highlighted in our recent campaign to support our new Violence, Aggression, Threatening and Challenging Behaviour (Staff Safety) Policy.

M	02	Question from:	Councillor Jess David
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What action will the Cabinet Member take to reinstate the Sunday Service for the Number 8 Bus. This is a much needed community service that connects residents on the Moorlands estate and Kingsway with the city centre, Moorlands Road shops and local services.

Answer from:	Cllr Sarah Warren
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Thank you for your inquiries regarding the Sunday service and frequency of the number 8 bus, which plays a crucial role in connecting Moorlands estate and Kingsway residents to essential destinations, including the city centre, Moorlands Road shops, and local services. We understand the importance of these issues to the community.

B&NES, as a unitary authority has no significant funding for buses over and above that which is already transferred annually to WECA as our transport levy. The remainder of our budget is fully committed to other council services such as social care, children's services (which together consume the vast majority of our budgets), housing, parks, waste management and so on, so there is very little remaining for discretionary expenditure such as on buses.

We are aware, however, that not only has the Combined Authority been awarded £57m for its Bus Service Improvement Plan, it has also been awarded an additional £500k specifically for the support of bus services.

Bath & North East Somerset Council is actively lobbying WECA to allocate BSIP funds for supported buses, including the reinstatement of the Sunday service and an increase in frequency on the service 8. While we cannot provide a specific timeline, please rest assured that we are unwavering in our commitment to finding a solution that serves the community's needs.

M	03	Question from:	Councillor Jess David
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What action will the Cabinet Member take to increase the frequency of the Number 8 Bus, recognising that this has been cut from running every 15minutes, to every 45minutes. This is a much-needed community service that connects residents on the Moorlands estate and Kingsway with the city centre, Moorlands road shops and local services.

Answer from:

Cllr Sarah Warren

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