Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Cabinet

Date: **Thursday, 7th March, 2024**
Time: **6.30 pm**
Venue: **Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath**

Agenda

To: All Members of the Cabinet

Councillor Kevin Guy (Leader of the Council, LD Group Leader, Member Advocate for Armed Forces and Veterans), Councillor Tim Ball (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services), Councillor Alison Born (Cabinet Member for Adult Services), Councillor Mark Elliott (Cabinet Member for Resources), Councillor Paul May (Cabinet Member for Children's Services), Councillor Matt McCabe (Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Sustainable Development), Councillor Manda Rigby (Cabinet Member for Highways), Councillor Paul Roper (Cabinet Member for Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development), Councillor Sarah Warren (Deputy Council Leader (statutory) and Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel) and Councillor David Wood (Deputy Council Leader (non-statutory) and Cabinet Member for Council Priorities & Delivery)

Chief Executive and other appropriate officers
Press and Public

The agenda is set out overleaf.

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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. 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 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

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

Cabinet - Thursday, 7th March, 2024

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 MEETINGS (Pages 7 - 32)

   To agree that the following minutes be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair:

- Special Cabinet Meeting – 1st February 2024
- Cabinet Meeting – 8th February 2024

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.

To note that the Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan item has been the subject of a Cabinet Member requisition to the full Cabinet.

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 33 - 40)

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

12. RADSTOCK TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION ACTION PLAN (Pages 41 - 138)

To consider the Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan which identifies opportunities, concepts and project ideas to underpin funding and grant applications for project delivery.

13. HERITAGE SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN 2024-2029 (Pages 139 - 168)

To consider the update of the Heritage Services Business Plan 2024-29. This covers the five financial years from 2024/25 to 2028/29 and has been prepared following the annual in-depth review of business activity.

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

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

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

Thursday, 1st February, 2024

Present:

Councillor Kevin Guy (Ch)	Leader of the Council, LD Group Leader, Member Advocate for Armed Forces and Veterans
Councillor Tim Ball	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services
Councillor Alison Born	Cabinet Member for Adult Services
Councillor Mark Elliott	Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Paul May	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Councillor Matt McCabe	Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Sustainable Development
Councillor Manda Rigby	Cabinet Member for Highways
Councillor Paul Roper	Cabinet Member for Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development
Councillor Sarah Warren	Deputy Council Leader (statutory) and Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel

46 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

47 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dave Wood.

49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Democratic Services Officer stated that Cllr Dave Wood had declared a disclosable pecuniary interest for all items on the agenda for this meeting. This was due to his employment as Chief Executive of Avon Needs Trees. Cllr Wood did not attend the meeting or the pre-meeting and did not take part in any decisions relating to the items on the agenda.

50 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was no urgent business.

51 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 12 questions from Councillors and 2 questions from members of the public.

[Copies of the questions and responses, including supplementary questions and responses if any, have been placed on the Minute book as Appendix 1 and are available on the Council's website.]

52 STATEMENTS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Members of the public and Councillors made statements as follows:

- Mr and Mrs Flower – Somer Valley Enterprise Zone *(copy attached as an appendix to these minutes)*
- Angharad Barber – Somer Valley Enterprise Zone. Ms Barber spoke against the SVEZ development pointing out that 600 objections have been received from a variety of organisations and individuals. She expressed concern about the proposed compulsory purchase order, harm to small businesses and increased traffic volumes. She queried whether this was the right decision in the current financial climate and urged the Council to work with and listen to the local community.
- Mrs Anne Huckle – Somer Valley Enterprise Zone *(copy attached as an appendix to these minutes)*
- Margaret Heffernan – Somer Valley Enterprise Zone *(copy attached as an appendix to these minutes)*
- Andy Jeffery – Somer Valley Enterprise Zone. Mr Jeffery spoke against the Enterprise Zone and expressed concern at the loss of Grade 1 agricultural land. He said that government policy is to protect this land. He also spoke about the adverse effect on local businesses including the pub trade and local retailers and stressed that the Enterprise Zone should be for industrial use and not retail use.
- James Wellman (on behalf of Cllr Ann Morgan) – Somer Valley Enterprise Zone *(copy attached as an appendix to these minutes)*
- Jim Plunkett-Cole – Economic Outlook for Jobs in B&NES *(copy attached as an appendix to these minutes)*
- Allison Herbert (Bath BID) – Economic Strategy *(copy attached as an appendix to these minutes)*
- Robbie Bentley – The Local Plan – Risk and Equalities *(copy attached as an appendix to these minutes)*
- Cllr Shaun Hughes – Local Plan and Economic Strategy. Cllr Hughes spoke about the lack of engagement on the SVEZ leading to confusion for local residents. He stated that the price is being paid for poor decisions in the past. Houses have been built on former industrial space. Job creation is needed due to more building in the area and local jobs are needed. On balance he

supported the SVEZ for economic reasons but would not support the use of a compulsory purchase order.

- Cllr Duncan Hounsell – The Local Plan *(copy attached as an appendix to these minutes)*
- Cllr Bharat Pankhania – The Local Plan – Combe Down Allotments. Cllr Pankhania spoke regarding the potential loss of the allotments in Combe Down. He stressed the importance of outdoor activity and the health benefits for the allotment community. He presented a petition containing 4,700 signatures and hoped that the issue can be resolved.
- Dewi Willcox – The Local Plan. Mr Willcox spoke regarding the need for the Council to do more for young people in the area who are finding it difficult to afford somewhere to live and to find well-paid local jobs. They are being forced to move away or to commute long distances to work and cannot afford the high private rents in the area.

53 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

No matters were referred by Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels.

54 BUILDING A FAIR, GREEN, CREATIVE AND CONNECTED BATH WITH NORTH EAST SOMERSET

Cllr Paul Roper introduced the report, moved the officer recommendation, and made the following statement:

"We have before cabinet an ambitious new Economic Strategy which, with your support, will enable us to strengthen and diversify our local economy over the next ten years.

I feel privileged to propose the recommendations in this paper.

Despite the harsh funding restraints placed on us by central government, our administration is taking matters into its own hands to develop our local economy and communities by launching this strategy.

With this strategy, our administration is setting out our stall with a far-reaching plan to Build a Fair, Green, Creative and Connected Bath with North East Somerset.

We have worked closely with our key stakeholders over the last 18 months to shape our shared vision for our local area. We are all singing from the same hymn sheet. Together we recognise that we all have a stake in ensuring that our economy and our communities thrive.

The Economic Strategy spans the decade to 2034 and contains six pillars:

- Creating a Greener Economy that is Net Zero and Nature positive
- Supporting our residents to access Good Work
- Establishing B&NES as a centre of Inclusive innovation and creativity

- Creating Resilient Businesses by building a diverse, creative and sustainable base
- Addressing Housing Affordability and ensuring residents have access to high quality homes
- Supporting Stronger Places, building resilience and sharing prosperity more fairly

The strategy further outlines a 10-point Delivery Plan, some of which we are already delivering, for example Bath Quays and the wider Milsom Quarter Masterplan, which will be a flagship for sustainable development.

Why is this strategy so important?

It is the platform from which we can move to a fairer, sustainable and thriving future for our local area.

It forms an integral part of our larger plan. It is the blueprint we need to demonstrate that our vision is robust. The Economic Strategy opens the doors for our local authority to attract the vital funding – both private and public – that is essential to enable us to implement our plans.

There is a time-honoured saying in the business world: failing to plan is planning to fail. Now that we have the strategy and the delivery plan, we can start working on the implementation – bringing it to life.

In our local authority, we are very fortunate to have valuable Council assets like the Roman Baths. We are blessed with two outstanding universities, the Royal United Hospital, a double World Heritage classification, historic market towns, and significant businesses all in a wonderful, unique setting. For the most part, our residents are highly qualified, and unemployment is relatively low.

But not everyone in Bath and North East Somerset is sharing in our overall prosperity.

Economic growth in our area over the last ten years has been sluggish. Wages here are below the national average. Many residents are struggling with rising housing costs.

Inequalities in health and employment are growing, creating a two-tier economy.

I would like to draw particular attention to gaps in educational attainment in our area. Education is fundamental to improving young people's life chances. Unless we act, we risk consigning generations of young people to futures in which their opportunities are reduced. Cllr May will shortly be addressing this point.

Some of our residents, then, are being left behind. We cannot allow this cycle to continue.

Overshadowing everything is the climate emergency which is at the forefront of our administration's attention. Our council declared a climate emergency in 2019. We are serious about our commitment to sustainability. We must reach our carbon objectives of net zero. We are acutely aware that we must respond to the

climate emergency and do so now. Our climate emergency goals are woven into this strategy.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the development of this and particularly our Future Ambition Board partners, who are our key stakeholders and who have worked so hard to develop this ground-breaking strategy. It is the fundamental pre-requisite to a fairer, sustainable and thriving future for our local area."

Cllr Manda Rigby seconded the motion and made the following statement:

"The council has many responsibilities, and touches people's lives in different ways at different times. Three strands which are more or less continuous through all the middle years are where people live, where they work, and how they get between the two.

We have heard a lot recently about the councils plans for housing, and we are working very hard on future transport plans, so to add to the right homes in the right places, and enabling choice on transport, we now have in front of us an economic strategy to agree and to implement.

Bath and North East Somerset is a rich and varied landscape with historical and present links to many industries. This economic strategy balances our legacy, whilst being very forward looking, and future proofing against changing trends. As an example, the lockdown periods showed us that we had a reliance on tourists and students within the City of Bath. Absolutely we need to ensure our offer to visitors and those who choose to make Bath their home whilst studying is sustainable, appropriate and flexible to changing needs.

But we also need to ensure we also have other compelling offers and focus on other areas within the authority so that there are employment opportunities near where people live, and there are affordable housing solutions near to where the jobs are, and to minimise unnecessary travel between the two.

I welcome this strategy in front of us, as it sets out a roadmap for our economic future. Even having this plan adopted would be a good step forward. A good friend sent me a link to an article published over the weekend about the Horizon scheme, something we used to enjoy free and unfettered access to in the good old PB, pre-Brexit days, which it looks like we might be able to access again in the future. The key word here is might. The council will never have the sort of money to invest in everything needed to drive the economy, our job is to make us an attractive a place as possible to do business, ensure we focus on sustainability, stand in and correct any market failures and, if by having this policy in front of us this evening, it makes it easier for businesses to apply for grant funding, that in and of itself has to be a good thing.

I am in no doubt that Paul and his officers have worked incredibly hard on this document and are to be very highly commended, and I am very happy to second it."

Cllr Paul May welcomed the strategy and stated that children are an essential part of our future economic drive. He noted that the report highlights the issue that whilst we have one of the most highly performing local education authority areas in the country this creates a significant issue of the size of attainment gap

for a small proportion of our children. It was important to think about our strengths within our economy to address this group of students including practical work experience, apprenticeships and working with families.

He hoped that the strategy addressing this inequality means that the Council and its partners' strengths would be used to engage effectively moving forward as a key issue within the delivery plans.

Cllr Sarah Warren stated that the council declared a climate emergency in March 2019 committing it to provide the leadership to enable the district to reach carbon neutrality, followed by an ecological emergency declaration in 2020. The package of measures we are bringing forward this evening shows how we are embedding Net Zero, Nature Positive systemically throughout our work as a Council. This agenda builds upon our Corporate Strategy embedding sustainability into all Council decision making.

She noted that the new Economic Strategy delivers on that, it is designed using the principle of doughnut economics, which aim to meet the needs of all within the means of the planet. This approach would be embedded with our partners across the district and would inform delivery across council services. The new Economic Strategy has sustainability at its heart. As success measures it focused partly on household disposable income, a measure of how the economy is working for people, as well as on carbon emissions, air quality and biodiversity.

She stated that the Strategy also sets out specific action for a greener economy including the investigation of Green Bonds, green skills development, training and apprenticeships, local green jobs and supporting businesses who want to become "net zero, nature positive" in their operations. It will promote Bath with North East Somerset as a testbed for the development of novel green technologies across transport, energy and the built environment. The Council will continue to support real choice in transport, will explore nature-based solutions to increase biodiversity and to encourage sustainable tourism and will develop a local food strategy and support the adoption of regenerative farming whilst providing support to rural businesses with diversification.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

(1) To approve the Economic Strategy.

(2) To sign off the partnership approach to implementation and delivery of the economic strategy.

55 LOCAL PLAN OPTIONS CONSULTATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Cllr Matt McCabe introduced the report, moved the officer recommendation, and made the following statement:

"Every 20 years a Local Authority gets to set a new Local Plan. This sets out the policies by which all planning decisions will be made. It also sets out where new housing will be built, what type it will be and where land will be designated for other needs, such as employment.

Today we are considering the Options Document. This primarily sets out the potential areas that could be allocated for house building, employment and renewable energy, as well as many areas of development management policy. This marks a considerable amount of effort on behalf of officers over the past year, for which I am very grateful.

It is also informed by, and will help to deliver, our Corporate Strategy and our Economic Strategy.

This huge piece of work began over a year ago, when we began talking to residents and stakeholders. It has been going through our all-party Local Development Framework Steering Group. It is worth noting that many Council Administrations do not bother to consult with other parties on the development of a new Local Plan, So, it is to the credit of all administrations here in BANES that we, as a Council, do. It is something that I am keen to maintain.

What this means is that all political groups have had the opportunity to take part in the drafting of this material, albeit on a confidential basis. So, all groups have been able to submit their initial thoughts, in advance of the public consultation.

This options document is what we are intending to put out for consultation to residents and other parties. The results of this consultation will inform the draft of our New Local Plan, and we will put that out for consultation later in the year.

There is also another timing element to consider. One of the key factors locally is the Strategic lead taken by the West of England Combined Authority, in terms of Planning for the Economy, Transport and Housing right across our region. Unfortunately, in an effort to seemingly qualify as the worst Mayor in the country, Mayor Dan Norris pulled WECA out of this regionally significant role.

This has left the four authorities rushing to complete new Local Plans, because that strategic overview is now missing. We are having to work closely with each other to try and achieve this regional co-ordination. Remember - not having a valid Local Plan in place, creates a free for all for developers. Hence the urgency. Luckily for BANES we prepared our partial update, which we completed a year ago, and it has given us a more up to date plan than our neighbouring authorities. However, this has also left us slightly behind them in preparing a new Local Plan, covering the longer term.

So, what have been our main drivers?

Well, we want to create a fairer, more prosperous and sustainable economy. We want to maximise the delivery of housing that is more affordable.

Clearly the government asking us to build 14,500 new homes in the authority area is a huge challenge, so this work presents sites put forward by various parties, all assessed for their suitability and sustainability.

Touching on a comment that was made earlier about that 14,500 homes – luckily for us we have some 6,000 in the pipeline and we expect over this time period to get a windfall of about 2,000 homes that we weren't expecting – that's just normal – which means we have to find 6,500 homes over the next 20 years, which is far more achievable than if we were going straight in at 14,500.

We have to respond to both the housing crisis and the affordability challenges. Our suggested, possible sites and their uses will be available for residents to have their say.

The other big driver is the Climate and Ecological Emergencies. So, we are proposing that our enhanced requirement for Net Zero in terms of energy use in new builds, now be accompanied by a new and tougher consideration for carbon neutrality in construction materials as well. We will also be testing a Biodiversity Net Gain of 20% on new builds and seeing how close we can get.

In all these matters we are treading a fine line between our aspirations and what the final planning inspector will say is viable for developers. Evidence is key, and the results of our consultations with residents, count as evidence.
In order to facilitate a robust consultation, we are creating a 'web book' approach so that participants can view the part of the plan they are interested in and indicate their stance on a matter, provide additional evidence or just make general comments, but in a way that their contributions are correctly allocated to a particular item.

There will also be hard copies in our libraries, and officers have made considerable efforts to engage with often hard to reach groups to secure their participation as well.

There is one small change to the document in front of you. As some of the supporting evidence to the Local Plan won't be published until shortly after the launch, and in order to give people a bigger say, we are going to be extending the consultation period to 8 weeks, meaning that comments can be submitted up to the 8th of April.

So, with thanks to our Planning Policy Officers, and the members of the LDF Steering Group from all parties, I ask Cabinet to approve this document for consultation."

Cllr Tim Ball seconded the motion and stated that the Local Plan is there to ensure that houses and businesses are provided in the right locations. He noted that it is important not to have political interference in this process and that cross-party support is needed. It is also important to fully consult local residents.

Cllr Sarah Warren stated that the Local Plan is an absolutely key document in ensuring that a planning authority can require sustainable, green construction and development, in sustainable locations. The options document informed by our economic strategy, and a rare opportunity that only comes along once a decade or so to set the parameters of the place that we live in for a generation. After ratifying a Local Plan Update only last January that put Bath & North East Somerset on the map with the leading net zero new build policy in England at the time, as well as ground breaking biodiversity requirements, it's exciting to have an opportunity now to take that ambition still further.

She noted that the Green Transformation Team has been working closely with their Planning Policy colleagues to develop a policy framework that will drive forward our Climate and Ecological Emergency declaration and support

development enabling Bath and North East Somerset to become carbon neutral, nature positive.

She welcomed the proposal to increase the requirement for biodiversity net gain from 10% to 20% and was particularly please with the proposed requirements around renewables. She noted that the Council continues to lead the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the West of England and Natural England have been so impressed with our leadership on green infrastructure projects including Bathscape, Waterspace, Somer Valley Rediscovered and Chew Valley Reconnected, that they have chosen to undertake further work with us.

Cllr Paul May noted the importance of working with all political parties and stressed the importance of making access to the report as easy and clear as possible.

Cllr Kevin Guy encouraged everyone to take participate in the consultation.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

(1) To agree the spatial priorities of the Local Plan as set out in Appendix 1 of the report for public engagement, particularly to support a fairer, more prosperous and sustainable economy and provide for more housing that is affordable.

(2) To agree the policy and development location options set out in Appendix 1 of the report (Local Plan Options Consultation Document) as the basis for public engagement.

(3) To agree the revisions to the B&NES Local Development Scheme outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report.

(4) To agree and authorise the Director for Sustainable Communities to carry out the approach to public engagement in Section 10 of the report.

(5) To delegate authority to the Director for Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Sustainable Development, to agree textual changes in finalising the Local Plan Options consultation document and the revised Local Development Scheme.

56 SOMER VALLEY ENTERPRISE ZONE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER - COMMITMENTS

Cllr Paul Roper introduced the reports for all three items relating to the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone and moved the officer recommendation in respect of the LDO commitments.

Cllr Roper made the following points:

- The Somer Valley Enterprise Zone is an important part of the delivery of the new Economic Strategy and is also a manifesto commitment for this administration.
- The Somer Valley Enterprise Zone is intended create around 1,300 jobs of exactly the type we aspire to. Good quality, secure, well-paid, local jobs giving residents meaningful and fulfilling employment.

- It will provide 1,300 local jobs for the towns and villages and hamlets around Paulton, Westfield, Radstock and Midsomer Norton, a population in the region of 30,000 people.
- Back in the late 1990s and early 2000s nearly all of the employment in the Somer Valley was local. Many local businesses have been lost including Great Mills DIY/Focus, Welton Bibby Bag Manufacturing and Purnells & Sons Printers which, at its height, provided 2,000 jobs. Well over 1,000 jobs have been lost in comparatively recent times.
- The consequence of this is that people now commute, census statistics from 2021 suggest that 30-50% of the economically active population in this area commute over six miles to work.
- Out-commuting means that families need at least one car and that is a huge barrier to young people and the less affluent and this limits their opportunities. More houses are also being built in the area.
- The Council needs to create opportunities and aspiration for both current and future generations in these communities.
- This authority recognised in 2007 that jobs lost needed to be replaced. This is when it originally allocated the land we are considering today as employment land. It was left to the free market to bring the development forward and it failed to do so. It is probable that delivery was seen as too complex and too expensive.
- This administration has now stepped in and what we have before us today is the mechanism by which we can deliver this pioneering project – a green business park.
- The LDO paper enables adoption of the LDO by cabinet and addresses the market failure in delivering SVEZ. It is a planning framework that, by way of compliance applications, prospective developers and businesses can seek planning permission on a de-risked basis. It gives them more certainty that an application will be approved, provided it meets with the strict criteria enshrined in the LDO. The LDO does not remove planning restrictions - it defines them in advance, giving businesses certainty as to what they need to do to make a successful application.
- To enable the LDO to be brought forward to approval today, there has been a process that the planning authority has been through to ensure the scheme is compliant with all local and national policies.
- These policies and statutory consultees include an environmental impact assessment, Ecology, Arboriculture, Air quality, Conservation, Archaeology, Highways, Drainage and Flood Risk and many more. The list of hurdles this scheme has had to pass is extensive and the Local Planning Authority report has confirmed policy compliance.
- The administration believe that it has addressed the environmental issues to the best of our abilities and to a high standard whilst keeping the site commercially viable for occupiers and delivering the number of jobs that are needed.
- Employment – the aim is to create 1,300 jobs and to recreate the local, stable, high-quality employment that used to be provided by the now-defunct employers in this area. People will be able to walk, cycle or take the bus to work, reducing traffic volumes and reducing commuting hours.
- Business - one of the key factors that businesses consider in deciding whether to locate to a particular area is the proximity to a substantial workforce. With over 30,000 people living within just a few miles of this site, one of the primary attractions will be the local workforce.

- The LDO will provide certainty for businesses. Employees will also want to come because the facilities will be modern and up to date. There is significant evidence that demand for A1 Class accommodation is strong and there is a huge shortage of that in our authority.
- The sort of businesses we want to attract to the site are those vital to the green economy, working in renewables, heat pumps, battery technology, power management systems and carbon reduction.
- Midsomer Norton High Street – To regenerate our high streets we have to somehow stimulate demand for the goods and services provided there and creating 1,300 new jobs will be a good way to do this.
- Transport - It is a commitment of this administration to promote active travel and public transport and reduce car travel. With so many employees living locally and with provision of suitable infrastructure, we expect a real modal shift in transport methods. People will be able to walk to work.
- The enabling works of the scheme that include road improvements, active travel routes and infrastructure development of the entire site will come at a cost of circa £30m and this is being funded by grant funding from various sources.

Cllr Roper thanked officers for their work to enable the local authority to reach this point. It is probably going to take 3 - 4 years to deliver the first jobs on site and 7-10 years to get the site fully occupied. He stated that we need to create the environment to enable reductions in carbon emissions and improve sustainability. There are schoolchildren now who will be of employment age when the jobs are being created. They need something to aspire to, something to look forward to, somewhere to work – jobs like their grandparents had. Our community needs these 1,300 jobs.

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

- The Council has set out an economic strategy that aims to support real choice in transport, support for greener businesses, as well as training opportunities in green industries for local people.
- The development will give Somer Valley residents the opportunity to reduce their carbon emissions from commuting. We know that the vast majority of Somer Valley residents currently commute out by car, often to Bath and Bristol, and we know that there are likely to be further housing developments coming forward in the valley, but this development will provide for local jobs.
- The LDO structure by which we are now progressing this green business park, along with the intention that the council should act as landowner and developer, mean that we retain control over the types of business who can occupy the site, the standard of energy efficiency to which buildings are constructed, and the biodiversity accommodated on site. The LDO ensures the development will be fully compliant with planning policy.
- As the developer, the council has the power to insist upon greater ambition, and in the coming years, as our green business park takes shape, local residents can hold future B&NES administrations to account for the quality of the environment that is created on site, and the quality of local green jobs that it provides.
- Funding was approved by the West of England Combined Authority last week to progress the active travel route between Farrington Gurney and Old Mills Lane along the north side of the A362. At that point the route will connect with

infrastructure proposed through this scheme to provide a fully off-road route between Farrington Gurney and Midsomer Norton and on to connect with the Norton Radstock Greenway, giving local people a safe route to walk, wheel or cycle to work or school between the conurbations of the valley. We are committed to ensuring this infrastructure is in place before the site is occupied and have a plan to extend the cycle route on to Bristol. We are also committed to providing bus services along the route before occupation.

- We are also committed to ensuring the site is nature positive, not only through on-site measures, but additionally through off-site contributions to further enhance wild nature in Somer Valley.
- We are currently planning 10 acres, about 7 football pitches, of green infrastructure on site, as well as 10,000 trees and creating sustainable drainage ponds on site that will generate new wetland habitats.
- We are also committed to minimising the impact on air quality of the development, with modelling projecting nitrogen dioxide at well below legal limits over all locations in the vicinity.
- We are committed to creating an exemplar, net zero, green business park for new business and employment, that will contribute to the development of a diverse, creative and sustainable local business base. It will provide a location to grow our green economy, seeking to attract established businesses as well as start-ups.
- The energy efficient premises will provide businesses with a renewably powered, net zero home, of which they can feel proud, and from which they can maximise their contribution to tackling our environmental emergencies – and the council is committed to supporting them in this.

Cllr Tim Ball welcomed the proposed noting that it is a bold and ambitious plan to regenerate the Somer Valley area. More housing will be built in the area and so additional jobs will be needed.

Cllr Matt McCabe stated that the proposal offers security for businesses and especially for start-ups. This provides new opportunities for young people in the area so that they will not have to move away to seek employment.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

(1) To adopt the eight aims defined within the report that set the Council's commitments for the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone.

(2) To review progress on the Enterprise Zone regularly and to agree any further interventions required to ensure that these ambitions are being met.

57 SOMER VALLEY ENTERPRISE ZONE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORDER

Cllr Paul Roper introduced the report and moved the officer recommendation.

Cllr Paul May seconded the motion and made the following statement:

"The presentation this evening has been inspirational. This is an example of how we can use this opportunity to work with Bath College to create apprenticeships during and after construction and offer job experience options for young people in the area.

This report provides a sensible process to move the scheme forward, bearing in mind that progress has already been protracted. You mentioned about 2007 – talks have been going on since Wansdyke District Council.

Of course, we have listened to the speakers and written submissions, and this is reflected in the previous paper, but because of the site complications we need to have the powers to deliver a vital employment site set amongst the already commercial area that has been built up around the former Great Mills office and sales warehouse.

There has been considerable consultation and changes made to deliver the master plan that moves towards the many concerns expressed.

We have a responsibility to provide local jobs in the area and clearly this will not happen unless we adopt this high intervention approach. I fully support the recommendations."

RESOLVED (unanimously):

(1) To adopt the Local Development Order for the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone (SVEZ) site recommended by the Local Planning Authority, and to meet the aims of policy SSV9.

(2) To delegate to the Director of Regeneration and Housing and the Director of Sustainable Communities (or [the Monitoring Officer / Executive Member] for payments of over £500,000) in consultation with the S151 Officer, authority to take all necessary steps to acquire by agreement land and/or rights required for the SVEZ Scheme and to negotiate and settle all necessary compensation and professional fees (including interim payments) as agreed with landowners, where compensation is within the SVEZ Scheme budget. This will be subject to full due diligence and financial evaluation to ensure value for money and that commitments are in line with approved scheme budgets.

(3) To delegate the approval to the Director of Regeneration and Housing and the Director of Sustainable Communities in consultation with the s151 Chief Finance Officer to:

- Accept the Investment Fund grants from the West of England Combined Authority, subject to WECA approval at Committee.

- On grant acceptance to move from provisional to approved budget for £9.3m continue with land assembly and infrastructure design.

58 SOMER VALLEY ENTERPRISE ZONE IN PRINCIPLE STATUTORY MECHANISMS

Cllr Paul Roper introduced the report and moved the officer recommendation.

Cllr Matt McCabe seconded the motion.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

(1) To note the ongoing progress which has been made towards the acquisition of land required to develop the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone (SVEZ) Scheme.

(2) To authorise the carrying out of formal land referencing (including the procurement of a land referencing agent and the issue requisitions for information under the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 and/or any relevant or associated statutes) across the area being considered for the SVEZ Scheme in order to identify landowners, their interests and to gather as much information as possible about the land. This will include full due diligence and financial evaluation to ensure value for money.

(3) To authorise the entry into negotiations by the Council (and on behalf of the Council) with landowners and others with an interest in the relevant land required for the delivery of the SVEZ Scheme in order to acquire land and rights by agreement where possible.

(4) To authorise the acquisition of land or rights required for the SVEZ Scheme subject to relevant financial limits, whereby the decision to proceed with any purchase in excess of the SVEZ Scheme budget would be referred to [Cabinet /Single Member Decision] for authorisation.

(5) To delegate to the Director of Regeneration and Housing and the Director of Sustainable Communities (or [the Monitoring Officer / Executive Member] for payments of over £500,000), in consultation with the S151 Officer, authority to take all necessary steps to acquire by agreement land and/or rights required for the SVEZ Scheme and to negotiate and settle all necessary compensation and professional fees (including interim payments) as agreed with landowners, where compensation is within the SVEZ Scheme budget. This will be subject to full due diligence and financial evaluation to ensure value for money and that commitments are in line with approved scheme budgets.

(6) To authorise the taking of all steps (including the drafting of a CPO and related documentation) necessary to prepare for a subsequent report to Cabinet to determine the use of compulsory purchase powers to acquire the land and rights in land required for the SVEZ Scheme.

The meeting ended at 8.31 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

Thursday, 8th February, 2024

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

Present:

Councillor Kevin Guy (Ch)	Leader of the Council, LD Group Leader, Member Advocate for Armed Forces and Veterans
Councillor Alison Born	Cabinet Member for Adult Services
Councillor Mark Elliott	Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Paul May	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Councillor Matt McCabe	Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Sustainable Development
Councillor Manda Rigby	Cabinet Member for Highways
Councillor Paul Roper	Cabinet Member for Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development
Councillor Sarah Warren	Deputy Council Leader (statutory) and Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel
Councillor David Wood	Deputy Council Leader (non-statutory) and Cabinet Member for Council Priorities & Delivery

59 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

60 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tim Ball.

62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that the Monitoring Officer has granted the following dispensations to enable Members present to participate in the debate and to vote on item 14 (Budget and Council Tax 2023/24 and Financial Outlook).

- Cllr Sarah Warren – dispensation granted due to a family member being in receipt of an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- General dispensation for all Councillors who pay Council Tax.

A copy of the dispensations are attached as an appendix to these minutes.

63 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was no urgent business.

64 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 14 questions from Councillors and 36 questions from members of the public.

[Copies of the questions and responses, including supplementary questions and responses if any, have been placed on the Minute book as Appendix 1 and are available on the Council's website.]

65 STATEMENTS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Members of the public and Councillors made statements as follows:

- Chad Allen – English Ivy and Liveable Neighbourhoods. Mr Allen expressed concern about the damage caused to buildings by English Ivy and also the damage to the eco-system. He also spoke against the liveable neighbourhood proposals for the city centre.
- Kari Erickson – Liveable Neighbourhoods. Ms Erickson spoke against the liveable neighbourhood scheme in her area. She did not feel that there had been adequate consultation. She also stated that it would make it difficult for people to access their own homes and would cause extra journeys which was particularly difficult for parents of young children.
- Roanne Wootten (Strategic Partnerships Director Julian House) – Budget Cuts *(a copy of the statement is attached as an appendix to these minutes)*
- Becki Sarll – Budget Cuts. Ms Sarll expressed concern at the proposed cuts to grants to voluntary services such as those provided by Julian House. She outlined the difficulties experienced by people who do not have a fixed address. Julian House provides assistance to these vulnerable people to help them with paperwork, access to food banks, shower facilities, healthcare and fire safety.
- Becky Brooks – 3SG – Council Budget *(a copy of the statement is attached as an appendix to these minutes)*
- Kate Morton – Bath Mind/3SG – Council Budget *(a copy of the statement is attached as an appendix to these minutes)*
- David Redgewell – Public Transport Network. Mr Redgewell stressed the importance of maintaining local bus services. He pointed out that some of the most disadvantaged people in areas such as Midsomer Norton and Radstock now have no access to a bus service. He stated that the Westlink contract needed to be redrawn. He suggested that B&NES Council could contract bus services in conjunction with Somerset or Wiltshire Councils.
- Cllr Shaun Hughes – Council Budget. Cllr Hughes spoke against the introduction of parking charges in Midsomer Norton. He stated that there has been a lack of investment in this area over a number of years and that B&NES needs to carry out a comprehensive parking survey. He commented that

emissions-based parking charges affect the poorest people disproportionately as they cannot afford to replace their vehicles.

- Cllr Michael Auton – Council Budget for 2024-25 – Proposed Parking Charges in Midsomer Norton. *(a copy of the statement is attached as an appendix to these minutes)*
- Cllr Eleanor Jackson – Budget Impact on the poorest in our community *(a copy of the statement is attached as an appendix to these minutes)*

66 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING - 9TH NOVEMBER 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th November 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

67 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

No single member items were requisitioned to Cabinet.

68 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

Cllr Robin Moss, Chair of the Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel, presented feedback from the PDS Panels in relation to the 2024/25 budget proposals. In particular he stressed the importance of considering the downstream effect of budget cuts to third sector funding. He also pointed out that the Corporate PDS Panel would be scrutinising the income from the corporate estate in comparison with peers. He acknowledged the challenging financial circumstances that local authorities currently find themselves in.

The Chair also drew attention to the draft minute from the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing PDS Panel in respect of the Community Resource Centres consultation which had been circulated to Cabinet Members for their consideration.

69 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

70 THE OUTCOME AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING A CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE DELIVERY MODEL FOR THE COUNCIL'S THREE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRES

Cllr Alison Born introduced the report, moved the officer recommendation, and made the following points:

- The report demonstrates our commitment to support the most vulnerable groups in our community, to make the best possible use of council resources and to use those resources where they can add the most value and where the market has failed.
- Our goal is to provide services locally whenever possible, which means that fewer people will be sent out of area. Providing services locally offers the advantages of maintaining links with family and friends, reduces costs

and makes it easier for us to stay in touch and monitor how placements are going.

- Scrutiny colleagues supported the feasibility study for change of the use of Charlton House, but some opposed the deregistration proposal. As these proposals are linked, these two positions are incompatible.
- When the Council took back control of the three care homes – Charlton House, Cleeve Court and Coombe Leigh - it increased staffing levels, invested in pay, training, equipment and in the fabric of the buildings. As a consequence, the costs of running the services have increased considerably and now exceed the costs of comparable services in the local market.
- B&NES has a buoyant care home market with a good choice of provision. The areas that are less well provided for are specialist dementia care and services for young people with degenerative conditions and physical dependences. A lot of people who have more complex needs are now sent out of area because we do not have enough specialist education or care services.
- The costs of delivering care through in-house services is justified if they provide more specialist care. Therefore, it made sense to review whether we were making best use of these facilities and providing value for money for the council and residents.
- A review was carried out in the summer of 2023, it focused on gaps in local provision, recruitment, affordability, and value for money.
- A number of proposals were then consulted on. The council received a total of 45 responses to the consultation. Over half (53%) of responses were positive towards the overall proposals for the community resource centres, nearly a third (31%) disagreed and 16% were unsure.
- Suitable new places will be found nearby for the small number of residents for whom we will not be able to offer care and there will be no change to the costs paid by any resident who is funding their own care.
- The recommended changes will enable us to optimise the use of these three council owned buildings which are of high quality and are purpose built. The proposed changes will allow us to target the use of these facilities on the areas of greatest need. The changes will also deliver much needed efficiencies and quality improvements in both adults' and children's services.

Cllr Paul May seconded the motion and made the following points:

- Charlton House has a long history in Keynsham not only for its patients but its nearby elderly residents. Before any steps are taken, the needs of the remaining residents living in the home are of first importance.
- If agreed, the proposed residential school for young people with complex needs will be an exciting opportunity to provide a facility that we are very short of in BANES. This would be a SEND and care facility for our local young people, who currently have to travel outside of the BANES area to other providers, which is also more expensive.
- Charlton House has bedrooms, two lounges, kitchens, offices, and meeting rooms. These facilities need to be assessed with changes being made and the funding from the DFE is already in place.
- We are not only thinking about residential spaces for children but also respite facilities and continuing to work with the local community.

- Such new facilities will help families, kinship care for the children as well as less out of area travelling for the children.
- The needs of the residents must take priority and the council will work closely with the current residents and their families/representatives to find suitable alternative placements. Any staff affected by this change will be offered other roles within the council. Once this has happened, then we have the opportunity to move forward with designing, planning and providing the new school in a sensitive way.
- The new provision to help children with some of the most challenging needs and disabilities in our community will be a real asset to the council and local area.

Cllr Mark Elliot supported the proposals as they will enable people to remain in the local area which is also financially beneficial. This will provide services that the market is currently not providing.

Cllr Manda Rigby noted that this proposal is a good use of council owned assets and an excellent example of joined up working.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

(1) To develop Cleeve Court residential home into a centre of excellence for dementia care without nursing.

(2) To enhance the offer at Combe Lea residential home to enable younger people with more complex needs to remain closer to home.

(3) To de-register the remaining 10 places in use at Charlton House nursing home and then develop the site to provide a residential school for young people with complex needs.

(4) To offer community groups/charitable organisations use of the day centre spaces at the community resource centres at a reduced rental rate.

(5) To commence a full feasibility study in relation to the change of use for Charlton House to a residential school.

71 REVENUE AND REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS – APRIL TO DECEMBER 2023

Cllr Mark Elliott introduced the report and moved the officer recommendation. He stated that the plans to reduce the budget deficit are working and congratulated officers for their hard work on this. He noted that the Council must still bring the budget into balance by the end of the financial year.

Cllr Paul Roper seconded the motion.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

(1) To note the 2023/24 revenue budget position (as at the end of December 2023).

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

(3) To note the capital year-end forecast detailed from paragraph 3.29 of the report.

(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.

72 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2024/25 AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Cllr Mark Elliott introduced the report, moved the officer recommendation, and made the following points:

- The budget has been one of the most difficult that the council has ever had to pull together. We started from the position a few months ago of a £16.42m funding gap, with massive increases in costs and demand in social care, particularly in children's social care, the cost-of-living crisis meaning increased costs for things like energy and the consequent pressure on wage increases.
- The paper sets out a balanced Revenue budget not just for next financial year, but for the following year as well. The stability provides the council with the ability to plan. This is a fantastic achievement, and I want to thank all of you, and all the officers, for all their hard work over the past few months.
- The government announced that it intended to offer an additional, last-minute, one-off, extra grant for social care in the next financial year. We received details of that grant on Tuesday of this week. It provides roughly an extra £1.5m in one-off social care funding next year. Whilst this is, of course, welcome, it is nothing more than a sticking plaster over the gaping wound that is social care funding. We propose allocating the extra funds into reserves split between Adults' and Children's social care in proportion to the size of their budgets. These funds will then be available to mitigate the risk of overspend in those portfolios in the coming year.
- We recognise the need to adequately fund the care of the most vulnerable in society, and so we are proposing a net increase in the Adult Social Care budget of just under £1.7m and in the Children's Social Care budget of nearly £4m. I want to recognise that, over the public consultation process, and through the PDS Panels, our third sector partners have raised significant concern about the proposed savings to our Community Contracts. Our total spend on these types of contract is around £9.3m, and the contracts haven't been looked at properly for some time – there are something like 77 separate services being commissioned – so it's reasonable to expect that savings can be made. However, I acknowledge the concern that a sudden drop in funding would be damaging and doesn't leave time for those contracts to be properly and carefully reviewed. The budget proposal has, therefore, been adjusted to spread the savings in Adult Social Care over two years, rather than expecting the savings to come all at once. I have written to the 3rd Sector providers to reassure them that we do not wish to impose arbitrary savings on them, we want to work with them to undertake a proper review, and to mutually agree a way forward based on maintaining those services which are preventing increased, more costly, demand coming into statutory social care services further down the line.
- We greatly value the work of the 3rd Sector providers and will work with them, not inflicts things on them.

- Despite the general financial doom and gloom, on top of the vital work of protecting the most vulnerable in society, and in contrast to many councils across the country, we have been able not just to tread water, but to really pursue our ambitious manifesto commitments to the people of Bath & North East Somerset.
- This is partly due to the huge success we have seen with the tourist trade in the City of Bath bouncing back to pre-pandemic levels much more quickly than expected. The Roman Baths are performing fantastically, income from things like parking and the Park & Ride services in the city are well up on our expectations, and vacancy levels in the council's commercial property portfolio are well below national averages. This has helped to alleviate some of the huge pressure from other areas.
- In passing this budget proposal we will be able to:
    - protect our spending on Climate Emergency action.
    - increase our Revenue spend on the Clean & Green initiative to make sure it has a solid long term funding base.
    - progress with our plan to build hundreds of new social housing homes.
    - increase our capital spending on Local Highway Improvements providing many more new crossings, highway safety and cycling schemes.
    - progress plans for the new Fashion Museum which will be a major new asset to the city of Bath.
    - Use Community Infrastructure Levy funding to fund 20 community projects.
    - Use money raised from the Clean Air Zone to start the "Scholars Way" cycling and pedestrian route from Combe Down to St Martin's Garden in Odd Down.
- I think we can be very proud of the ambition that this budget sets out, despite the parlous overall state of local government finance. It protects the most vulnerable, delivers on our manifesto commitments, and sets out a firm foundation for the future of the council.

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

- Local Government is facing challenges in managing intense pressures on budgets from mounting inflation and rising demand for services. The pressures on spending, particularly in social care, are enormous. This means that for those areas of the council's work that are discretionary, such as Green Transformation, it is harder and harder to carve anything at all from the pie.
- In the proposed budget we will sustain levels of funding to support our corporate priority to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies over the course of the current administration. There is good news in that we are just getting to the point of having recruited to the new posts we were awarded in budget setting this time last year, and we are really starting to see the extent of what we will be able to deliver with this new team in post – and in that context we will be increasing our work with communities to raise awareness and support local action for climate and nature.
- We have a strong track record of successful bids to government and external agencies for funding, and as a result we have a healthy programme of work ahead on our Net Zero, Nature Positive goals - looking to reduce carbon emissions from buildings and power, enable real choice of alternatives to the car, and support nature recovery.
- Cllr Warren outlined the proposals for energy, supporting nature and sustainable transport.

- Despite a dire picture nationwide for local government, and amidst extremely difficult decisions that we have had to take across the board of council activities, our officers are to be applauded for finding imaginative ways to continue to fund progress against our corporate priority of tackling the climate and nature emergency, whilst continuing to deliver day to day for our residents.

Cllr Matt McCabe acknowledged the cuts to local government funding. He thanked Cllr Elliott and officers for making a huge effort to address these concerns. He welcomed the work that is taking place to address the concerns of the third sector.

Cllr Kevin Guy made a plea for central Government to reconsider how local government is funded, especially social care.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

(1) To recommend Council to approve:

- The General Fund net revenue budget for 2024/25 of **£135.85m** and the individual service cash limits for 2024/25 as outlined in Annex 1 of the report.

- 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.

- An increase in Council Tax of 2.99% in 2024/25 (an increase of £49.45 per Band D property or 95p per week).

- 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 £33.07 on a Band D property (64p per week).

- 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 £12.3m - £13.6m.

- To note the Children's Services management plan set out in section 5.2.7 of the report.

- The Efficiency Strategy attached at Annex 4 of the report.

- The Capital Programme for 2024/25 of £71.91m including new and emerging capital bids outlined in Annex 5(i), planned sources of funding in 5.8.3, and notes the programme for 2025/26 to 2028/29 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.

- The delegation of implementation, subject to consultation where appropriate, of the capital programmes set out in Annex 5(i) to Annex 5(iv)

to the relevant Director in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder.

- The schedule of asset disposals as set out in section 5.8.2 and delegates the final disposal decision to the Head of Commercial and/or Corporate Estate in consultation with the S151 Officer and appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder.

- The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocations and amendments outlined in Annex 5(v).

- The Capital & Investment Strategy attached at Annex 6 of the report.

- The MRP Policy attached at Annex 7 of the report.

- The Capital Prudential Indicators outlined in 5.8.7 of the report.

- The Annual Pay Policy Statement at Annex 8 of the report.

- The Community Contribution Fund extension outlined section 5.5 of the report.

- The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25 shown in the following link: https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-01/Bath%20%26%20NE%20Someset%20S13A%20202425%20FINAL.pdf and referred to in 5.3.5 of the report.

- The Fees and Charges schedule for 2024/25 at Annex 11 of the report and support its publication following approval of the budget, with delegation to amend individual costs within the schedule in line with market needs, to the Director of Place Management, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder.

- The additional Social Care Grant of £1,520,318 announced in the final local government finance settlement is allocated to fund a £1,101,302 Adult Social Care contingency and a £419,016 Children's Services contingency for managing in year budget risk. The additional Services Grant of £14,638 is used to increase the corporate inflation contingency to £1.01m.

(2) To agree that the Council include 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 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.

73 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2024/25

Cllr Mark Elliott introduced the report and moved the officer recommendation.

Cllr Matt McCabe seconded the motion.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

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

(2) To note the Treasury Management Indicators detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and to delegate authority for updating these indicators to the Chief Finance Officer and Cabinet Member for Resources, prior to approval at Full Council on 20th February 2024, in light of any changes to the recommended budget as set out in the budget report elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

74 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT TO 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Cllr Mark Elliott introduced the report and moved the officer recommendation.

Cllr Matt McCabe seconded the motion.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

(1) To note the Treasury Management Report to 31st December 2023, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice.

(2) To note the Treasury Management Indicators to 31st December 2023.

75 QUARTER 3 2023/24 CORPORATE STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE REPORT

Cllr Dave Wood introduced the report and moved the officer recommendation.

Cllr Manda Rigby seconded the motion and made the following statement:

"I would particularly like to highlight how committed we are, as a Liberal Democrat administration, to reporting back on performance in this way and to progressively making these reports more useful and easier to understand, as this culture is embedded in the council. This means reporting back on more indicators and strategies as time goes on.

I would like to see more reporting back on the practical things the council does – for example, last month, the Highways team produced an excellent video with a selection of stats relating to the incredible volume of work our teams and contractors carried out on the highways last year. For example, almost 21,000 gullies were inspected and almost 18,000 were cleaned.

We have teams delivering fantastic work in every department of the council and these are the sorts of achievements I would like to see brought to the fore.

Sharing updates on how things are going, in a regular and transparent manner, not only means residents can hold the council to account but also underlines to our commitment to giving people a bigger say, as communication needs to go both ways."

RESOLVED (unanimously): To note progress on the delivery of key aspects of the Council's service delivery and outcomes of the Council's key Strategies, details of which are highlighted in section 3.6 and Annex 1 of the report.

The meeting ended at 8.00 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 30th January 2024 until 27th February 2024

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

Revisions to DIY Waste Limits at the Council's Household Waste and Recycling Centres

The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 have been reviewed and revised in regard to the management of waste generated by small scale DIY construction activities by householders. The purpose of this decision paper is to align our public recycling centre policies with the new limits set out in the revised legislation and subsequent statutory guidance.

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services
Decision published: 15/02/2024
Effective from: 23/02/2024

Decision:
To implement the following from 4th March 2024:

- The volume of DIY waste that will be permitted to be disposed of as household waste shall be no more than two 50 litre bags in a single visit, with no more than four single visits per household in any four-week period.

- The implementation of all future waste legislative changes is delegated to the Director of Place Management in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services.

Wards affected: All Wards
Lead officer: Lisa Gore

ONE WORD 5G Mobile Network Pilot Project

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) put out an Open Networks Ecosystem (ONE) funding call in March 2023. The ONE fund was developed in order to tackle key barriers to the adoption of open mobile networks: with trials in areas of high demand, and to allow for development of new Open Radio Access Network (Open RAN) software and hardware solutions to improve

performance of these networks.

The ONE WORD 5G Mobile Network Pilot aims to improve connectivity and boost the local economy as a result of providing a new cutting-edge mobile network directly in the historic centre of Bath.

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development
Decision published: 05/02/2024
Effective from: 13/02/2024

Decision:
(1) To support the ONE WORD 5G Mobile Network Project and to approve Bath & North East Somerset's role as a partner to deliver the project.

(2) To delegate approval to the Executive Director - Resources (S151 Officer) to enter into a grant funding agreement for £773k of government grant funding for the project.

(3) To approve the installation of 5G apparatus on Council assets including Street Furniture such as CCTV and lighting columns.

(4) To fully approve capital budget of £773k funded by government grant to deliver the ONE WORD 5G Mobile Network Project.

Wards affected: Bathwick; Kingsmead; Widcombe & Lyncombe
Lead Officer: Rob Dawson

Liveable Neighbourhoods: Lower Lansdown Liveable Neighbourhood

To seek permission to trial a through-traffic restriction using an Experimental Traffic Order (ETRO) in Catharine Place between its junction with Margaret's Buildings and Rivers Street Mews.

To seek permission to trial a through-traffic restriction using an Experimental Traffic Order (ETRO) on Winifred's Lane (south of its junction with Somerset Lane) and supplemented by a no-right-turn onto Sion Hill from the northern end of Cavendish Road.

To seek permission to trial a no-entry for motorised vehicles into Upper Gay Street from the George Street junction using an Experimental Traffic Order (ETRO).

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Highways
Decision published: 02/02/2024
Effective from: 10/02/2024

Decision:
(1) To note the support identified in Lower Lansdown and the Circus Area Co-development Workshop during the Liveable Neighbourhood co- design process,

which identified a need to reduce speeding through- traffic on residential roads often used as short-cuts to and from the A46/M4.

(2) To use an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) to proceed with the implementation of a trial through-traffic restriction on:

• Catharine Place between its junction with Margaret's Buildings and River Street Mews;

• A no entry into Gay Street from its junction with George Street; supplemented by a left-turn only onto George Street from Gay Street (preventing southbound vehicles from travelling straight on to Queens Square).

• A through-traffic restriction in Winifred's Lane; supplemented by a no- right turn into Sion Hill from the northern end of Cavendish Road.

(3) To note the intention to proceed at pace with the implementation of the trials as soon as these decisions and the subsequent ETRO's have been confirmed.

(4) To note that the total grant award from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority will be £736k for five proposed ETRO schemes mentioned in para 1.2 of the report.

(5) To delegate approval to the Director of Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the s151 officer, to accept the grant from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority when it is provided and specifically approve an increase to the capital budget for Liveable Neighbourhoods by £311.1k for this decision. Until this point, the incurred costs will be met with funds earmarked from the Council's own local match contribution.

Wards affected: Kingsmead; Lansdown
Lead officer: Cathryn Brown, Tom Foster

Liveable Neighbourhoods: A through-traffic restriction on Sydney Road

To seek permission to trial a through-traffic restriction using an Experimental Traffic Order (ETRO) on Sydney Road at its junction with New Sydney Place.

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Council Priorities and Delivery
Decision published: 02/02/2024
Effective from: 10/02/2024

Decision:
(1) To note the support identified in New Sydney Place and Sydney Road Co-development Workshop during the Liveable Neighbourhood co- design process which identified a need to reduce speeding through- traffic on Sydney Road.

(2) To use an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) to proceed with the implementation of a trial through-traffic restriction on Sydney Road at its junction with New Sydney Place.

(3) To note the intention to proceed at pace with the implementation of the trial as soon as this decision and the subsequent ETRO have been made.

(4) To note that the total grant award from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority will be £736k for five proposed ETRO schemes mentioned in para 1.2.

(5) To delegate approval to the Director of Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the s151 officer, to accept the grant from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority when it is provided and specifically approve an increase to the capital budget for Liveable Neighbourhoods by £306.3k for this decision. Until this point, the incurred costs will be met with funds earmarked from the Council's own local match contribution.

Wards affected: Bathwick;
Lead officer: Cathryn Brown, Tom Foster

Liveable Neighbourhoods: Formalisation of a one-way in Charmouth Road, Lyme Road and Lyme Gardens

To seek permission for the formalisation of a one-way in Charmouth Road, Lyme Road and Lyme Gardens using an Experimental Traffic Order (ETRO)

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Highways
Decision published: 02/02/2024
Effective from: 10/02/2024

Decision:
(1) To note the support identified in the Lyme Road and Charmouth Road Area Co-development Workshop during the Liveable Neighbourhood co-design process, which suggested the need to reduce congestion by formalising the one-way loop around Charmouth Road, Lyme Road and Lyme Gardens.

(2) To use an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) to proceed with the implementation of a trial one-way loop around Charmouth Road, Lyme Road and Lyme Gardens.

(3) To note the intention to proceed at pace with the implementation of the trial as soon as this decision and the subsequent ETRO have been made.

(4) Note that the total grant award from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority will be £736k for five proposed ETRO schemes mentioned in para 1.2.

(5) To delegate approval to the Director of Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the s151 officer, to accept the grant from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority when it is provided and specifically approve an increase to the

capital budget for Liveable Neighbourhoods by £118.2k for this decision. Until this point, the incurred costs will be met with funds earmarked from the Council's own local match contribution.

Wards affected: Newbridge;
Lead officer: Cathryn Brown, Tom Foster

Liveable Neighbourhoods: Southlands Traffic Regulation Order

To make a final decision on whether to make the trials permanent.

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Highways
Decision published: 26/01/2024
Decision called in: 01/02/2024
Call-in dismissed: 19/02/24
Effective from: 19/02/2024

Decision:
(1) To note the information provided in the attached appendices relating to the public responses and traffic and air quality monitoring and, in particular, Appendix E: Summary of Key Outcomes.

(2) Based upon the above information, to confirm support to make the scheme permanent as soon as possible. This will be reflected within the formal statutory ETRO decision-making process, noting that the final sign-off is via a delegated decision made by the Director of Place Management within which the Cabinet Member and ward members will have the opportunity to give formal comment.

(3) To delegate to the Director of Sustainable Communities, Director of Place Management and s.151 officer to release funding so that the process for the ETRO decision-making can be initiated from the Council's own match funded contribution. In doing so, approve an increase to the capital budget for Liveable Neighbourhoods by £13.7k. The incurred costs will be met with funds from the Council's City Regional Sustainable Transport Scheme (CRSTS) local match contribution.

(4) To delegate to the Director of Sustainable Communities, Director of Place Management and s.151 officer to allow funds to be released from the Mayoral Combined Authority CRSTS grant to install infrastructure to make the scheme permanent.

Wards affected: Weston
Lead officer: Cathryn Brown, Tom Foster

Liveable Neighbourhoods: Church Street Traffic Regulation Order

To make a final decision on the through traffic restriction.

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Highways
Decision published: 26/01/2024
Effective from: 03/02/2024

Decision:
(1) To note the information provided in the attached appendices relating to the public responses and traffic and air quality monitoring and, in particular, Appendix E: Summary of Key Outcomes.

(2) Based upon the above information, to confirm support to make the scheme permanent as soon as possible. This will be reflected within the formal statutory ETRO decision-making process, noting that the final sign-off is via a delegated decision made by the Director of Place Management within which the Cabinet member and ward members will have the opportunity to give formal comment.

(3) To delegate to the Director of Sustainable Communities, Director of Place Management and s.151 officer to release funding so that the process for the ETRO decision-making can be initiated from the Council's own match funded contribution. In doing so, approve an increase to the capital budget for Liveable Neighbourhoods by £13.7k. The incurred costs will be met with funds from the Council's City Regional Sustainable Transport Scheme (CRSTS) local match contribution.

(4) To delegate to the Director of Sustainable Communities, Director of Place Management and s.151 officer to allow funds to be released from the Mayoral Combined Authority CRSTS grant to install infrastructure to make the scheme permanent.

Wards affected: Widcombe & Lyncombe
Lead officer: Cathryn Brown, Tom Foster

Liveable Neighbourhoods: Queen Charlton Lane Traffic Regulation Order

To make a final decision on the through traffic restriction.

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Highways
Decision published: 26/01/2024
Effective from: 03/02/2024

Decision:
(1) To note the information provided in the attached appendices relating to the public response and traffic and air quality monitoring and, in particular, Appendix D: Summary of Key Outcomes.

(2) Based upon the above information, to confirm support to make the scheme permanent as soon as possible. This will be reflected within the formal statutory ETRO decision-making process, noting that the final sign-off is via a delegated decision made by the Director of Place Management within which the Cabinet member and ward members will have the opportunity to give formal comment.

(3) To delegate to the Director of Sustainable Communities, Director of Place Management and S151 Officer to release funding so that the process for the ETRO decision-making can be initiated from the Council's own match funded contribution. In doing so, to approve an increase to the capital budget for Liveable Neighbourhoods by £13.7k. The incurred costs will be met with funds from the Council's City Regional Sustainable Transport Scheme (CRSTS) local match contribution.

(4) To delegate to the Director of Sustainable Communities, Director of Place Management and S151 Officer to allow funds to be released from the Mayoral Combined Authority CRSTS grant to install infrastructure to make the scheme permanent.

Wards affected: Saltford
Lead officer: Cathryn Brown, Tom Foster

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Bath & North East Somerset Council		
DECISION MAKER:	**Cabinet**	
DECISION DATE:	**7 March 2024**	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: E 3517
TITLE:	**Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan**	
WARD:	Radstock	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: **Appendix 1:** Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan (Feb 2024) **Appendix 2:** Consultation Reports (Appendix 2a, 2b and 2c)		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 B&NES Council obtained grant funding from the West of England Combined Authority Housing Regeneration Enabling Fund to prepare a Regeneration Action Plan for Radstock Town Centre working in partnership with Radstock Town Council.

1.2 Working with Radstock Town Council and local stakeholders, a Regeneration Action Plan (**Appendix 1**) has been developed for Radstock town centre. The plan identifies opportunities, concepts and project ideas to underpin funding and grant applications for project delivery. It is guided by the existing Local Plan and feeds into the new Local Plan that is being developed.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **The Cabinet is asked;**

To endorse the Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan (**Appendix 1**) as a basis for decision making and funding bids in order to seek to deliver the priority projects identified.

3 THE REPORT

RADSTOCK TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION ACTION PLAN

3.1 The West of England Combined Authority Housing Regeneration Enabling Fund has provided funding for the Council to prepare a regeneration action plan and associated delivery plan for Radstock Town Centre, working in partnership Radstock Town Council, landowners and stakeholders. This will facilitate delivery and access to further funding to support the infrastructure needs arising in communities including in response to sustainable and inclusive growth.

3.2 Engagement took place in Autumn 2022 and February & November 2023 and feedback from this has informed the priority projects that have been taken forward in the action plan, consultation feedback is summarised in **Appendix 2**.

3.3 The Action Plan has full support of Radstock Town Council and was approved at their Council meeting on 18th December 2023. It was requested that a foreword was be added to set the context, which has now been included.

3.4 Subject to funding being secured, the following projects have been identified to support the regeneration of Radstock Town Centre:

Project Name	**Details**
Community Hub	Supporting Radstock Town Council to access funding to acquire and develop Trinity Methodist Church as a community hub (or identification of another location if the acquisition does not go ahead).
Town Centre Cultural Programme	As part of the work to date, a grant was secured by B&NES to fund a 2-year Cultural Programme in the Town Centre. A Programme Co-ordinator was appointed by Radstock Town Council in September 2023. The programme focuses on arts and community events, engagement, participation, skills, and training; with the aim of celebrating Radstock's cultural identity and bringing activities into the town centre.
Outdoor Event Space	Potential spaces for outdoor events have been identified and include Tom Huyton Park , Norton Radstock Greenway, The Wheel & Miners Memorial Garden, Fortescue Road, Ludlow's Court, The Street andSt Nicholas Church Field. There is potential for upgrades and improvements to these spaces subject to funding.
Town Centre redevelopment sites	Encouraging redevelopment, reuse and repurposing of brownfield sites working with their owners, including the Library & Children's Centre, Brunel Shed, Leigh House, St Nicholas Old School, Old Print Works, Fortescue Road 60's Shops & St Nicolas Church Rooms. A lease has been signed for use of the Old Print Works as an new arts and creative space which has been established with Little Lost Robot CIC working with Bath Spa University. The Old Print Works project has already received Arts Council England grant funding and support from a Vacant Unit grant from WECA.
Tree Planting	Planting trees in Radstock town centre as part of a wider project being carried out by Bath & North East Somerset Council (9 street trees now funded and to be planted in 2024).
Green & Blue Space Improvements	Working with the Environment Team and Somer Valley revisited, spaces within the town centre could be improved to benefit nature and the community, including Miners Pool, St Nicholas churchyard & Wellow Brook habitat.

	An initial two funding bids have been successful and improvements to Tom Huyton Park were delivered in 2023.
Energy Efficiency Improvements & Renewable Energy	Site improvements that take place in Radstock will also be encouraged to incorporate retrofitting and renewable energy solutions.
Wayfinding, Streetscape Improvements & Parking	A grant application has been submitted by RTC with support from the Regeneration for improved wayfinding in the town centre (pending decision). Other funding will be sought for further improvements. Current parking provision was an issue raised in the consultations and discussion is taking place with the Parking Team to investigate improvements can be made.
Bringing Vacant Properties back into use	Re-occupation and temporary use of vacant units will be progressed where possible, and grant funding is already in place to support the creative re-use of the Old Print Works site as a result of this work.
Improve Town centre Offer	Funding secured from the UK Government's Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) Changing Places Fund for an accessible toilet that was installed in Tom Huyton Park in November 2023. This was a joint bid between B&NES Council and RTC. Radstock Town Council is also progressing the provision of a cafe concession in Tom Huyton Park and has received expressions of interest from local businesses. As part of this project, the Regeneration Team has worked with the Planning Dept. and RTC to update the Radstock Conservation Area Appraisal, this is now in draft and will help protect and enhance the special character of the town.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The Council's **Corporate Strategy 2023 – 2027** – The overriding purpose of the Strategy is to improve people's lives and the two core policies that shape everything that the Council does are tackling the climate and ecological emergency and giving people a bigger say. Improvements to Radstock Town Centre will improve the economy and people's lives and deliver against the strategy priorities of creating clean, safe & vibrant neighbourhoods, healthy lives & places and cultural life.

4.2 The **Economic Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset 2024-2034** sets out a new approach to local economic development and prioritises meeting the needs of residents and places whilst reducing impacts on the natural resources and environment. The Radstock Regeneration Action Plan delivers against the stronger places theme of the Economic Strategy, which aims to enable all people and places to share in prosperity and promoting place-based strengths to drive economic growth in urban centres and rural areas.

4.3 The **Local Plan** highlights that Radstock town centre hosts a range of services which are used by local people and residents from the surrounding villages. The placemaking

principles for Radstock include an aim to protect and enhance heritage assets. The built form should retain its historical and architectural value and any redevelopment should retain this character.

4.4 With respect to buildings in a conservation area, the Council has a statutory requirement under Section 72(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that conservation area.

4.5 The **One Shared Vision** sets out the 2030 Renewal Vision for Bath with North East Somerset (B&NES). An initial Framework for Action was developed based around the themes of a Fair, Green, Creative and Connected B&NES. The vision supports the focus on Town Centre vitality and encourages local connectivity and hubs for remote working and learning..

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 The cost to the Council is Regeneration team officer time to prepare and design the Action Plan and funding bids. In addition, some specific small scale items of technical work were undertaken by consultants. All project costs are recovered from the WECA HREF grant as part of the Regeneration Action Plan project.

5.2 The process has also facilitated £100k revenue grant funding from UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Funding) for a Radstock Cultural Programme, including £10k for Radstock museum and approved capital budget for 2023/24 onwards for Radstock Regeneration which includes:

(1) £300k Community Infrastructure Levy funding (includes £100k re-assigned to the Community Hub)

(2) £150,245 UKSPF grant (excludes £100k re-assigned from the Community Hub)

(3) £54.5k DLUHC grant for the accessible toilet in Tom Huyton Park

(4) £50k funded by third-party contribution to support regeneration projects

5.3 There have also been successful Arts Council England, WECA and other bids made by Radstock Town Council and a number of joint funding bids are in progress.

5.4 Further funding will be sought to further develop the projects that have been identified through additional funding bids

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 EqIA will be undertaken as projects move into development for example where there are opportunities to improve accessibility as part of a design process (for example significant work has already been undertaken to create an at grade accessible entrance into the Trinity centre).

7.2 The Changing Places Toilet provision in Tom Huyton Park will have a positive impact for people with disabilities and their families and carers. It will allow more people to visit Radstock and enjoy the town centre and its amenities.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 Any site redevelopment would need to consider the stated climate and nature emergency objectives set out in the Corporate Strategy. There is also a specific renewable energy and retrofit workstream in the Action Plan.

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 Radstock Town Council and Ward Councillors are supportive of the Radstock Regeneration Action Plan and the proposals in this report.

9.2 Engagement on the Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan took place in September and October 2022 and feedback has informed this process. Further consultation on priority projects and the action plan contents took place in February & November 2023.

Contacts	Simon Martin – Director of Capital & Housing Delivery Cleo Newcombe-Jones – Regeneration Manager Caroline Lightfoot - Senior Development Officer, Regeneration Team
Background papers	Radstock Town Council Decision to Approve the Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan (18th December 2023) https://www.radstock-tc.gov.uk/images/2312_December_Full_Council_Minutes.pdf Radstock Regeneration Single Member Decision (2023) https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=36390&PlanId=888&RPID=66412345
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan

February 2024

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

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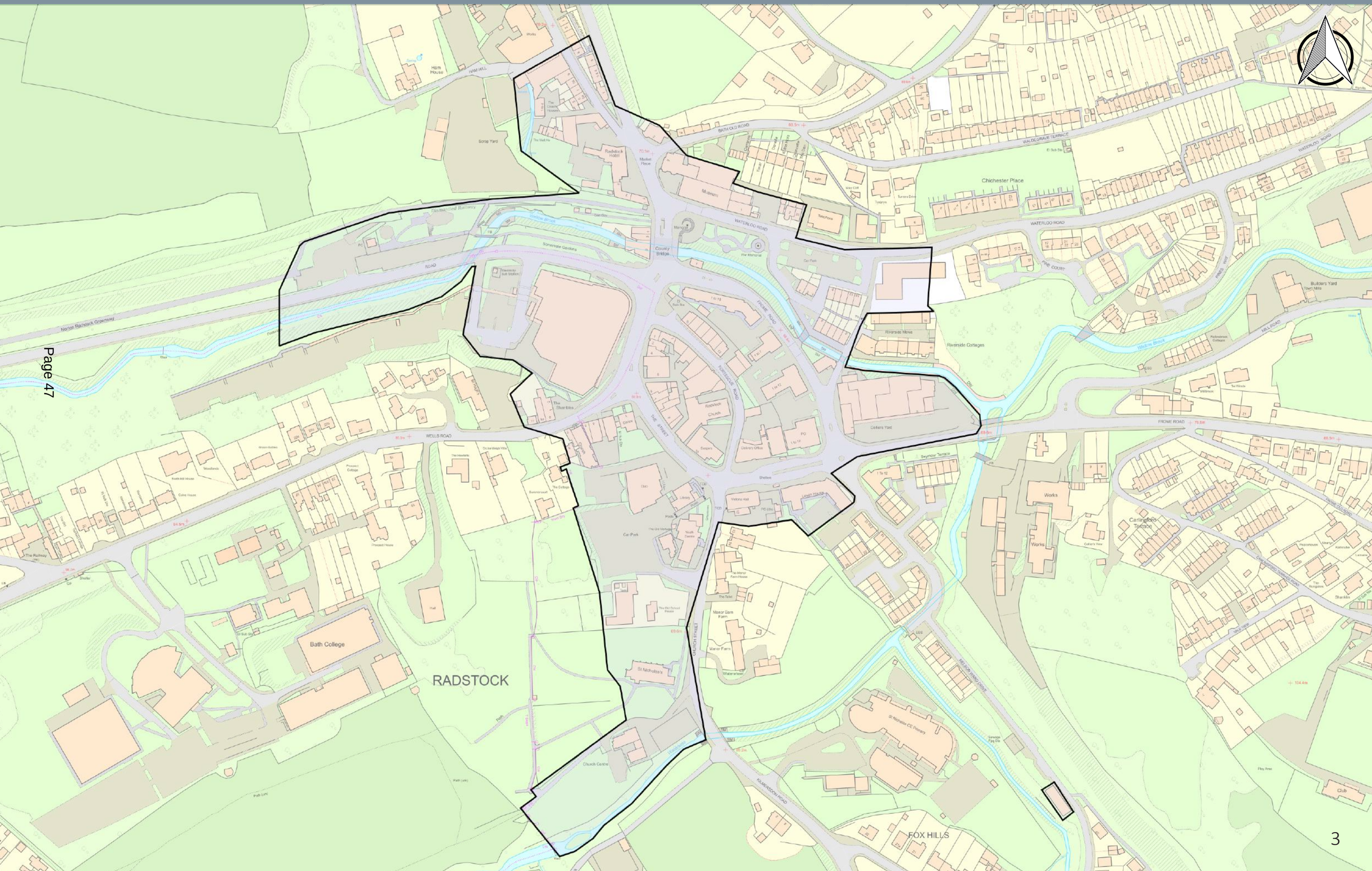
Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan Area

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives



Foreword

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

We are delighted to introduce the Radstock Regeneration Action Plan; a plan for regenerating Radstock Town Centre. Radstock is a town with a unique heritage, attractive green spaces and local facilities which serve a wide rural area. There is significant potential for increasing the vibrancy of the town centre and attracting more visitors and investment. The action plan highlights these strengths and shows areas and opportunities for improvement.

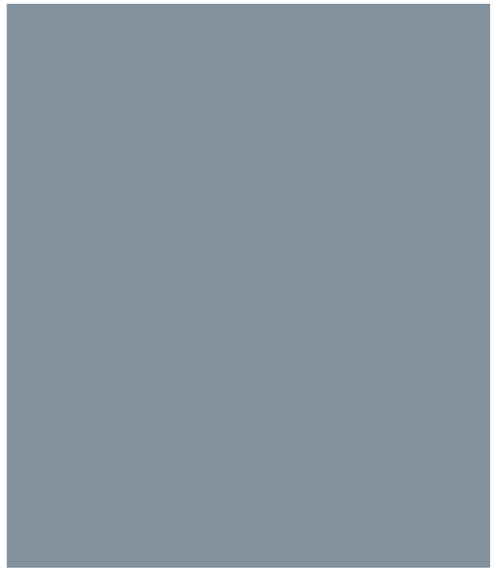
This action plan has been developed as a partnership between Radstock Town Council and Bath & North East Somerset Council. It aims to create a thriving town centre bringing vacant buildings back into use. We have identified the following ten priority projects;

- Provision of additional community space in the town centre;
- Development of a cultural programme;
- Outdoor events;
- Improvements to sites including the Old Printworks repurposed for arts and indoor events;
- Tree planting;
- Improvement to green spaces and waterways;
- Encourage the use of renewable energy;
- New wayfinding & improvements to streets and public spaces;
- Bringing vacant and derelict properties back into use
- Improvements to the town centre offer.

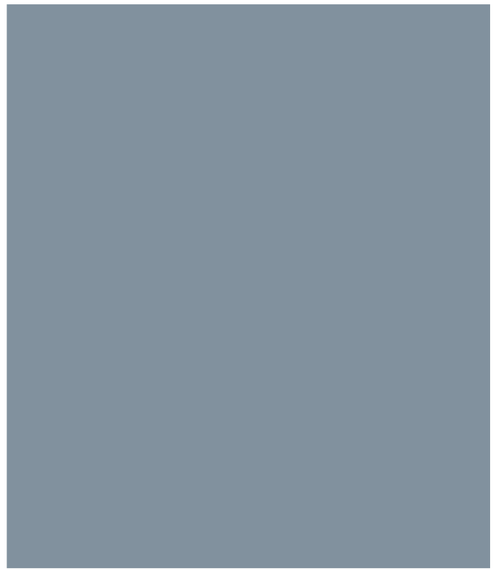
It will form a basis for funding bids and help to prioritise town centre projects that would benefit the community and make Radstock a more varied and welcoming place. The priority projects were informed by feedback from public consultation that took place during 2022-2023. The partnership has already secured £500,000 investment in the town centre in its initial two years.

We aim to deliver as many of the priority projects as we can and have high ambitions, the delivery of the projects will rely on collective action to secure funding and take forward these initiatives. There is more detailed work to be done for all of the projects, the action plan presents early ideas.

This is the start of a process to improve Radstock town centre for the future, and we are excited to see this next chapter unfold. We would like to thank all of those who engaged so positively in this work so far and we thank everyone involved in the process of creating this action plan.



Councillor Paul Roper
Cabinet Member for Economic and Cultural Sustainable Development



Councillor Chris Dando
Mayor and Chairman, Radstock Town Council

Introduction

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

In 2022, Bath and North East Somerset Council obtained revenue funding from the West of England Combined Authority Housing Regeneration Enabling Fund to prepare delivery plans working in partnership with landowners and stakeholders. This has facilitated delivery and access to funding to support the infrastructure needs arising in communities including in response to strategic growth.

The Radstock Regeneration Action Plan has been developed following a scoping exercise and engagement which took place in 2022 & 2023. Housing and employment growth planned for the town and surrounding area means that there will be more reliance on the town centre for facilities, services, employment and entertainment. This links with the 15 minute neighbourhoods approach where local service centres are key nodes and accessible centres for large residential populations.

The Action Plan has been guided by the existing Local Plan and feeds into the development of the new Local Plan. Radstock is a designated town centre in the B&NES Local Plan and is a focal area for the community in terms of facilities, services, employment and entertainment.

The Radstock, focus will be on improvements to the vitality and viability of the Town Centre. There are opportunities to bring vacant buildings back into use, assist businesses & community organisations to find new premises to meet their needs and place branding. The plan will also focus on high street renewal activities such as community & cultural events and markets, improving the skills of the local workforce, improving town centre public realm, heritage assets, facilities, infrastructure & making Radstock a healthy neighbourhood. There is also potential for increased tourism given the town's heritage and encouragement of use of sustainable travel modes. The approach provides the framework to link green infrastructure & existing regeneration programmes.

The place we live has a large impact on our health and wellbeing. From the quality of housing we live in to our access to green space, every part of a neighbourhood can impact our health and happiness. This can be a big driver in health inequalities, with some people able to have access to better quality housing, more green space, and less traffic congestion for example, whilst people on lower incomes generally experience more overcrowding, lower quality housing, worse air and noise pollution, and more limited access to green space.

Working with key stakeholders including Radstock Town Council, businesses and the community, the Regeneration Action Plan identifies opportunities, develops a programme of projects and includes baseline work to secure funding. Projects will be developed further, methods of delivery identified and funding applications drawn up during the latter part of 2023. Project delivery will take place from mid-2024 onwards.

About Radstock

Radstock is located two miles east of the town of Midsomer Norton, 9 miles south-west of the city of Bath, 16 miles south of Bristol, and 117 miles west of London.

Radstock Town Centre provides a focus for the surrounding communities and villages with its local retail offer, job provision and community facilities. It is also an attractive place to visit with a unique mining heritage and rich rural environment sitting directly on National Cycle Route.

The town is located on the northern edge of the Mendip Hills in the Wellow Brook valley in the former coalfields of north Somerset. One of the unique features of Radstock is the way the open countryside comes close to the heart of the town.

Particular strengths of the centre include its rich heritage. The most significant element is the Radstock Conservation Area and its well-preserved mining past. It has linkages with the National and local cycle network, a diverse range of services and a varied retail offer and a strong, high quality education sector across the age ranges including Bath College Somer Valley Campus in nearby Westfield and a strong network of established community groups.

Car is the main means of travelling to work for most residents in the Somer Valley. In contrast to the high levels of car use, relatively few residents travel to work by bus. This can be attributed to a lack of regular services operating at times that enable workers to travel but which may also be linked to affordability and locations of work. Radstock has a higher level of bus use than much of the Somer Valley.

2021 Census Data

The Census 2021 took place during a period of rapid change. The labour market data reflects a situation when many more people than at the time of the 2011 Census were working from home or on furlough.

The 2021 Census shows that Radstock has a population of 6149 living in 2552 Households.

81.8% of Radstock residents reported their health as being ‘good’ or ‘very good’ in the 2021 census. This was below the B&NES average of 84.6%, coming 30th out of the 33 B&NES electoral wards.

Radstock has the 2nd highest level of disability in B&NES, with 19.6% of residents reporting they have a long-term condition that impacts their day-to-day activities either ‘a little’ or ‘a lot’. The B&NES average is 16.4%. Radstock has the 3rd highest number of residents providing unpaid care each week, with 9.8% of Radstock residents doing so, compared to 8.1% across B&NES.

The following tables show qualifications and occupations held by Radstock residents, economic activity, mode of transport and distance travelled to work and a break down of industry sectors.

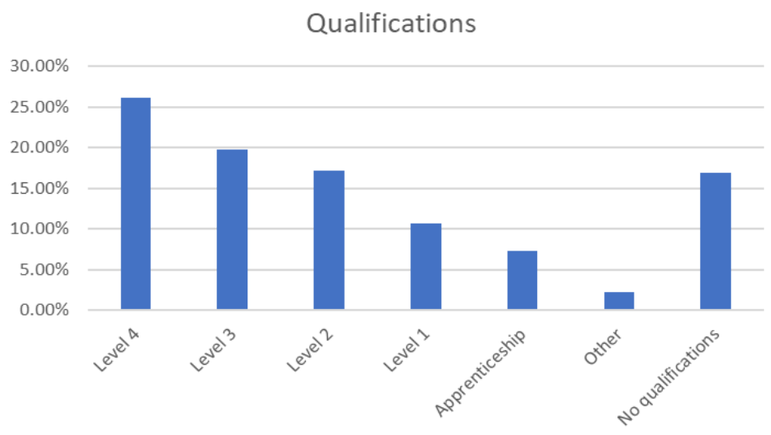
National Child Measurement 2022

Radstock has the 5th highest level of obesity in year 6 pupils in B&NES, with 19.5% of year 6 pupils in Radstock being obese or severely obese, compared to 15.7% in B&NES.

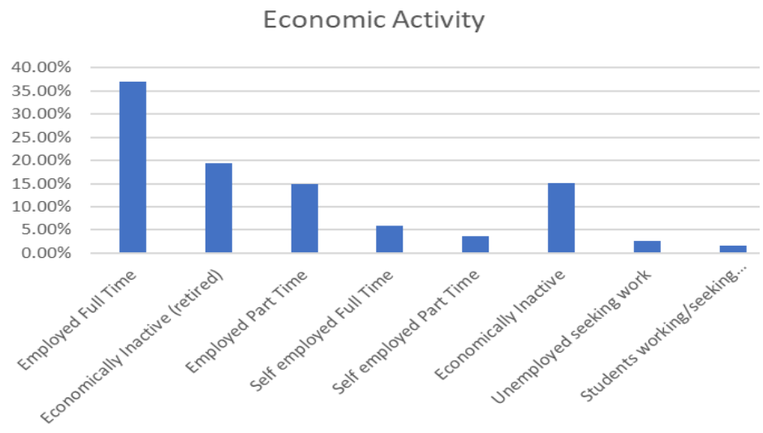
About Radstock

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

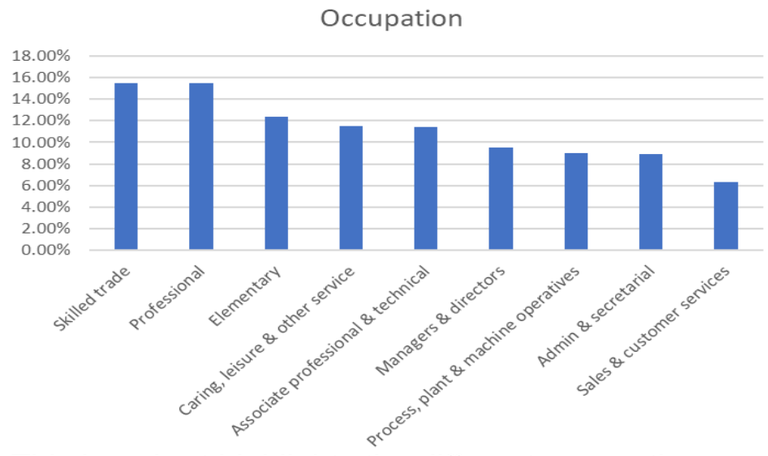
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives



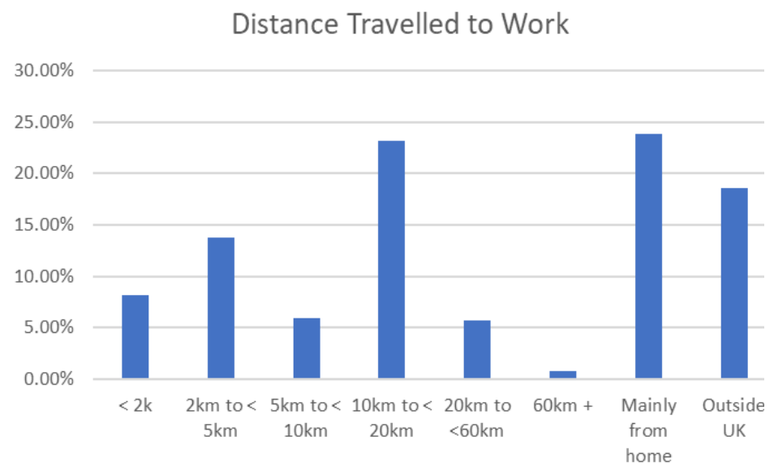
This bar chart highlights the qualifications held by Radstock residents. Approximately, 26% of residents have achieved a Level 4 qualification. In comparrison, around 17% of residents having no qualifications.



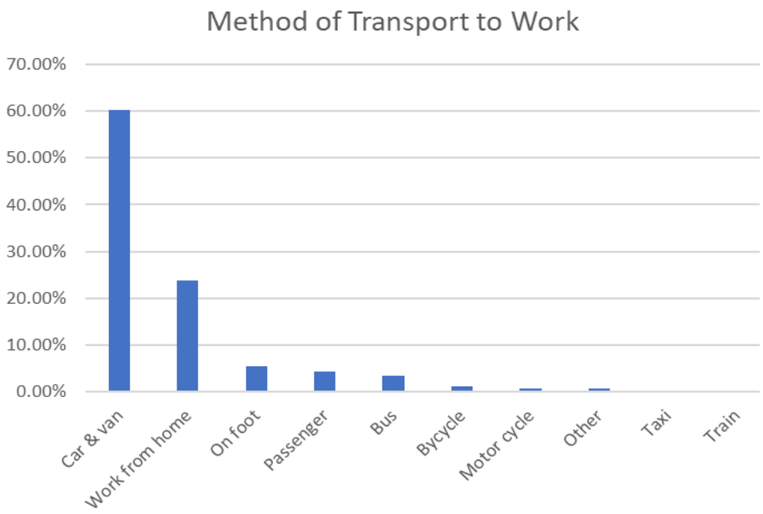
This bar chart highlights the different levels of economic activity of residents. Over half of all residents in Radstock are economically active. With less than 5% being unemployed and seeking work.



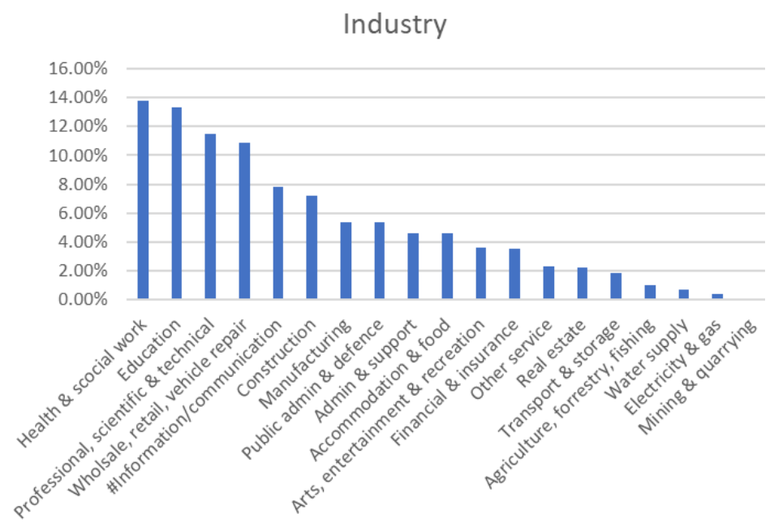
This bar chart highlights the different occupation types of residents.



The bar chart highlights the distance residents travel to work. It identified the largest proportion of residents, around 24% work from home. While approximately 23% of those travelling to work, travel 10 - 20 km. Additionally, approximately 18 % of travel outside the UK.



The bar chart highlights the method of transport taken to work by residents. The majority of residents (approximately 80%) drive a car or van to work. In comparrison to 0% of residents taking a taxi or train to work.



The bar chart highlights the different industries residents work in. This identifies a varied range of industries residents were a part of. The largest proportion of around 13% were involved in health and social work.

Radstock Location Plan

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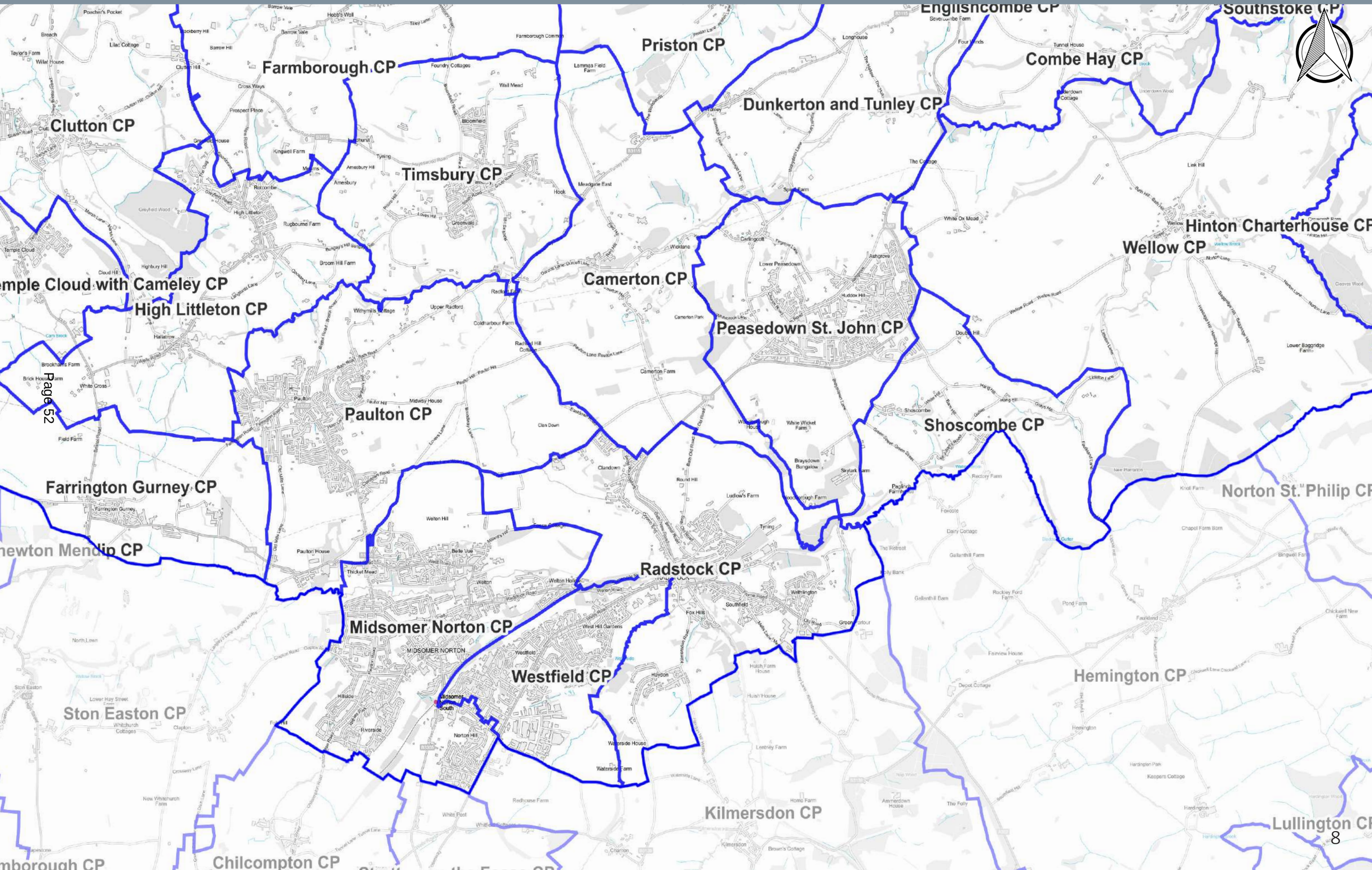

Background to Radstock

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B&NES Land ownership plan - Radstock

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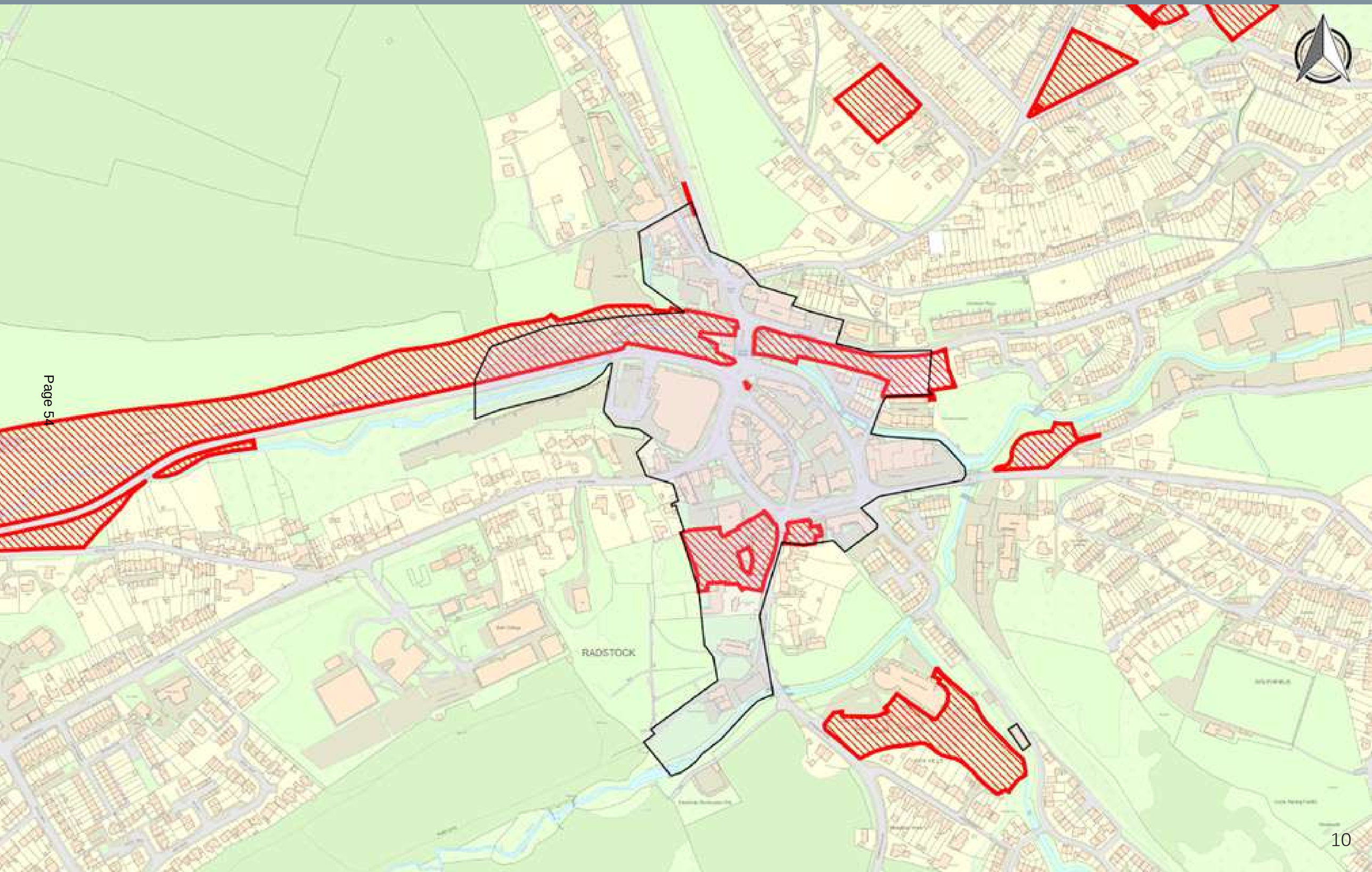

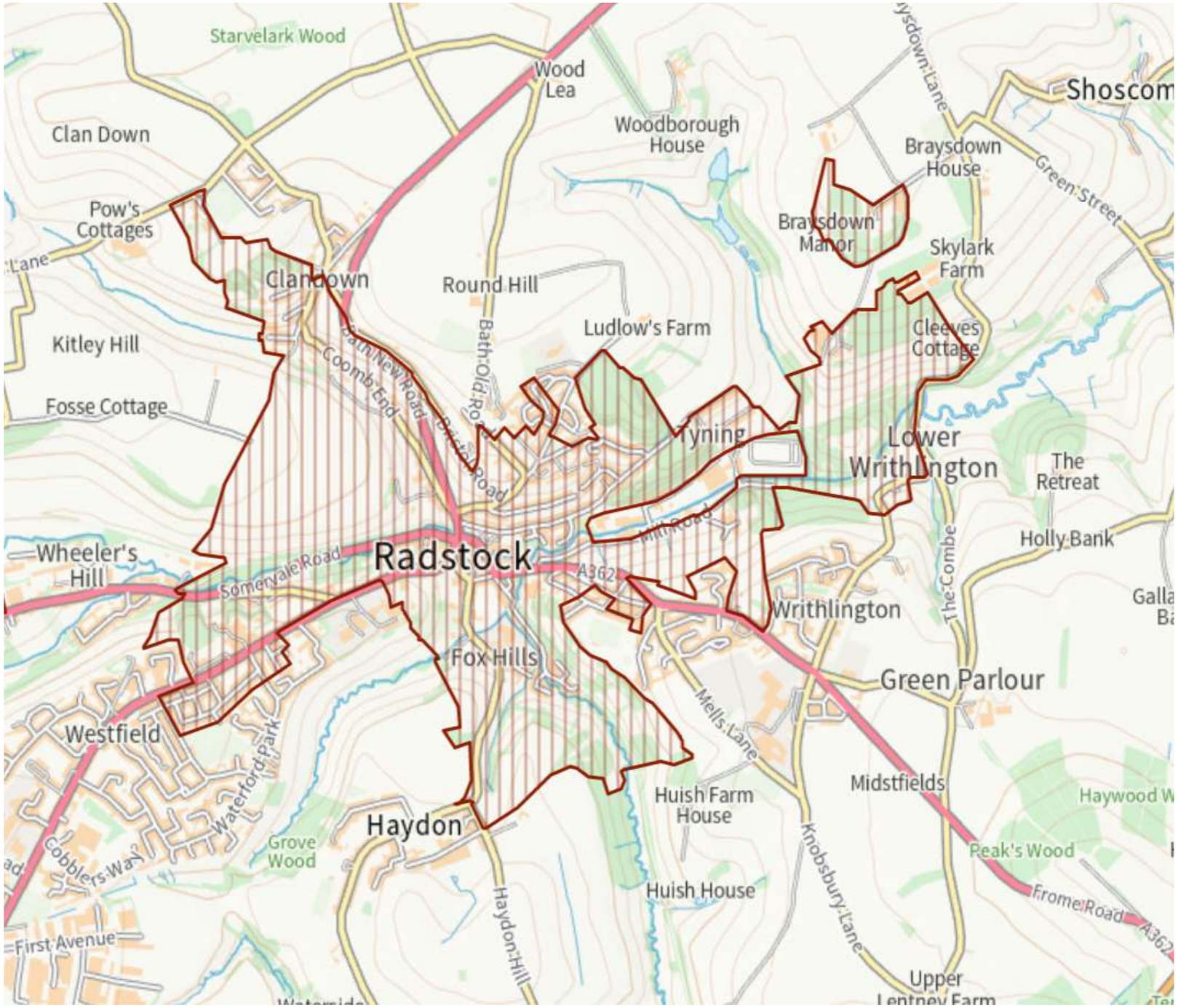
Starvelark Wood
Wood Lea
Clan Down
Woodborough House
Braysdown House
Shoscom
Green Street
Pow's Cottages
Braysdown Manor
Skylark Farm
Clandown
Round Hill
Ludlow's Farm
Kitley Hill
Cleeves Cottage
Fosse Cottage
Tyning
Lower Writhlington
The Retreat
Holly Bank
Wheeler's Hill
Radstock
Somervale Road
A362
Writhlington
The Combe
Fox Hills
Green Parlour
Westfield
Waterford Park
Mells Lane
Midstfields
Huish Farm House
Haywood W
Haydon
Grove Wood
Cobblers Way
Peak's Wood
Huish House
Knobsbury Lane
Frome Road
First Avenue
Haydon Hill
Upper Lentney Farm

Radstock Conservation Area & Heritage

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Radstock town centre encompassing virtually the whole town was designated a conservation area in 1999. Eight distinct character areas were identified in an appraisal carried out in that year. Each of the areas were considered to hold special interest derived from their 'almost unique character' which includes areas of open landscape, industrial archaeology, examples of planned workers' dwellings and individual historic buildings built in and around the town, the collieries, railways, and municipal buildings.

There remain a considerable number of railway and mining related structures and buildings in place despite a significant time lapse since the stations and collieries closed. Radstock West (Bristol & North Somerset Railway) closed in 1959 and Radstock North (Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway) closed to passengers in March 1966 and to goods after the last coal from the Somerset Coalfield was extracted from Writhlington Colliery on the 28th September 1973. Wide-scale removal of redundant railway infrastructure and buildings which cleared a large linear housing site on the south of Radstock, that was developed with a mix of two and three-storey houses and flats in the mid 2000s.

Selected buildings and structures have been identified as being worthy of retention which resulted in some becoming isolated, out of context and subsumed by new development. Nevertheless, Radstock retains a high level of historic buildings and structures connected to its industrial past, and in the town centre historic buildings of heritage value both nationally and locally designated. Of particular note is the Market Hall in use as Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum; Victoria Hall; several buildings associated with Radstock Co-operative Society; Trinity Methodist Church and a row of shops on Fortescue Road, all of which were built over a 50-year period.

The layout of the town, initially determined by an ancient road pattern with Radstock as a focal point was disrupted, firstly by theintroduction of canals in the early 19th century, and later by railways, vital to the transportation of coal from local mines. Although the railways were late to develop in the area, in the second half of the 19th century Radstock became an important junction of the Somerset & Dorset Railway and the Bristol & North Somerset Railway, both of which passed through the centre of town creating a double level crossing that caused interminable delays for road users; two train stations and a plethora of associated train sheds, water towers and wagon works.

Radstock's industrial past is integral to the town's development shaping the physical relationships between work, home, and leisure activities that converge around a centre dominated and divided by competing transport networks.

The townscape once punctuated by tall industrial chimneys and pit headgear is now an unintentional assembly of disparate elements – proudly built late 19th century public buildings, chapels, hotels, worker's terraces, and shops interspersed with 20th and 21st century development situated to replace railway and mining infrastructure that had fallen out of use by the 1970s.

The medieval settlement of Radstock was arranged around St. Nicholas Church with a market area and village cross positioned at the junction of Church Street and The Street. Large private residences like the 18th century Radstock House (now Working Men's Club) and The Rectory had extensive grounds situated close to the centre sustaining a rural feel to the town that is maintained today by the creation of public parks and green spaces along Wellow Brook and at the rear of the Library and Community Hub. The focus of the town shifted in the 19th century from the church, to the train stations, hotels, and market hall on the north west.

Several developments and new road layouts in the late 19th century were named after Radstock's principal land and colliery owner Countess Waldegrave and her last husband, Lord Carlingford leaving an important legacy of ownership and patronage. Carlingford Villas, Waldegrave Terrace, Waldegrave Hotel (Radstock Hotel) are obvious examples, but Fortescue Road was also named after Lord Carlingford, his full name being Chichester Samuel Parkinson-Fortescue.

As the major landowner in Radstock the Trustees of the late Frances Countess Waldegrave's Radstock Collieries were responsible for building or granting leases for many of the town's buildings, and consequently exercising a degree of control over what was built and what they looked like leading to a relatively unified appearance. The use of local materials was prevalent, and the townspeople built in a confidentcand aesthetically pleasing manner resulting in visual coherence derived from the architectural style, scale, and materials of buildings.

Most of the later historic buildings are built in a local white lias stone, squared and laid in regular courses with fine decorative details and ashlar dressings in an oolitic limestone. Terraces of shops and houses, and public houses and hotels are proudly embellished with carved limestone plaques and shields with dates of construction and carvings associated with their use like the bell on the side elevation of the former Bell Inn, rebuilt by the Coombs family of brewers in the 1880s with the initials G.C. for George Coombs carved on the bell.

The ornate decorative style of these buildings is exemplified by the curved terrace of shops on Fortescue Road, a purpose-built development, completed in 1897 to face the train station. Other standout developments from this period include Victoria Hall, originally built as a Working Men's Institute in 1866 by Lord Carlingford, and renamed to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The same year that the Market Hall was built by George Coombs replacing a hutted market on the same ground. Close to the market was Coombs Brewery, built in brick with ashlar dressings in 1898. The ground floor of the brewery now consists of a row of shops.

Another influence on the built form of Radstock was the local Co-operative movement who built a number of buildings in the town including a bakery, a dairy with a high brick chimney and terraced housing for workers. The row of shops on Wells Hill and a detached building with a shop frontage on Frome Road are tangible evidence of this historic connection. A further, but less prosaic connection can be found in the Radco site which is currently being re-developed.

Historic maps of the town (OS 25" 1884) show a dispersed settlement separated by train tracks with no obvious centre. The building of the Fortescue Road shops and the imposing dual aspect Trinity Methodist Church filled in large undeveloped plots in the centre of town, completed 1897 and 1902 respectively – they continue to anchor the town centre though later development has not been successful in creating a coherent central focus to the area. The Street and Frome Road form a contiguous ring around the centre dissected by Fortescue Road. Victoria Hall, the Library and Community Hub and Radstock Working Men's Club, previously Radstock House (grade II), are located on the outer perimeter of the ring. Between Frome Road and Fortescue Road, former railway land has now been developed and laid out on the south side with linked modern three-storey residential developments with entrances and parking arranged around inner courts. Modern developments have adopted the same colour palette as their historic counterparts through the use of coloured render, reconstituted stone and stone facades.

Frome Road follows the course of Wellow Brook with several crossing points linking the north of the town with the south. At the junction with The Street the single-storey end section of the train station has been retained and is in use as a pavement café: a few mature trees and self-seeded shrubs edge the Brook and roadside; one of several remaining Radstock Co-operative shops appears isolated on the junction with Riverside Cottages, a no through route for cars that provides a link to pedestrian and cycle paths to the

north. On the north east a tiny former fire station sits back from the road, aptly reused as a domestic fire stove showroom it lies adjacent to an old timber merchant, Colliers Yard sited on the back edge of the pavement. This has recently been sub-divided and re-developed to provide several mixed-use retail and leisure units.

Parts of the original routes of the railways have been retained as public footpaths, as have the many former colliers' paths and narrow-gauge tramway routes and branch railways that led from the main railway lines to the collieries. These provide pedestrian routes within the town centre, and small pockets of land and cleared areas alongside paths and junctions have been landscaped creating an attractive seated area and location for the re-sited war memorial adjacent to Waterloo Road. Recent high-quality development in this area includes a new doctor's surgery and children's centre. To the south and east is a recent housing development on former railway land and a large industrial estate off Mill Road concentrates commercial activity to this part of the town.

Between each developed offshoot radiating out from the town are large areas of open landscape, wooded areas, playing fields, allotments and informal areas that provide a strong connection to the countryside. A feature of the town and its topography are the views across the sparsely wooded valleys, glimpses of undeveloped strips of land contrasting with the formality, and rigid lines of the historic terraces. At its core the town centre is informal, seemingly unplanned, yet containing some fine late 19th century buildings, and largely overlooked by passing traffic – the impact of transport infrastructure continuing to dominate the character and experience of Radstock.

Radstock Conservation Area Review

A review of the Radstock Conservation Area is underway which is looking at the existing boundaries and character areas to assess the changes that have taken place since it was first designated in March 1999. At that time the Conservation Area was divided into eight character areas defined by amongst other things the use of distinctive materials, scale and layout and the current and past uses of land.

Since then a significant amount of post-industrial development has taken place and some of the boundaries and character areas no longer make sense. Conservation area designation can be an effective planning tool in ensuring that new development does not harm the special character and interest of the area. The appraisal will allow us to identify areas of concern, consider new inclusions and make recommendations for future management of the Conservation Area.

Bath & North East Somerset Local Plan 2011 - 2029

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The Local Plan 2011-2029 comprises two separate Development Plan Documents: the Core Strategy (adopted July 2014) and the Place-making Plan (adopted July 2017) and puts in place a framework to guide development. The Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) was adopted on 19th January 2023 and forms part of the development plan.

The Somer Valley section of the Placemaking Plan sets out policies to guide development in Radstock. Core Strategy Policy SV3 provides the strategic planning policy for Radstock Town Centre. The centre is to provide a focus for the neighbouring communities and villages with its local retail offer, job provision and community facilities. It seeks to bring into use the under-used and vacant sites within the town centre, whilst enhancing the public realm, heritage assets and links to green infrastructure.

The vision for Radstock is:

- A place where the economic, social and environmental worth of the natural environment is fully recognised, valued and utilised within an enhanced, extended and more accessible green infrastructure network; where biodiversity value and ecological functionality is enhanced and managed; and where a proactive approach is taken towards reducing Radstock's carbon footprint;

- Radstock Town Centre will be a hub for health, wellbeing and social infrastructure, as well as improved local shops and premises for small business;

- A walkable town, making full use of Radstock's good access to the national cycleway network, and this along with the heritage legacy should provide a context for regeneration of the town. Pavements, cycleways and walkways designed to facilitate access other than by the private car;

- Regeneration of the town providing more employment opportunities, based upon its strengths: the setting of the town, its geology, industrial history and legacy, & the growing interest in the performing arts. A modern market town that remains distinctive, with a coherent, locally well-connected town centre with an extended and enhanced retail function, acting as a focal point for local communities, and with an improved public realm.

- The built form of the town will retain its historical and architectural value; new development will integrate these features and consider carefully materials appropriate to the locality and building style. Its setting, a mix of mainly wooded slag heaps, grazing and arable land to be preserved.

- The potential for tourism based on Radstock's attractive green infrastructure, mining heritage, cycle routes and attractive hinterland will be encouraged and promoted.

B&NES Somer Valley Local Plan policy map

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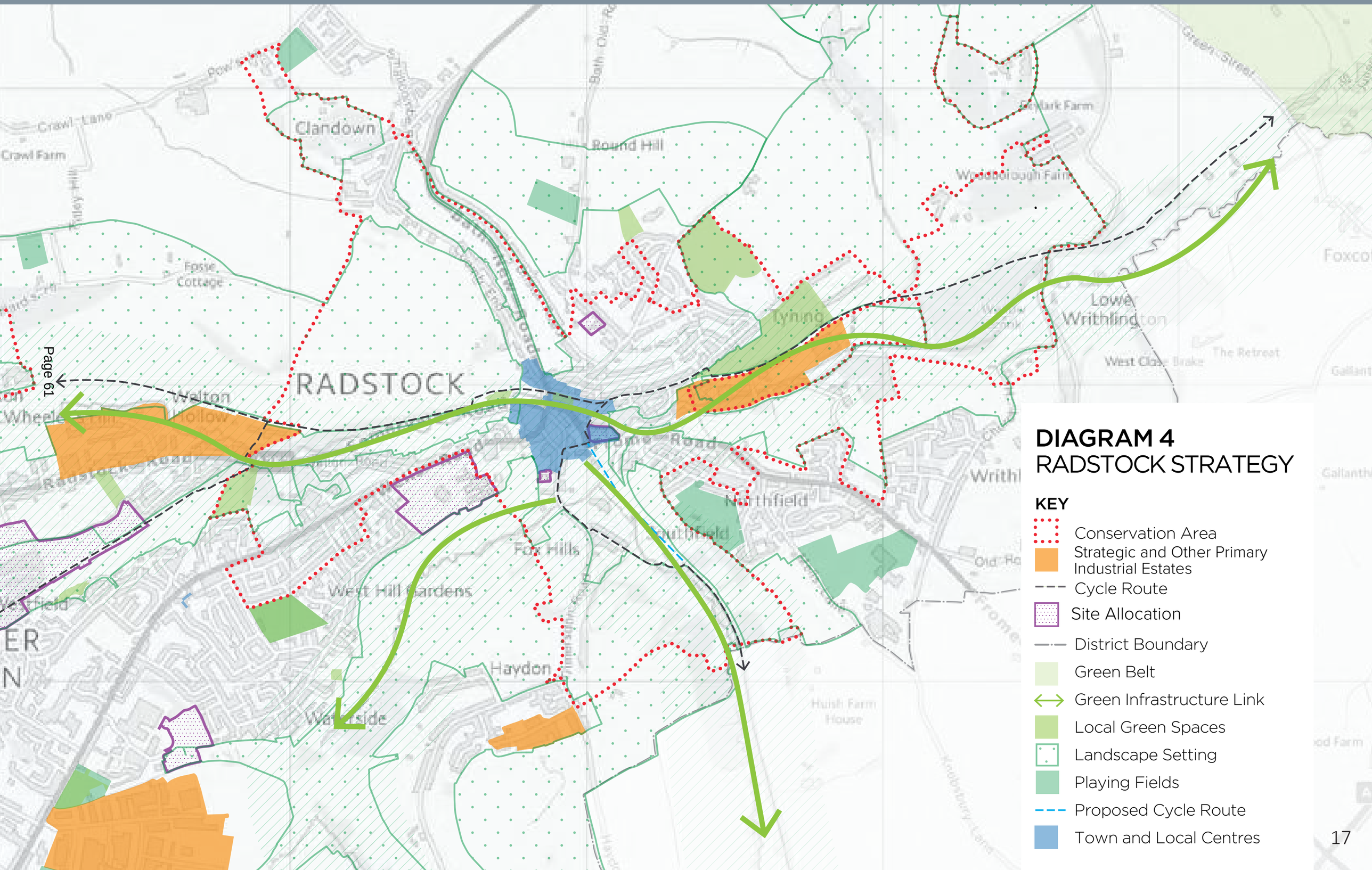

Challenges and Opportunities

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Project scoping was undertaken in the early part of 2022 and project ideas were put forward by B&NES Officers and Radstock Town Council. These project ideas were put forward during the engagement sessions that took place with businesses and members of the public in September & October 2022 and February 2023.

Issues facing the town centre include a highway network that compromises the pedestrian environment & sense of place, limited development opportunity sites, poor town centre connectivity and poor parking offer for those that need to use a car. There is also limited connectivity between villages and towns in the Somer Valley.

In Radstock, the focus will be on improvements to the vitality and viability of the Town Centre, in particular seeking to bring vacant and soon to be vacant buildings and shops back into active use and assisting community organisations in the town to find new premises to meet their needs.

There are also opportunities for place branding, high street renewal activities such as community & cultural events and markets, improving the skills of the local workforce and improving town centre public realm, heritage assets, facilities & infrastructure. There is also potential for increased tourism, creating new employment opportunities, given the towns heritage and encouragement of use of sustainable travel modes.

The following graphic was represented on a panel at the events and feedback was received which has informed the priority projects that are included in the Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan.

Project Scoping

A project scoping document was developed in 2022 through a process of baseline evidence gathering and engagement with B&NES officers & members which looks at the types of project areas that could be tested through the Action Plan.

Councillors and the Combined Authority were briefed verbally on the scoping document progress and involved in the press release that went out to publicise the engagement events.

This scoping document was the focus for the stakeholder & public engagement, the results of which have informed the development of the Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and Delivery Plan.

Stakeholder & Public Engagement 2022

Drop-in public engagement events were held in Radstock Library and on the street outside during Sept/Oct 2022 where stakeholders and members of the public were invited to comment on project areas that had been highlighted in the scoping exercise (green infrastructure, vibrant town centre, facilities & infrastructure, property, sites & skills).

An online survey was also available on the Town Council website between the 5th of September and the 14th of October 2022. Details of the engagement were published on the B&NES and Radstock Town Council websites. Display boards at the engagement events and the online survey invited stakeholders to provide feedback on project ideas, what might bring more people to Radstock, what uses and improvements would they like to see on vacant sites and if there were any other improvements they'd like to see in the project area.

People taking part in the engagement wanted to see more accessible green space in the town, a better variety of shops, cafes & pubs, more community events & event space, a review of car parking, improvements to bus services and infrastructure, accessible public toilets, improvements to roads, pavements & the 1960's row of shops in Fortescue Road, re-use & redevelopment of vacant sites and improvement of skills in the workforce.

The public were informed about the engagement events through articles published in the local media following the issue of a press release. Posters detailing the consultation were displayed in locations in the town centre and included the time, date and location of the drop-in engagement events. Details were also available on the B&NES & Radstock Town Council social media channels, email and through interview on local radio. Approximately 160 responses were received from attendees at the engagement events and via the online survey on the Town Council website.

Stakeholder & Public Consultation 2023

Further consultation took place in February 2023 to receive feedback on project ideas that were identified in the scoping exercise and feedback from the 2022 engagement.

Once again people were informed about the engagement events through articles published in the local media following the issue of a press release. Comments were sought on projects through an online survey on Radstock Town Council website, on boards that were in the library between 21st February and 7th March, including at a drop-in session on 28th February.

The following comments were received from 40 people and were generally positive:

• People were keen to support the use of Trinity Church as a community hub & event space. They were keen for the library to relocate as it would free up the existing site for redevelopment.

• There was support for a for a cultural events programme, branding focused on the mining heritage, for Radstock Festival and building on the presence of Radstock museum to attract visitors.

• More events in the town would bring life to Radstock and there was support for weekly markets to attract locals and visitors to the town centre and investigation of venues that could be used for outdoor events.

• Anything that improves the visual appearance of the town centre and would help to attract visitors and planting of trees would contribute to this. Greenery softens the traffic noise, absorbs pollution and is beneficial for helping to offset climate change.

• People understood the need for incorporating renewable energy solutions and retrofitting into Trinity Church and other redevelopment projects to offset climate change.

• Green spaces should be developed as a priority for health & wellbeing & to visually improve the town centre.

• There was a mixed response on the parking offer with some people thinking that there wasn't a problem and others saying that there should be a review and provision of more long stay parking for workers especially given the loss of parking on the RADCO site.

• There was agreement that there should be an improvement in the pedestrian movement around the town and safer crossings with priority being given to pedestrians & cyclists over cars. Other suggestions were pedestrianisation of Fortescue Road, a one-way system around the centre & creation of wider pavements.

• There was also support for temporary creative uses in vacant properties including pop up shops, health services & art installations.

Radstock Town Centre Future Projects

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1 Town Centre Community Facility Improvements

2 Outdoor Events

3 Cultural Programme

4 Brownfield Site Redevelopment, Reuse & Repurposing

5 Tree Planting

6 Green & Blue Improvements

7 Energy Efficiency Improvements & Renewable Energy

8 Wayfinding, Streetscape Improvements & Parking

9 Reoccupation of Vacant Units

10 Improve Town Centre Offer

Concept Map

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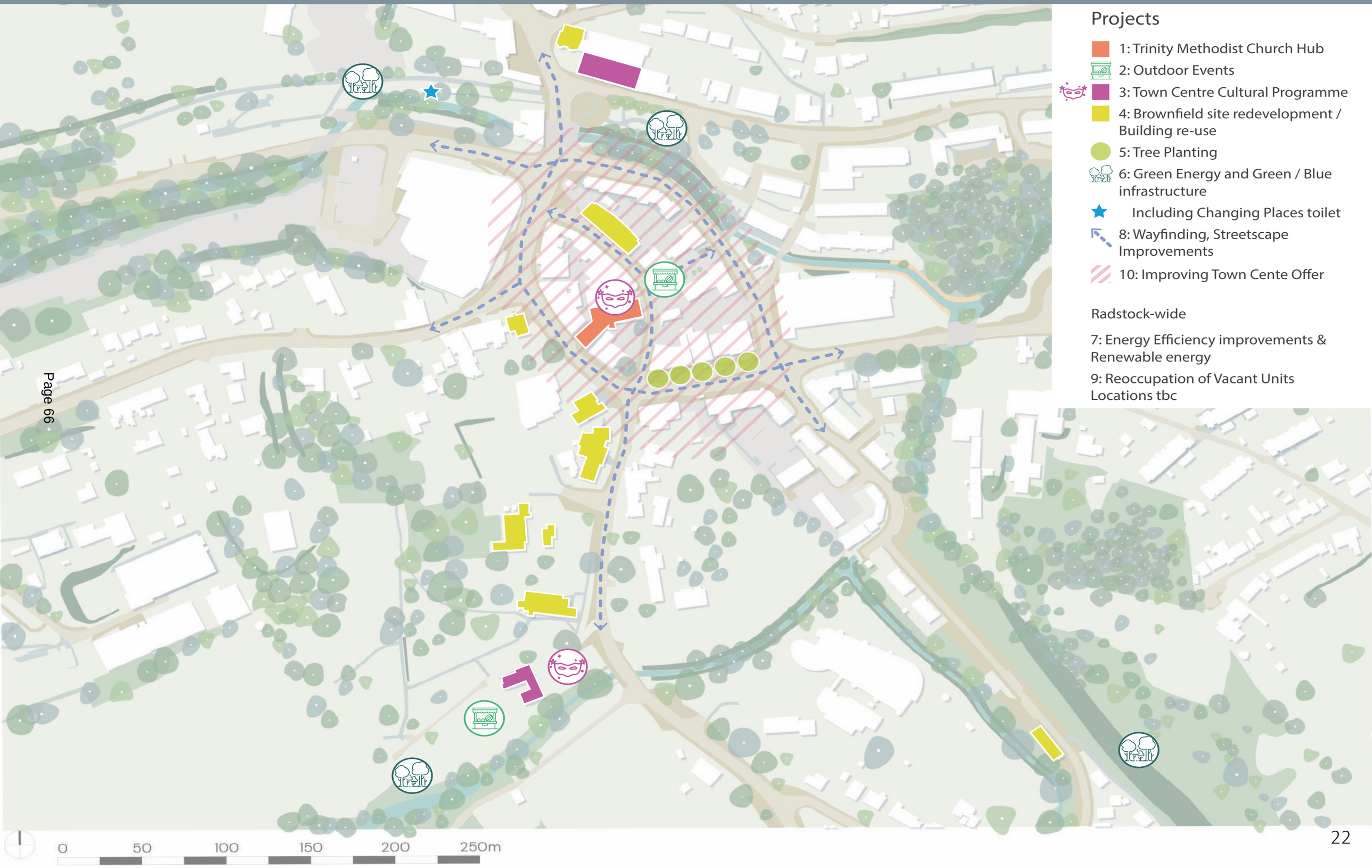

Projects

- 1: Trinity Methodist Church Hub
- 2: Outdoor Events
- 3: Town Centre Cultural Programme
- 4: Brownfield site redevelopment / Building re-use
- 5: Tree Planting
- 6: Green Energy and Green / Blue infrastructure
- Including Changing Places toilet
- 8: Wayfinding, Streetscape Improvements
- 10: Improving Town Cente Offer

Radstock-wide

7: Energy Efficiency improvements & Renewable energy

9: Reoccupation of Vacant Units Locations tbc

Project Summary Table

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Subject to funding being secured, the following projects have been identified to support the Regeneration of Radstock Town Centre:

Projects	Summary
1. Town Centre Community Facility Improvements	Working in partnership with Radstock Town Council to access funding to purchase & renovate Trinity Church for a community hub.
2. Outdoor Events	8 core opportunity spaces in Radstock Town Centre identified as offering potential for hosting events & scope for co-ordinating town-wide events along a recognised 'trail' involving multiple venues.
3. Cultural Programme	Cultural programme developed for Radstock including cultural network, support for Radstock festival & Radstock Museum & Outreach Programme.
4. Brownfield Site Redevelopment, Re - Use & Re-Purposing	Brownfield site assessment & concept designs for improvements to: Brunel Shed, St Nicholas Old School, St Nicolas Church Rooms, Old Print Works, Fortescue Road 60's shop, Leigh House & Children's Centre & Library.
5. Tree Planting	Section 106 funds are available to replace nine trees that were lost when Hope House Centre site developed.
6. Green & Blue Space Improvements	Working with the Nature Recovery Team and the Somer Valley Rediscovered, to identify green & blue space and resources to improve and manage for the benefit of the local community and nature.
7. Energy Efficiancy Improvements & Renewable Energy	Radstock Town Council has aspirations to vastly improve the energy performance of Trinity Church incorporating renewable energy solutions into its retrofitting. Other site owners will be encouraged to incorporate renewable energy solutions into designs.
8. Wayfinding, Streetscape Improvements & Parking	Investigate carrying out a parking review, opportunities to improve signage and street furniture & to improve public realm, pedestrian movement.
9. Reoccupation of Vacant Units	Work with owners to find temporary & permanent uses & include link to Invest in Bristol & Bath Website on Radstock Town Council website and greening of the town centre.
10. Improve Town Centre Offer	Improve attractiveness of town centre to improve vitality and encourage business interest. Funding has been approved for a Changing Places toilet in Tom Huyton Park.

Project 1: Town Centre Community Facility Improvements

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B&NES and Radstock Town Council are looking at options to improve community facilities in the town centre including the acquisition of Trinity Church or other premises in the town centre.

Key aims are to protect and develop space for the community and provide a home for the Radstock Town Council and library. The building will also provide a community café, hireable space for rehearsing and developing events (music, circus performance theatre, drama, arts and cultural events), a space for support networks (advisory groups and charities), meeting, desk space and networking opportunities for businesses, studio and workshop space.

There are currently no resources that can provide this range of services under one roof. This project will help to reverse a trend of townspeople of all ages having to leave Radstock to work, play, acquire new skills and training, and enjoy cultural activities not offered locally.

Trinity Church

One of the options being considered is Trinity Church. Other options will be investigated if the purchase of Trinity Church does not go ahead.

An asset of community interest was placed on the building that expired in August 2022. A bid was placed on behalf of Radstock Town Council and accepted by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes just after the expiry. A Public Works Loan Board application for the purchase price of the building. Discussions between RTC and the Church to acquire the building have become protracted and a decision on the purchase is likely to be known by the end of 2023.

Radstock Trinity Methodist Church is in a prominent central location in the town. The site was likely undeveloped prior to 1902 an irregular shaped plot formed by surrounding development – an early 18th century farmhouse and attached rear range on the south and a densely arranged row of shops and cottages (late 19th century) on the north.

The church is not a statutory designated listed building, but it is regarded as a non-designated heritage asset by planning authorities by virtue of the quality and preservation of its primary architectural design and features, prominent dual-fronted presence and location within the Radstock Conservation Area. It has architectural features externally and internally, of sufficient merit to be considered for listing.

It retains all its constituent parts (school room; two lecture rooms; a large chapel and offices all interconnected). The building is dual aspect with principal frontages on two of Radstock's main high streets and is built in a Neo-Gothic style with a mainly unaltered Arts and Crafts interior with gallery, ceiling and rostrum of fine quality that is comparable in quality to designated assets.

Heritage value is derived from its architectural features and the quality, design and execution of the building; and from its historic interest which is drawn from its social and spiritual role as a place of worship and support for Methodists associated with the industrial past of the town.

Trinity has always been available for community use - it was built by the community for the community, and as the size of the congregation waned community use increased.

Radstock Town Council have reviewed the viability of the building undertaking reports, surveys, valuations and costings to give a greater understanding of what is required to carry out repair and refurbishment.

Architects were appointed in spring 2023 to carry out a feasibility study was commissioned to support Radstock Town Council in determining the viability of Trinity Church for re purposing of the space. The report recommended that it is possible to accommodate the desired brief and existing provision within Trinity Church. It is recognised that there is significant maintenance works and modernisation works associated with the property that need to be addressed in order for thebuilding to be fit for purpose.

B&NES is working in partnership with Radstock Town Council to acquire the building and if successful will look to access funding for a phased retrofit and refurbishment of the building.

Project 1: Town Centre Community Facility Improvements

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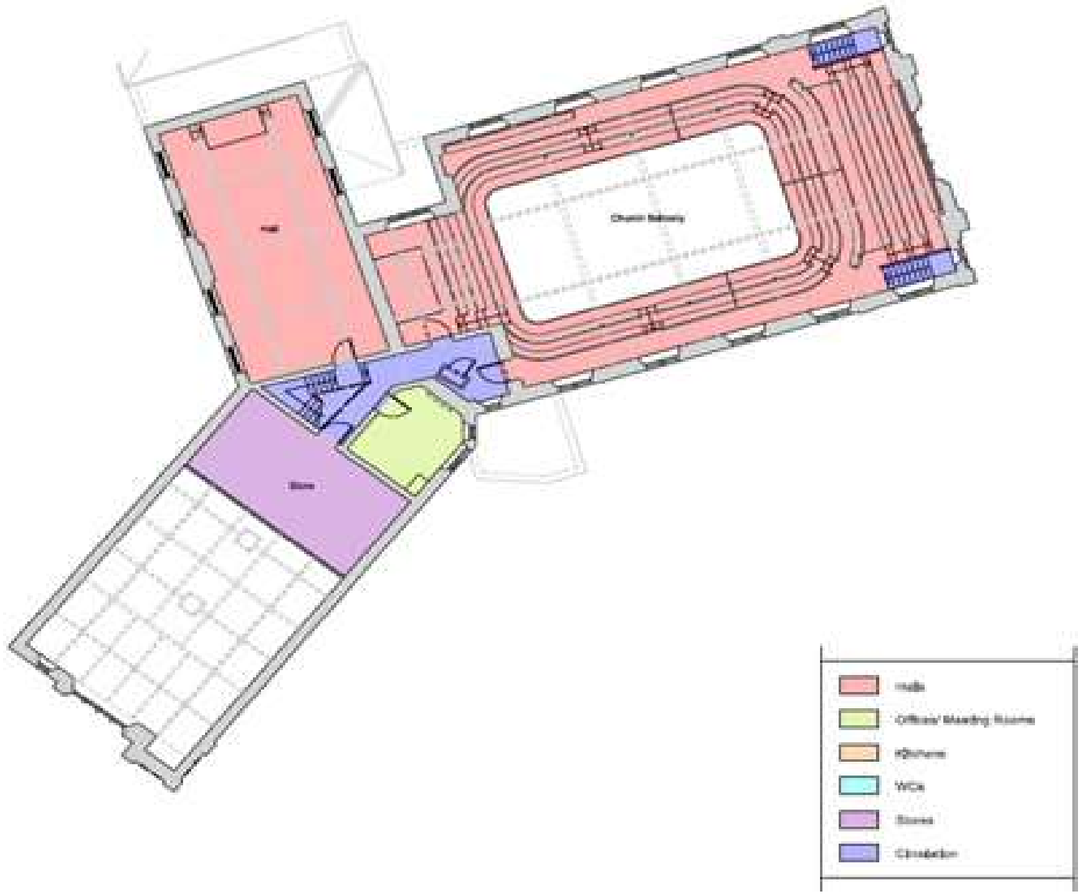
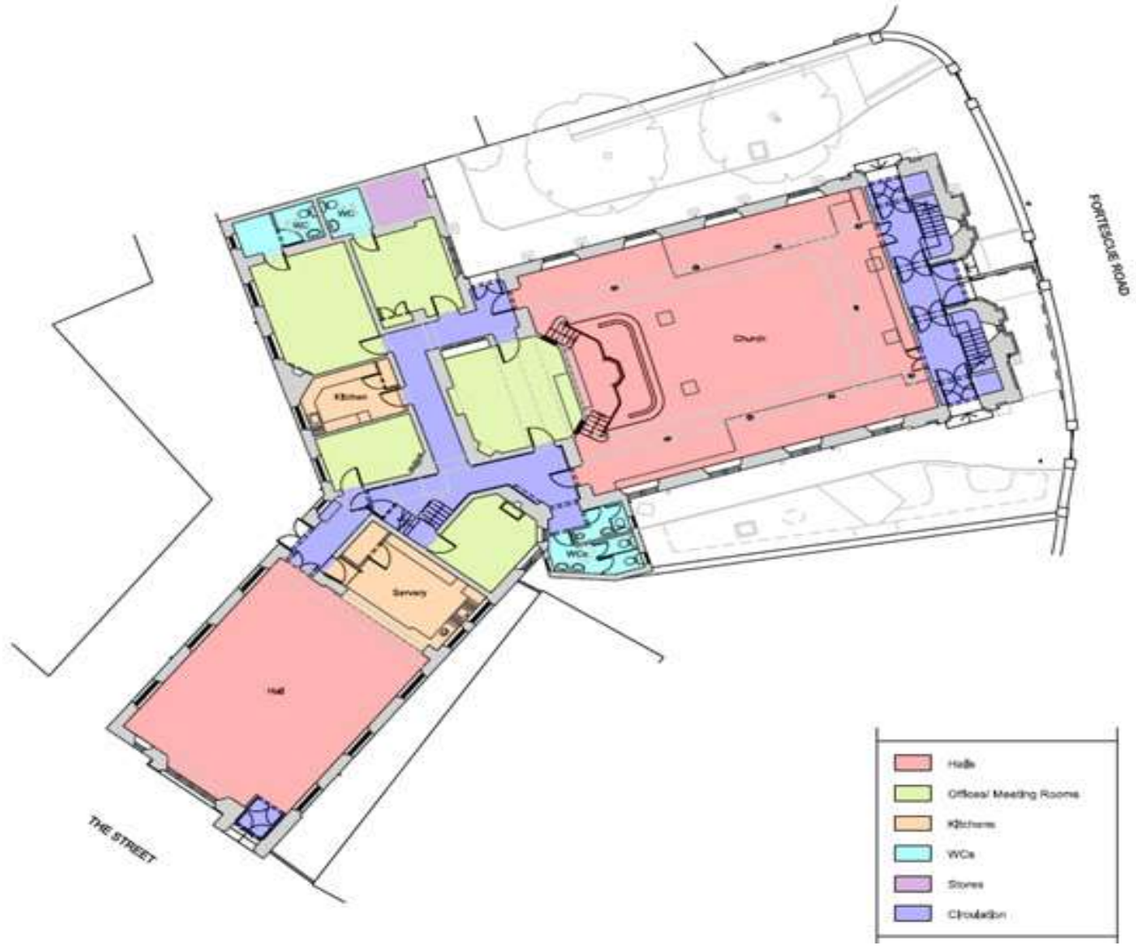


Zoning Diagram - First Floor - DKA



Zoning Diagram - Ground Floor - DKA

Project 1: Town Centre Community Facility Improvements

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Preferred Option - B1- DKA

Preferred Option - B1 - DKA

Project 2: Outdoor Event Space

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Working with Radstock Town Council and B&NES Markets Team, eight core opportunity spaces in Radstock Town Centre have been identified as offering potential for hosting vibrant, engaging events which meet the needs of the community and local businesses.

For a town of its size, there is a good number of indoor arts and community venues in Radstock, by contrast, there is currently low availability of practical outdoor spaces in Radstock to complement the indoor offering.

There is no single contained space which could comfortably accommodate an event or market large enough to be run sustainably. Where equivalent market towns may have the option of road closures to create event space, the roads in Radstock Town Centre are all essential thoroughfares to residential areas, making closures difficult to achieve.

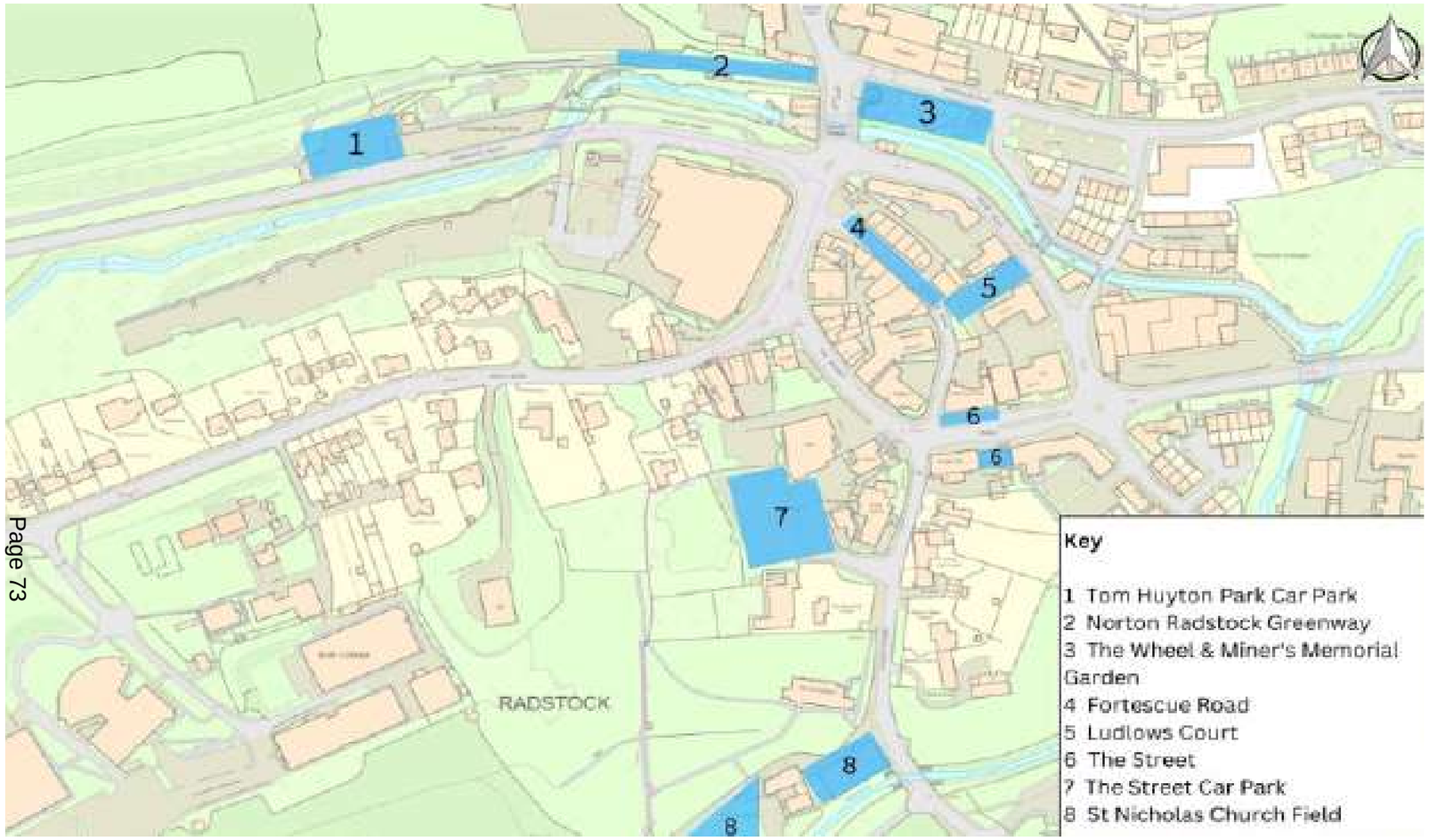
There are several small outdoor spaces suitable for small community events. Recent successful and well-attended outdoor events held in St Nicholas Church Field demonstrate that there is a local audience for such programmes and there is strong evidence that such events can play a key role in health, wellbeing, sense of community, and sense of place identity.

Whilst none of these outdoor spaces could support regular outdoor markets individually, there is scope for co-ordinating town-wide events along a recognised 'trail' involving multiple venues and local organisations.

Project 2: Outdoor Event Space

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives



Potential outdoor events spaces include the following and further information on each can be found in the evidence section of this report:

1. **Tom Huyton Park and Car Park (Radstock Town Council)**
2. **Norton Radstock Greenway (Radstock Town Council)**
3. **The Wheel and Miner's Memorial Garden (Radstock Town Council)**
4. **Fortescue Road**
5. **Ludlows Court (Firstport Management Company)**
6. **The Street (B&NES Council and Lewin House Management Company)**
7. **The Street Car Park (B&NES Council)**
8. **St Nicholas Church Field**

Project 3: Town Centre Cultural Programme

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Radstock is home to acclaimed arts and wellbeing charities, Victoria Hall arts centre, Radstock Children's Centre, Youth Connect South West, Swallow Community Café, Radstock Library and the beautiful Trinity Church. There are several active and exhibiting arts collectives locally (notably the Old Bakery Artists and Cam Valley Arts Trail), and Bath's Natural Theatre Company has worked extensively in the area too. The town is also home to the Radstock Museum, situated in the Grade-II listed Market Hall. The museum offers a range of exhibits on life in the Somerset coalfield since the 19th century alongside a series of temporary exhibitions.

Consultation sessions in 2022 & 2023 revealed that local people believed that more community events would lead to a more vibrant town centre in the future. A cultural programme for Radstock could include:

- The creation of a new Radstock-based cultural network
- The creation of a recognisable town brand, focusing on Radstock's coal mining heritage and market history
- Installation of wayfinding between events spaces through the use of murals and floor stencils
- Fringe events in collaboration with Bath Fringe and Bath Carnival
- Supporting the existing Radstock Festival (formerly the Somer Valley Arts Day) with additional pop-up activities, workshops and community engagement, delivered in collaboration with the Natural Theatre Company, Little Lost Robot, Creativity Works and Radstock Town Council)
- Community grants/artist residencies
- Audio tours/soundscape trails
- Bring additional cultural events into the area

Project 3: Cultural Programme

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Radstock Museum

Radstock Museum operates an Outreach Programme to engage with local community groups and organisations (AgeUK, Alzheimer's Society, etc) to arrange and host a series of Community Cafés.

These cafés are designed to provide a social environment for various groups including people living with memory issues and their carers, service veterans and local history groups.The cafes are supported and run by a part-time Community Events Manager with additional support from a small core of Museum volunteers and usually operate on mornings when the Museum is otherwise closed to the public. The museum has recently appointed an Events Manager and are planning to channel other grant bids into their outreach work.

Trinity Methodist Church

Radstock Town Council is in the process of purchasing Trinity Church and hoping to complete in Summer 2023. It occupies a central position in the town and is built in a Neo-Gothic style with a mainly unaltered Arts and Crafts interior. The church has always been available for community use, and as the size of the congregation waned community use increased. It has recently been used meetings and hosting large scale community events.

This project will be led by Radstock Town Council, with additional support from Bath Spa University and Bath and North East Somerset Council's Regeneration Team. The Regeneration Team will provide ongoing support to access funding to carry out phased works to the building. Public Engagement and outward facing community work will be undertaken by Radstock Town Council with local organisations (Creativity Works and Little Lost Robot). Early engagement with the community has shown a high level of support. and a new home for Radstock Town Council and the community library.

Radstock Hub & Community Library

The current home of Radstock Town Council, this venue is also a community library and hosts a range of community and civic activities.

Project 4: Brownfield Site Redevelopment, Reuse and Repurposing

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Site Assessments

Sites have been identified in the Radstock town centre that are vacant or have potential for improvement. Holwest Ltd (trading as DKA) were appointed by B&NES in November 2022 to carry out the site assessments. A Stage 1 report was prepared in December 2022 and sought to summarise the constraints, opportunities and limitations of each site. Stage 2 report was produced in March 2022 and provided high level concept designs and costs for each of the sites.

Owners of properties have been contacted by B&NES and DKA and site visits have been undertaken. With the information from the assessments, it should be possible for site owners to develop a scheme independently or work with the Council's Regeneration Team to develop schemes.

1 Library & Children's Centre

2 St Nicholas Old School

3 Brunel Shed

4 Old Printing Works

5 Fortescue Road Shops

6 Leigh House

7 St Nicholas Church

The Library and Children's Centre

The Library and children's centre sites are located in the centre of Radstock, at the junction of The Street and Church Street. The site falls within the Radstock Conservation area and is in close proximity to a number of heritage assets. The properties are owned by Bath & North East Somerset Council. The library building appears to be in fair condition, retaining it would require substantial refurbishment, upgrades and maintenance to provide modern facilities. The building is likely to become vacant when Radstock Town Council moves to Trinity Church in 2023.

A mixed-use development on the site is supportable in principle within the scope of planning policy. Any development proposed needs to be sensitively designed and reinforce local character in such a way that it does not contribute demonstrable harm to its setting. Future proposals must wholly consider the impact to the surrounding heritage assets and not attribute additional harm to their setting. Flood risk shall play an important factor in the proposed layout of the site.

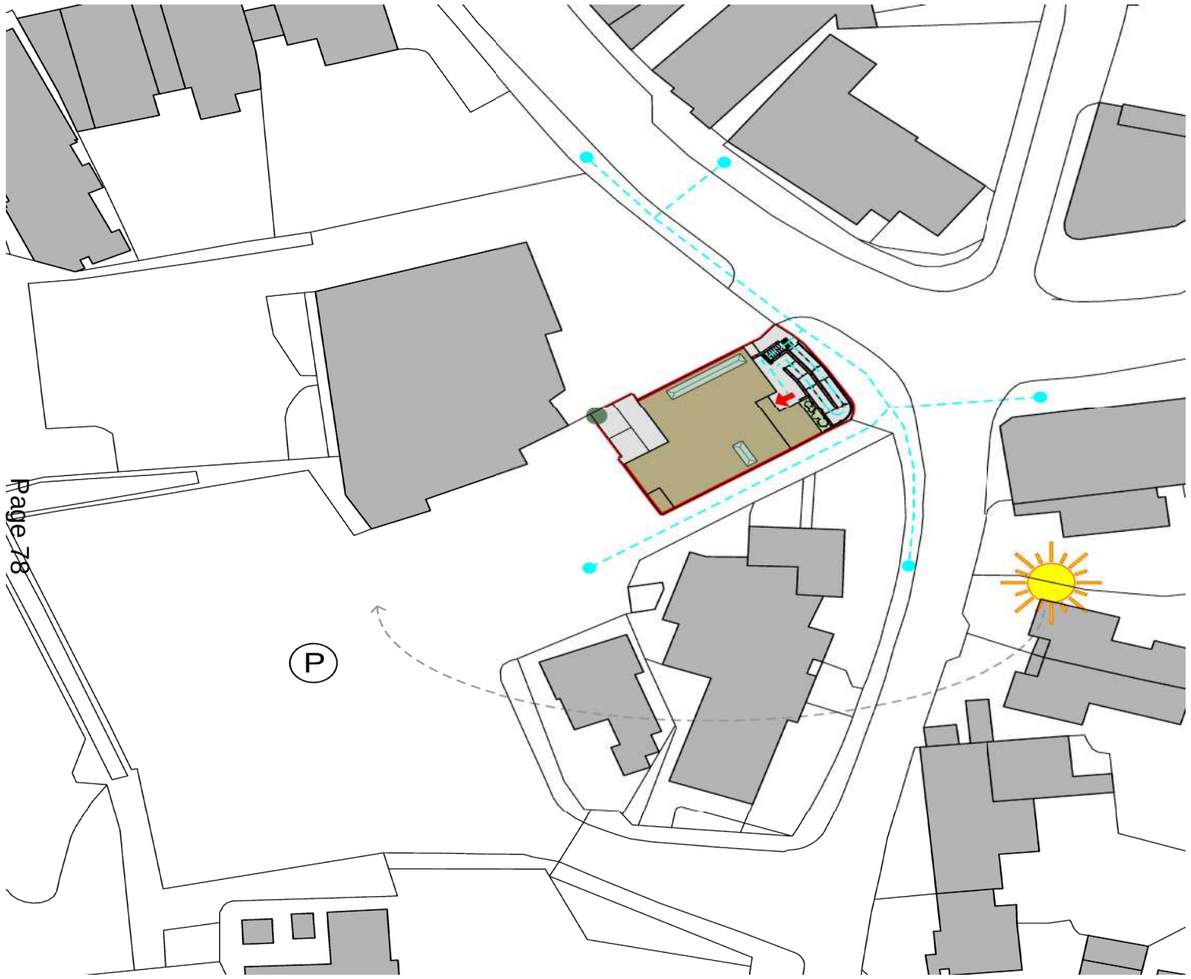
The Children's Centre site is currently occupied by Youth Connect on a lease. The youth centre operates during the day and in the evenings. A late 19th century detached house (locally known as Greystones) occupies the northern section of the site. This was extended in the 1960s with a single storey building to the south.

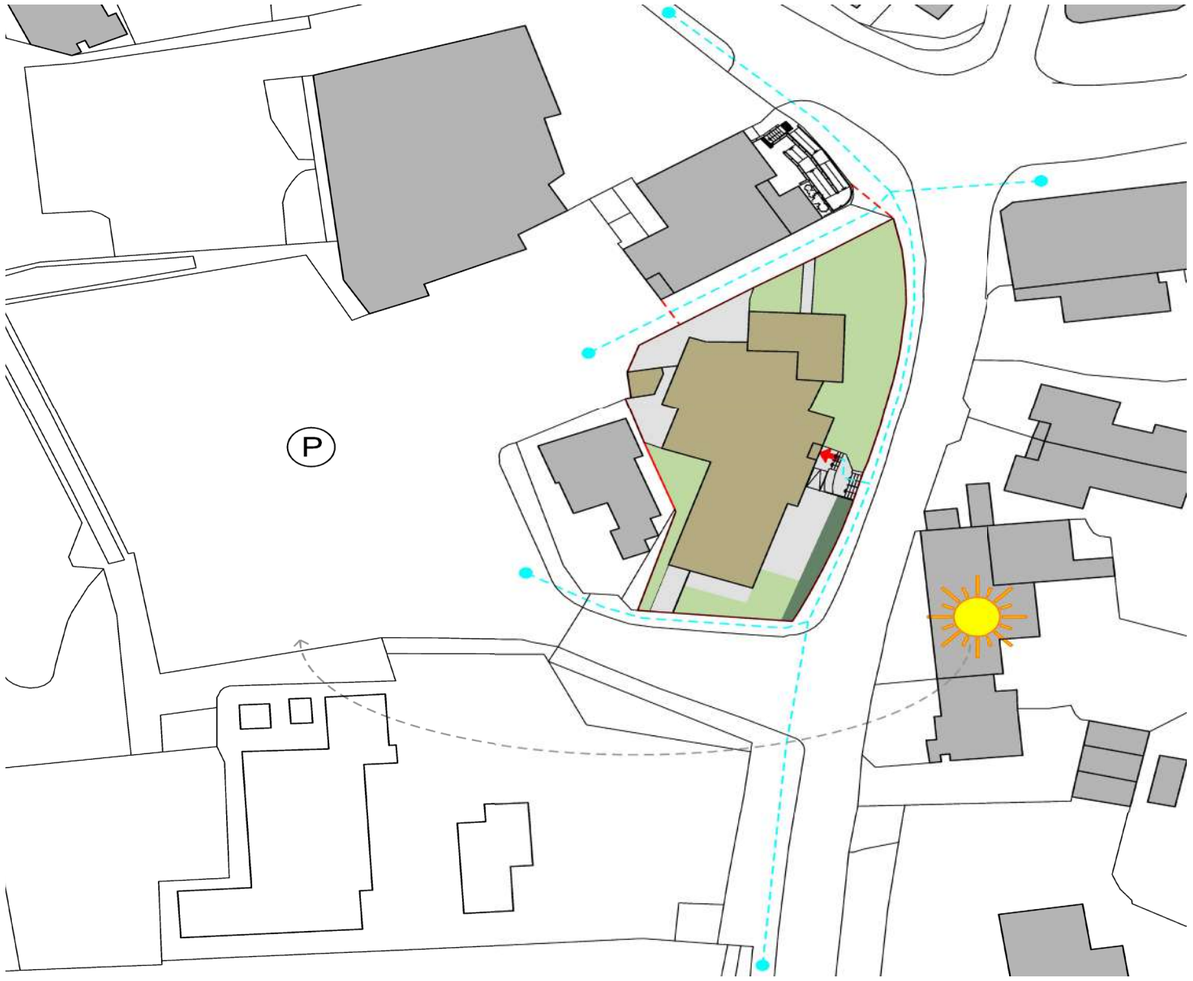
The report concluded that although requiring some maintenance, there is no reason why Greystones should not be retained. The 1960s extension would require a more substantial refurbishment, upgrade and maintenance to provide modern facilities. Demolishing this section of the building should not be considered a heritage loss.

A mixed-use development on the site is supportable in principle within the scope of planning policy. Any development proposed needs to be sensitively designed and reinforce local character in such a way that it does not contribute demonstrable harm to its setting. Future proposals must wholly consider the impact to the surrounding heritage assets and not attribute additional harm to their setting. Flood risk shall play an important factor in the proposed layout of the site.

The Library and Children's Centre

Youth Centre sites were considered together for the following uses:





Option 1

A new mixed-use development, with commercial space at ground floor and residential units at first and second floor. The existing Greystones building would be demolished. This option would provide new streetscape, activating the corner of The Street and Church Street.

Option 2

New residential development of townhouses, retaining the existing Greystones building. This would provide new streetscape, activating the corner of The Street and Church Street and Massing to reflect local vernacular & surrounding properties rather than single storey existing buildings.

St Nicholas Old School

The St Nicholas old school site is located to the south of the town centre, on Church Street. The site was used as a primary school until 2006, when the school was relocated to purpose-built premises on Church Street / Kilmersdon Road, towards Haydon. The former headmaster's house was converted to residential flats around 2012, with the rest of the site left vacant and the school building being derelict to this day.

Built in 1857, the school building is a typical Victorian high ceiling single storey structure. This was extended / added to during the 19th and 20th centuries. The former headmaster's house is a two-storey detached building of domestic scale. This was once attached to the rest of the school buildings, but it is understood that this was detached when the property was converted into flats.

The report concluded the former headmaster's house is worth retaining. Although the other buildings appear to be in a derelict state, it is likely that the structure can be salvaged and reused, however this would require substantial reconstruction, refurbishment, upgrade and maintenance to provide modern facilities. It is also understood that the former school buildings 'are regarded in planning terms as a non-designated heritage asset of local interest', which would mean that demolition is unlikely to be granted as it would be considered a material loss to the setting of the Conservation Area.

Not withstanding the constraints of the site and its inherent historic value, it benefits from being allocated for development in the local plan, albeit this also constrains new development seeking demolition of the existing building. In light of the above, a sensitively designed scheme seeking to retain the existing building, as much as is viable, is envisaged to be well received by the Council.

St Nicholas Old School

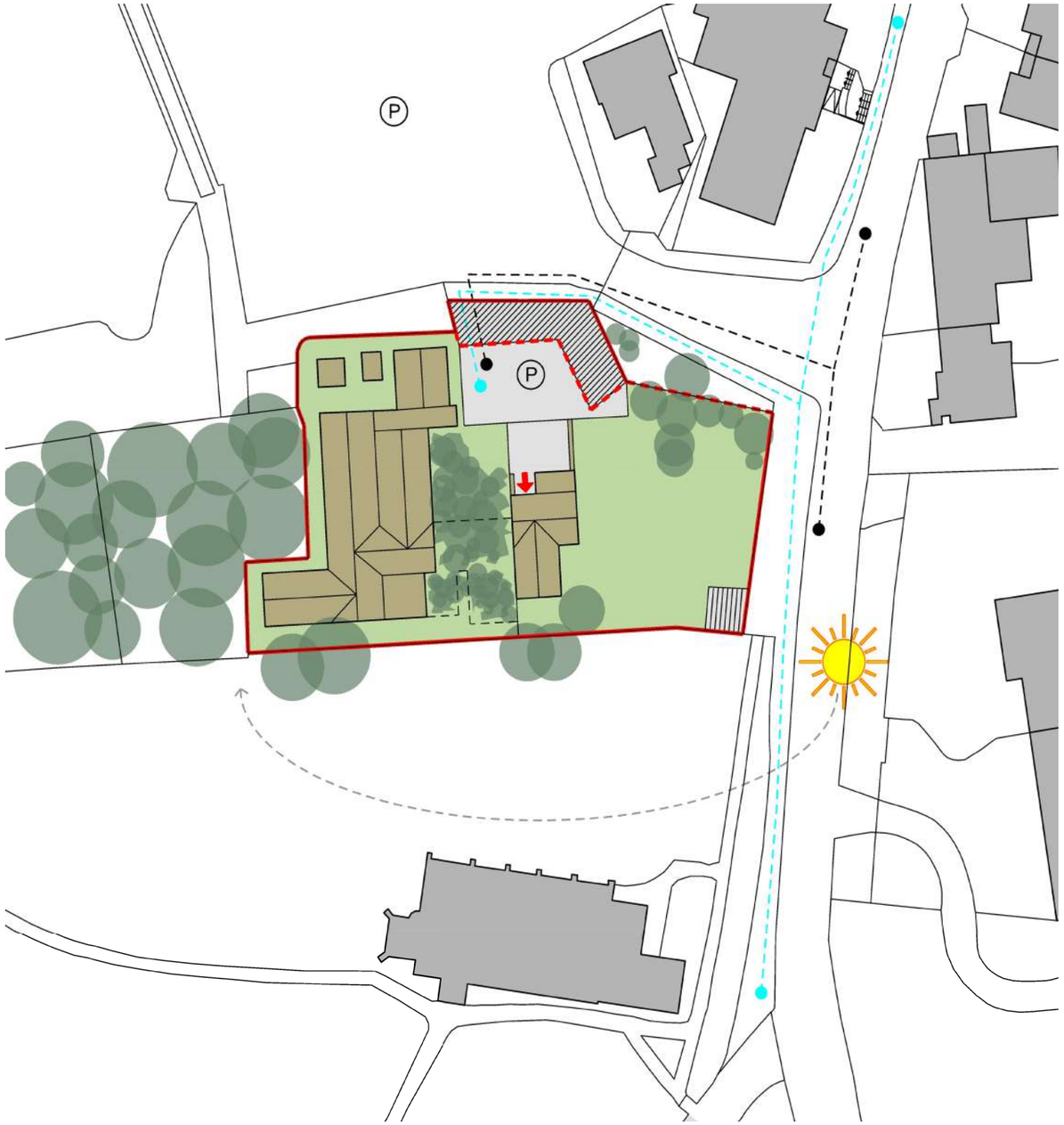
The following options were considered:

Option 1

Conversion of St Nicholas Old School to accommodate new offices, within the existing fabric footprint. A new path would to a central reception/ breakout area, which serves offices of varying sizes. The full double height spaces, and therefore character of the original building would be retained. Co-working & circulation space facilitates, access to further offices and welfare facilities would be accessed from the main entrance which would align with opening created in the existing external facade when the section connecting the Old School to the Headmaster's House was demolished.

Option 2

Conversion to accommodate four new residential units that exceed minimum national standards. A new path would lead to a new lobby serving units 3 & 4, unit 1 would be accessed from a separate entrance. The entrance would be located to align with the opening created in the existing external facade when the section connecting the Old School to the Headmaster's House was demolished.



Brunel Shed

The Brunel Shed site is located to the south of Radstock town centre on Nelson Ward Drive, near the start of the cycle path connecting Radstock to Frome. To the north, the residential properties along Nelson Ward Drive are recent and built in the last 10 years.

The site is currently vacant. The shed was originally built in 1896 as a single-road engine shed, sitting alongside the Great Western Railway (Radstock Branch), just north of the Radstock Wagon Works. The engine shed was formerly used by GWR, and officially closed in 1966.

The building is currently a shell, with no internal fit out. A new small lean-to extension to the west to accommodate toilets has been constructed in 2022. The northern gable end comprises of a large opening which is currently boarded up. The southern gable end is a large opening which was recently infilled with blockwork, with a small pedestrian doorway created. The roof has been recently replaced which secures the structure for the foreseeable future.

The report concluded that the structure is in good condition and is therefore worth being retained.

As the site falls outside the designated town centre and Housing Development Boundary, retail and housing developments would be harder to achieve. A commercial or community use is an appropriate aspiration for the site within its policy context. A precedent for this was set with a previous planning application for the site for a café and cycle repair shop.

Norton Radstock Regeneration Company (NRR) was formed in 1998 with a broad agenda relating to regeneration within a benefit area of Norton Radstock. In 2001, the 8-hectare former railway lands site was purchased and redeveloped to provide residential units on three areas, retail & commercial floorspace, car parking, new roads to service the development, a new footbridge, public realm works, ground remediation, works to trees and habitat areas, new children's play areas and a new Sustrans sustainable travel route.

NRR, the current owner of the Brunel Shed has advised B&NES that they intend to wind up their company. A decision has been made by B&NES Council that they could aquire the shed from NRR, if proper due diligence was undertaken to understand the risks and costs of acquisition. However, NRR is seeking to dispose of the building to a third party.

The Brunel Shed is the only remaining built feature of the NRR site's former historic railway use; all other railway buildings have either been demolished or removed to facilitate the redevelopment.

Brunel Shed

For all the options below, in addition to provision of screens to the east and west, the windows facing south are to be blocked up to minimise light spills to the bat corridor. From a conservation point of view, this option can easily be detailed to be reversible.

Option 1

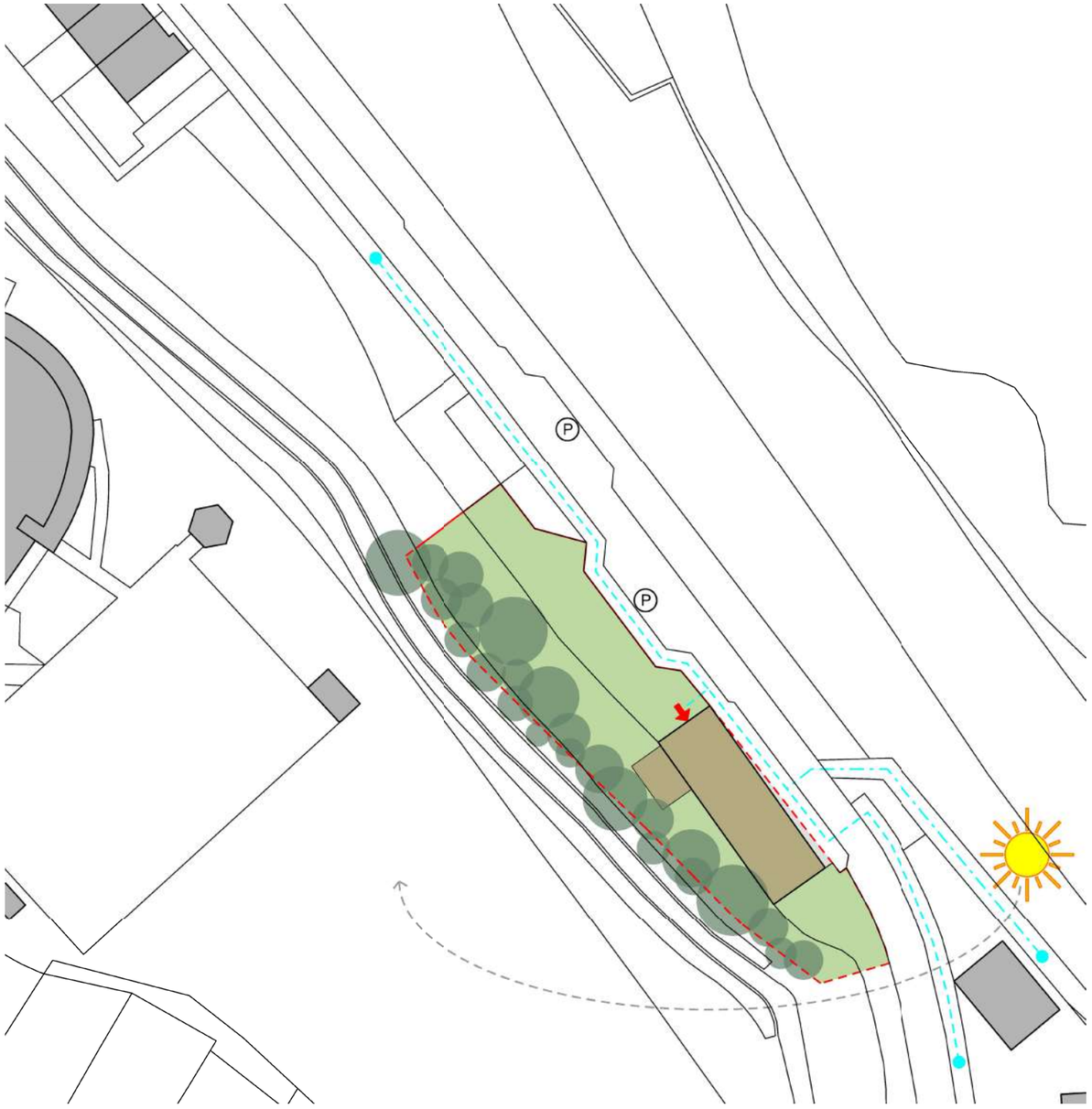
Conversion of the building to accommodate a cafe, and retail or commercial unit. This option is similar to extant planning approval. This retains the lean-to toilet block, while subdividing the main shed space into two. From a conservation point of view, this option is can easily be detailed to be reversible.

Option 2

Conversion to accommodate two 3 bed accessible housing units. Each unit is accessed from one end of the building and provides accessible accommodation. From a conservation point of view, this option requires new floor plates across the length of the building, with a detail at the full height windows to prevent noise and fire transfer between ground and first floors.

Option 3

Conversion to accommodate a small industrial unit. An office is located to the north, with a workshop or storage section located in the southern half. The toilets provision in the lean-to are adjusted. From a conservation point of view, this option is can easily be detailed to be reversible.



Leigh House

Leigh House in its current form was built in mid-19th century and located in the centre of Radstock town centre, opposite the former Radstock Co-operative site. It occupies a prominent corner site, visible to anyone circulating through Radstock, located at the major intersection of Wells Hill (A367) and The Street, opposite the former Radstock Co-op site.

The site falls within the Radstock Conservation Area and is in close proximity to a number of heritage assets.

Leigh House is owned by the Leigh House Trust Limited and developed as a base for various voluntary sector groups working in Radstock and the wider north-east Somerset area.

The internal layout appears to be largely original and the building's interiors generally suffer from wear and tear, and would benefit from general redecoration and refurbishment. The 1940s extension is in poor condition, with visible cracks in the brickwork. The external fabric of Leigh House and the slate roof looks to be in fair condition.

The building would benefit from substantial refurbishment, upgrades and maintenance to provide modern, accessible facilities with the exception of the 1940s flat roof extension at the rear which could be demolished.

The site's location within the Housing Development Boundary and the designated Town Centre is beneficial for applications proposing housing or office developments as these are considered acceptable in principle within these designations.

Leigh House

The following options are both hampered by limited parking onsite:

Option 1

Accessible offices. As the main entrance is via a set of steps from the adjacent pavement, the side entrance could be altered at basement level to provide level access. Some ground floor lean-to facilities could be demolished to allow the construction of a new lift linking all three levels. New accessible toilets could be provided at ground floor.

Option 2

The existing property could be split into three residential units. The basement unit is to be accessed from street level to the side of Leigh House, the ground floor unit accessed via the main entrance and the first-floor unit accessed through a new access via a shared garden. Off street parking is provided to the east, along with new bin and bike storage.

Project 4: Brownfield Site Redevelopment, Reuse and Repurposing

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Old Printworks

Old Printworks site is located in the centre of Radstock, just north of the Radstock Museum, off the A367 / Bath New Road, on the approach from Bath. It is in the Radstock Conservation Area, is not listed and the site benefits from frontages on both Waterloo Road and the Bath Old Road.

The site is currently vacant, with the last tenants having vacated the premises in the summer of 2022. The last occupancy comprised of a gym on the ground floor, and offices on the upper floors. Previous usage was a carpentry workshop, printworks, and brewery.

The report concludes that although the majority of the structures on site are of no discernible merit, the central tower appears structurally sound and a remnant of the site's history. As such the tower should be retained in any proposed development. This would however, benefit from substantial refurbishment, upgrade and maintenance.

The site's location within the Housing Development Boundary and the designated Town Centre is beneficial for applications proposing housing , retail or commercial mixed-used developments as these are considered acceptable in principle.

The site falls in very close proximity to a number of heritage assets, future development proposals must therefore carefully consider any harm that may arise to the historic environment.

Early discussions between new landlords and a local aArts organisation have led to a proposal for the use of this site as an arts and making space, potentially including other recreational uses .

Project 4: Brownfield Site Redevelopment, Reuse and Repurposing

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Old Printworks

The following options were considered and all would benefit from onsite parking:

Option 1

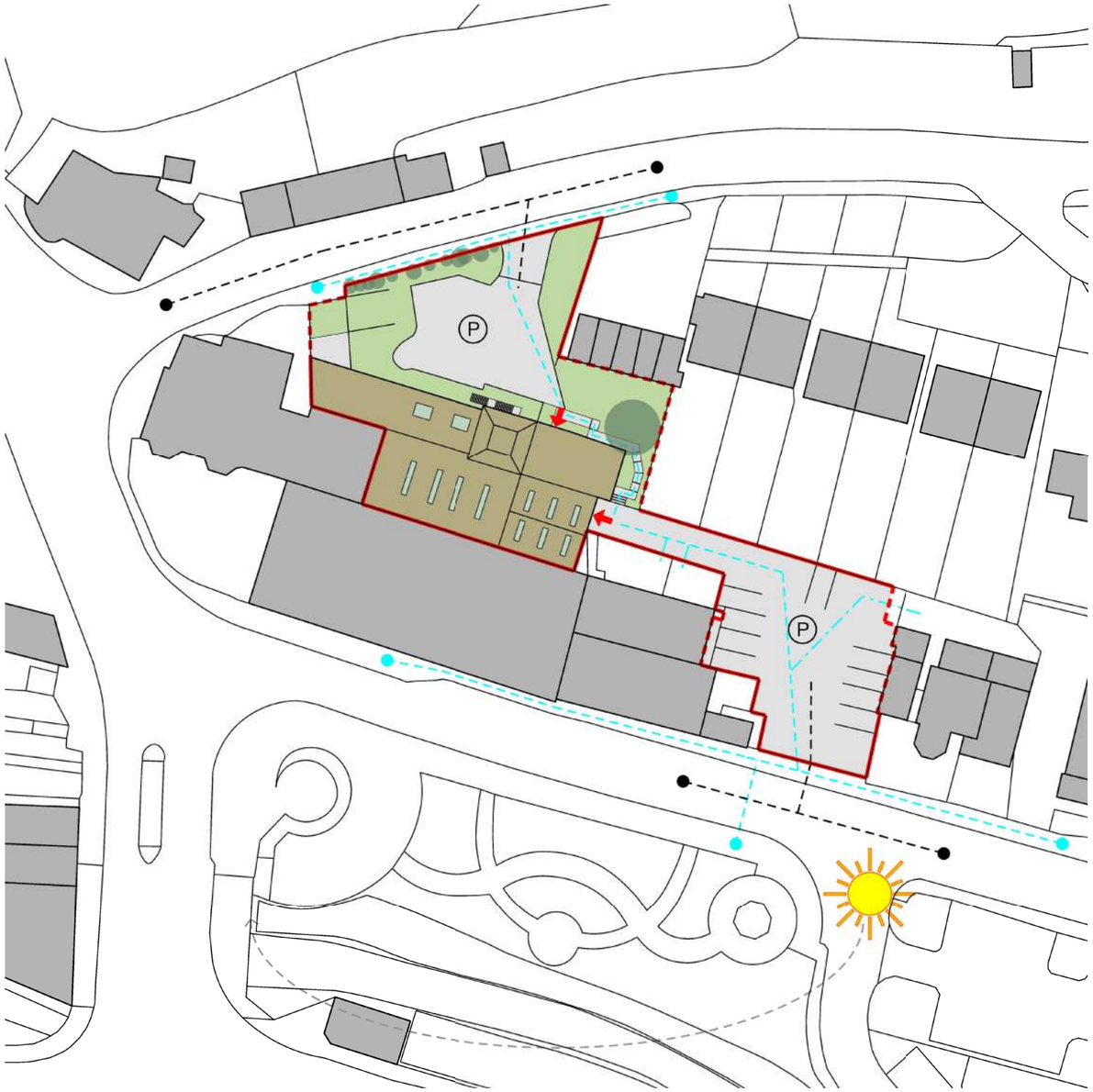
Temporary use of the car park and for meanwhile and temporary arts and cultural uses are being explored, including studio space, maker space, recreational uses and flexible spaces for hire for workshops.

Option 2

Commercial units at ground and upper floors, with access to onsite parking from Bath Old Road and Waterloo Road. Separate commercial unit annex near Waterloo Road entrance due to rights of access to adjacent garages & flats. Existing tower to be retained and converted to accommodate circulation.

Option 3

Combination of commercial (ground floor) and residential above, however, this would be a loss of employment generating floor space in the town centre.



St Nicholas Church

The St Nicholas Church site is located in the Conservation Area to the south of Radstock town centre, on Church Road. St Nicholas Church is located immediately to the north, a field and St Nicholas CofE Primary school are located to the east on the opposite side of the road. It is in close proximity to a number of heritage assets including the Grade II listed St Nicholas Church.

The site is currently occupied by the St Nicholas Church centre and Swallows Community Café, which rents the space from the church. The hard play area to the front of the site and the field to the rear are used by the community.

The report concludes retaining the huts on the site would require substantial refurbishment, upgrade and maintenance to provide modern facilities. The issue of asbestos roof would also need to be considered. Demolishing this building would not be a heritage loss, however it is to be noted that as the huts appear to have been built prior to 1947 and are within the curtilage St Nicholas Church, listed building consent would be required.

A change of use from a community facility will only be permitted if alternative facilities of equivalent value can be provided in the town centre. If the loss can be justified with an appropriate alternative use and off-site remediation takes place, then a commercial scheme could become feasible.

Flood risk and the proximity of a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation must be carefully considered in the design of any future developments.

St Nicholas Church

The following options were considered:

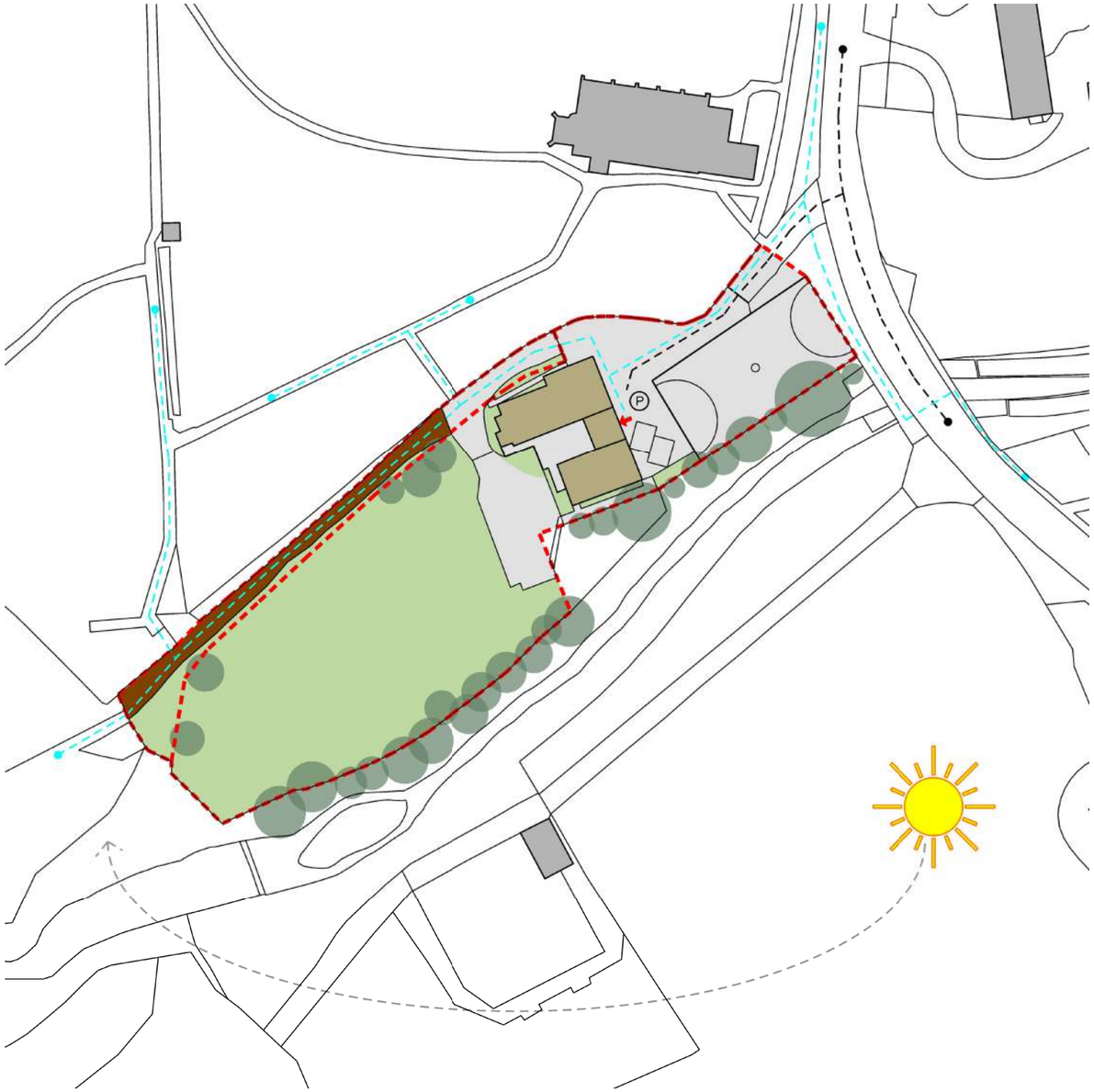
Option 1

Demolition of existing church centre and construction of new church centre on footprint of the existing building. Use of the existing centre would not be possible during construction. The existing fenced court and community field would remain unaffected by the development. The design footprint would be based on the existing facility.

Option 2

Demolition of existing church centre and construction of new church centre on the adjacent field. The existing centre to be retained operational during construction, with final access, parking and soft landscape to be completed following demolition. Existing fenced court unaffected by development.

In addition, there are opportunities to improve the functioning of the Church itself for community use which could be explored. The use of the Church Field for events has proved successful and related basic infrastructure to support this use could also be further be investigated.



Fortescue Road 1960's Shops

The Fortescue Road site occupies a prominent location in the centre of Radstock, with the northern end of the site sitting at the major intersection of the A367 and A362. The road appears to have been created in the 1890s and the site faces an attractive terrace of purpose-built shops. The site of the 1960s terrace of shops is located on the east side of Fortescue Road.

The site is currently used as shops to the ground floor, with flats above for Numbers 8-13; with Number 14 being a standalone convenience store. There are currently 8 landlords. It is understood that some tenants have long leases.

A modern residential development borders the site to the north and east. A new public piazza, built as part of this development is located to the southeast corner, along with an undeveloped small triangular piece of land.

The varying different uses for the units, including shops, residences, cafes and local services mean the site may be considered as mixed use.

The site falls within the Radstock Conservation Area and is in close proximity to a number of heritage assets and falls within the designated Primary Shopping Area and benefits from a Primary Shopping Frontage.

The report concludes the lack of unity in materials to the first-floor front elevation, fenestration pattern, shop front treatment and poor condition of elements such as the masonry or canopy means that the 1960's shops is considered of poor quality, and low visual appeal, especially when compared to the intricate Victorian shops across the road. A coordinated approach to the maintenance of the fabric of the building (no 8-13) would be beneficial to ensure integrity of any system installed, without the risk of water tracking to adjacent properties, as well as enhance the public realm.

There is no doubt that the buildings would benefit from substantial refurbishment, upgrade and maintenance to provide modern facilities. Although demolishing this building would not be considered a heritage loss, this would need to be weighed against the environmental impact of doing so.

Fortescue Road 1960's Shops

Both options considered would include refurbishment of the 1960s shops, to provide a coordinated approach to the streetscape including works to include replacement canopy, shop fronts windows & first floor cladding. The options would also include additional work to include new roof covering and localised brickwork repairs. This would provide new coordinated facade at ground and first floor along length of shops.

Option 1

Retail & residential as current use. Unit 14 (Morrisons Local) and internal refurbishment of retail and residential units is out of scope. Works undertaken would require agreements with all owners. Multiple ownerships limits more ambitious development opportunities.

Option 2

Commercial at ground with offices above. This would also require agreement with all owners.

Project 5: Tree Planting

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency is one of two core policies outlined in B&NES Corporate Strategy 2020-2024. The goal is to be carbon neutral by 2030. Increasing tree canopy cover will play a key role in working towards this target. Increased tree cover will also increase biodiversity and improve public health and wellbeing.

B&NES is a member of the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP). It also aims to support the West of England Nature Recovery Network's (NRN) ambition to double woodland cover and urban tree cover across the district by 2050. The WENP launched 'The Forest of Avon Plan, a West of England Tree and Woodland Strategy' in June 2021. Bath and North East Somerset falls within the Forest of Avon, one of England's Community Forests. Community Forests were established to connect people with trees locally.

Planting more trees deliver 'ecosystem services' – benefits for nature and communities, which include:

- Slowing the impacts of climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide
- Regulating air temperature with water vapour and shade provision
- Enhancing biodiversity by providing habitat and food for birds and pollinators
- Minimising the effects of air pollution by absorbing some vehicle emissions
- Helping to manage storm water by absorbing excess rainwater runoff
- Encouraging people to enjoy the outdoors, promoting good physical and mental wellbeing
- Improving how the streetscape looks by adding colour and texture

We select species of trees with characteristics that will fit into the urban environment, applying the 'right tree, right place' principle to ensure the trees will thrive and fulfil their true potential to provide ecosystem services and complement landscape character. We will consider the mature height and width of the trees, as well as how planted trees would affect utilities and the surrounding infrastructure. Final plans for urban tree planting are approved by our Highways Department to ensure road user safety, accessibility, and functionality of existing street furniture. We will undertake the long-term management of new trees, with regular inspections throughout their lifetime and routine maintenance works carried out where appropriate.

Replacement Tree Planting in Radstock

Section 106 funds to replace nine trees that were lost when the site in Waterloo Road was developed for the Hope House Centre. This could fund 5 soft replacements (in verges/grass) and 4 hard replacements (with tree pit construction). The terms of the S106 agreement dictate the new trees must be planted in the Radstock Conservation Area. Working with Radstock Town Council, locations to plant the trees will be identified and planting is likely to take place in 2024. Other opportunities for greening of the town centre will be identified and funding identified for delivery.

Project 6: Green & Blue Space Improvements & Opportunities

Green Infrastructure provides a wide range of evidenced economic, social and environmental benefits including:

• Supporting resilient ecosystems and biodiversity.
• Mitigating and adapting the natural and built environment to climate change.
• Conserving and enhancing a legible network of physical green spaces.
• Reducing and managing flood risks and drought.
• Improving mental and physical health, and the cohesion of local communities.
• Increasing the sustainability of food production
• Maintaining and enhancing cultural heritage, landscapes and natural resources.
• Promoting economic growth, employment and skills improvement

A number of sites have been identified for having potential for improvement. One of these is the Miners Pool. Whilst it is not currently known who owns this land - (it is not registered with Land Registry) it has been identified as a site valued by Radstock residents, for both its ecological and cultural importance. Before management of this site can begin, a process to claim the land will need to be identified and agreed.

The Miners Pool links well with Waterside Valley, a greenspace owned by Westfield Parish Council which is also one of the five key greenspaces being improved by Somer Valley Rediscovered Greenspaces Project, funded by the WECA Green Recovery Fund. The field adjacent to the Miners Pool is part of the St Nicholas Church Rooms site and is a great space for community events having hosted a very successful jubilee event in 2022 and the Radstock Fayre in 2023 which marked the 50 year anniversary of the final closure of the coal mines.

St Nicholas' churchyard links with Waterside Valley and is in close proximity to the open space behind the Church Street car park. The churchyard is large and includes grassland and trees. It could benefit from some sympathetic management for wildlife balance with the need to access graves. There is also a section of land between the churchyard and the open space, behind Church St carpark which has no access and looks from aerial photos to be dense scrub, ownership of this land is currently unclear. This area of land could be investigated to see whether it could be an extension to Church Street Community Orchard.

There is also potential to improve both the visual amenity and the habitat of the Wellow Brook which flows through Radstock. The brook is in a deep straight channel where it flows the town and there should be further investigations to discuss what options might be feasible.

Although not in the project area, there are two other greenspaces that will be brought back into management in 2023. These are Radstock Railway Sidings and Foxhills. Radstock Railway Sidings isa linear strip of grassland, scrub and woodland with some steep embankments that can be viewed from the Colliers Way. This will be managed to maintain a mosaic of habitats. Foxhills is a steeply sloping field which has no public access but due to the topography is very visible from the surrounding landscape. Options for maintaining and enhancing the grassland will be investigated.

Work needs to be undertaken to explore how these sites, in various and unknown ownership, might be improved and managed for the benefit of the local community and nature. Working with the Town and parish councils, B&NES Council will identify outline programme of work to maximise use of various teams expertise, capacity and access potential funding streams.

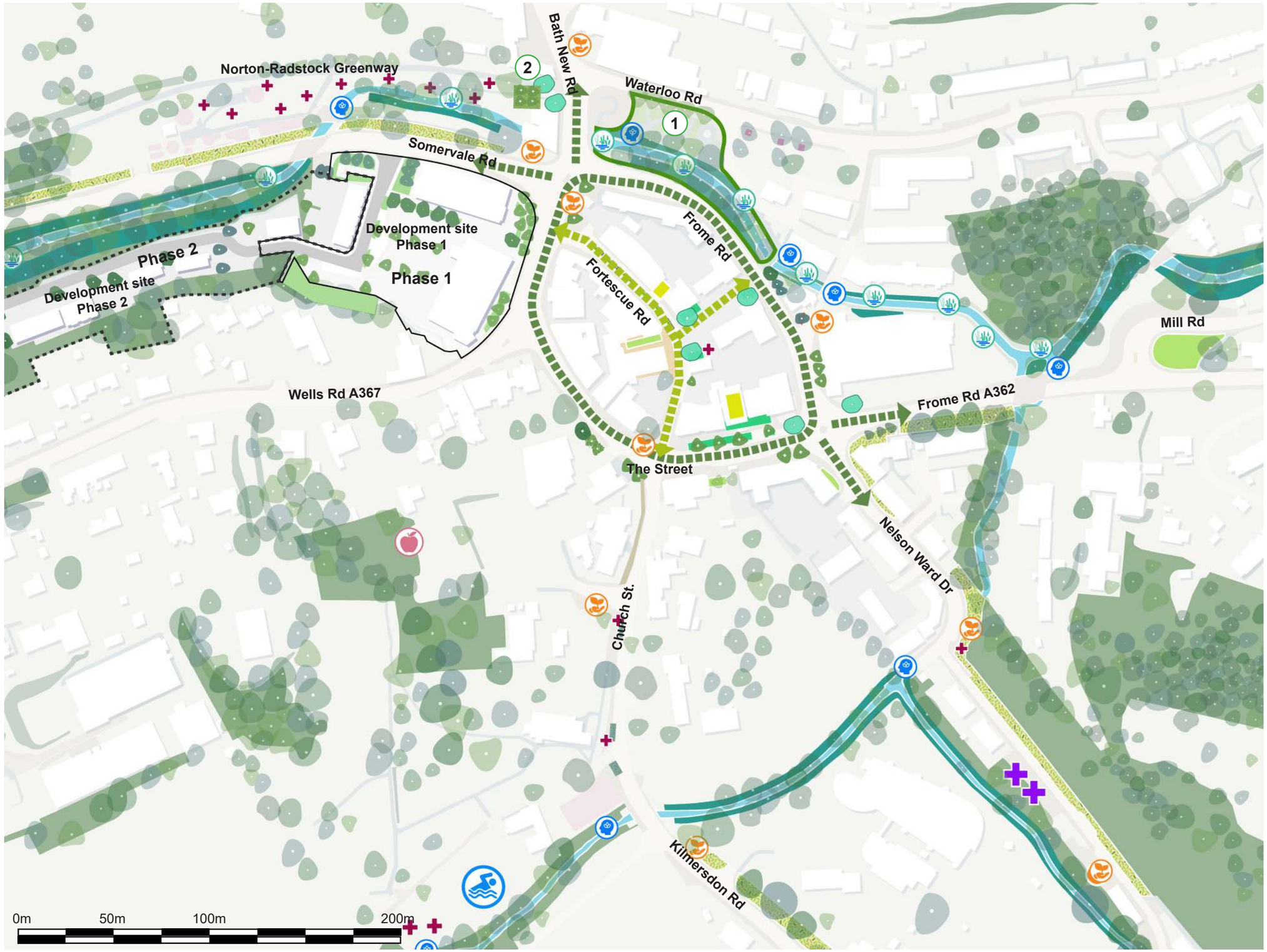
Project 6: Green & Blue Space Improvements & Opportunities

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- Green loop
- Central green streets with linear gardens or parklets
- Gateway garden
- Gateway garden extended
- Community mini productive gardens
- Mindful place by Wellow Brook
- Orchard
- Specimen tree to arrival and heart spaces
- Street trees
- Existing trees
- Wildflower verges and greening to approaches to Radstock
- Rain gardens
- Natural play
- Wellow Brook habitat creation
- Natural swimming space

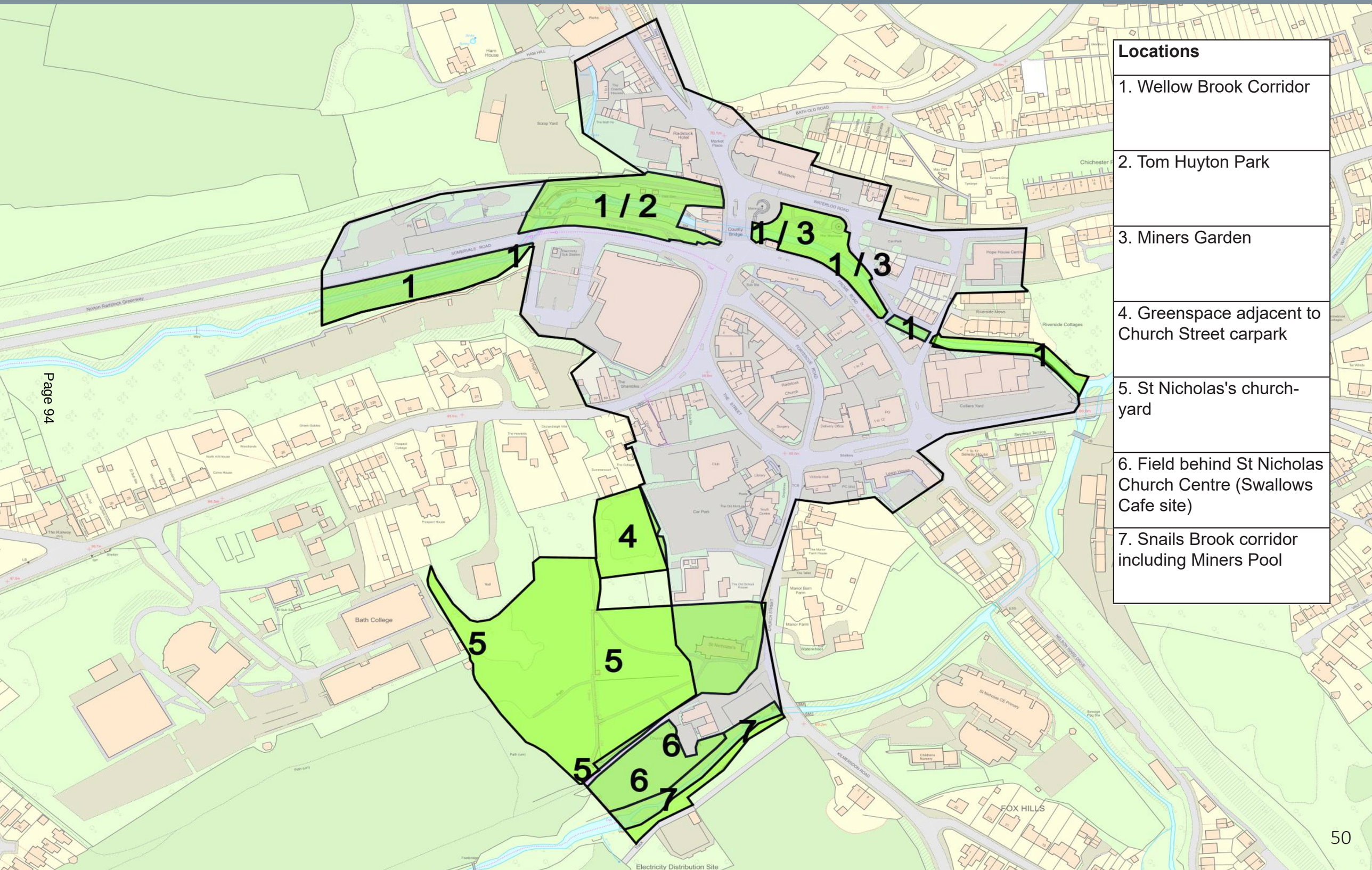


Project 6: Green & Blue Space Project Focus Areas

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives



Locations
1. Wellow Brook Corridor
2. Tom Huyton Park
3. Miners Garden
4. Greenspace adjacent to Church Street carpark
5. St Nicholas's church-yard
6. Field behind St Nicholas Church Centre (Swallows Cafe site)
7. Snails Brook corridor including Miners Pool

Project 7: Energy Efficiency Improvements and Renewable Energy

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Bath and North East Somerset has declared a climate emergency and has committed to providing the leadership for the district to be carbon neutral by 2030. This will contribute to the UK's legally binding target of net zero carbon by 2050.There are three key priorities to achieve this:

• Energy efficiency improvement of the majority of existing buildings (domestic and non-domestic) and zero carbon new build
• A major shift to mass transport, walking and cycling to reduce transport emissions
• A rapid and large-scale increase in local renewable energy generation

The council's Climate Emergency Progress Report was adopted in 2019 and sets out the scale of action needed to meet these priorities, including that new homes and development need to be zero carbon or net positive carbon from now on. As part of this work, the council is seeking to update their adopted policies on climate change, including a net zero carbon construction policy.

The Council is seeking to encourage and enable the sensitive retrofitting of energy efficiency measures and the appropriate use of micro-renewables in historic buildings and in conservation areas, whilst safeguarding the special characteristics of these heritage assets for the future. Development should contribute to achieving a minimum level of Renewable Electricity and contribute to the need to balance electricity demand and supply in order to assist the transition to 100% renewable electricity. A new local plan policy is harnessing wind power by identifying suitable areas for wind energy development.

Trinity Methodist Church

The Town Council has aspirations to vastly improve the energy performance of the building and will incorporate renewable energy solutions into its retrofitting. Other site improvements that take place in Radstock will also be encouraged to incorporate retrofitting and renewable energy solutions. A survey was carried out in December 2022 which identified work required included the following suggestions:

• Replacement of fluorescent lighting with commercial LED lighting & intelligent controls for improved efficiency;

• Replacement of gas fired boiler with a high efficiency gas condensing boiler, improved controls, pump set & pipework;

• Replacement of electric hot water heaters with high efficiency point of use units;

• Replacement of gas-fired heating system with a decarbonised solution;

•A heat recovery solution for large volume spaces.

The next steps will be to investigate further the feasibility of renewable energy installations with the community energy company Bath and West Community Energy in light of new potential grant funding from WECA.

Bath & West Community Energy

Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE) is a community owned business that develops renewable energy projects, runs innovative energy demand programmes and provides local community benefit. It has a growing portfolio of rooftop solar and ground mounted solar arrays, has installed one small hydro scheme and plans to develop other renewables.

For the last nine years BWCE has given a portion of its surplus income from renewable energy generation to the independently run BWCE Fund for the benefit of local communities including those in Bath & North East Somerset. The grants will be used by local charitable and community organisations on a range of important projects, intended to cut carbon emissions, reduce energy bills and waste and help with the cost of living crisis by tackling fuel poverty.
https://www.bwce.coop/

Centre For Sustainable Energy

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) will run drop in sessions in Radstock Library in 2023.

CSE provides strategic support for energy planners to establish or improve heating and cooling infrastructure through Act!onHeat. Advice is provided on planning, pre-feasibility and finance.Act!onHeat is an EU-funded project that will accelerate the take-up of strategic heating and cooling - such as low or zero-carbon district heating systems - in order to dramatically reduce dependency on fossil fuels.

Support is being offered to energy planners because few councils or municipalities possess the know-how, resources or experience necessary to plan heating and cooling developments which are large, complex and expensive undertakings.

https://www.cse.org.uk/

Solar Together

All residents living in B&NES and who own their own house (or have permission from the landlord to install a solar PV system) can register for the Solar Together group-buying scheme. Small and medium-sized enterprises (non-domestic) and Commonhold Associations meeting this requirement can participate as well. The scheme is likely to open for a second round in 2023.

Solar PV systems and battery storage can be purchased through this scheme. Electricity generated that is not being used will automatically be exported to the national grid. Battery storage stores the unused energy that is generated by your solar panels, meaning you can use it whenever you want.

https://solartogether.co.uk/bathnes/home

Project 8: Wayfinding, Streetscape Improvements & Parking

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Wayfinding

Work has been undertaken to identify opportunities for new wayfinding in the town centre to help link up routes and circuits and highlight places of interest. An opportunity for quick wins related to signage and maps for the greenway and linear park alongside new branding has been identified in Tom Huyton Park.

Streetscape

During the action plan consultation, there was agreement that there should be improvement in the pedestrian movement around the town and safer crossings with priority being given to pedestrians & cyclists over cars. Opportunities to improve pedestrian links, crossings within the Town Centre and reducing the highway dominance on key streets and junctions will be investigated.

Opportunities to improve The Street with additional greening, street trees, street furniture upgrades and initiatives to improve pedestrian priority will also be identified.

With the development of the Trinity Church site, it should be possible to create a coherent and unified space that links the frontage of the church into the Linden Homes 'market square' including removing the walls, hedges and re-configuring the existing planting.

Parking

During the consultation on the Radstock Regeneration Action Plan, there was a mixed response on the parking offer with some people thinking that there wasn't a problem and others saying that there should be a review and provision of more long stay parking for workers especially given the loss of parking on the RADCO site, some of which were used by long stay users.

Anecdotal evidence seems to suggest that the loss of the RADCO spaces and the development of the new Hope House Centre on Waterloo Road has meant that there has been a change in use of car parks and on street parking which has created pressure on available parking spaces in the town centre.

Time restrictions on car parks is having a negative affect on people working in the town as they have to move their cars during the working day. The issue of parking permits for staff will be investigated

We will work with the B&NES Parking Team to investigate the possibility of carrying out a further review of parking in Radstock given the recent changes.

A survey of on street parking in Radstock took place over a week in early November 2022. The data has been collected for the New Local Plan in order to establish a baseline in terms of parking in the Somer Valley. It may be that the data is used at some stage to develop an updated parking strategy or other transport policies.

Project 8: Streetscape Improvements

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

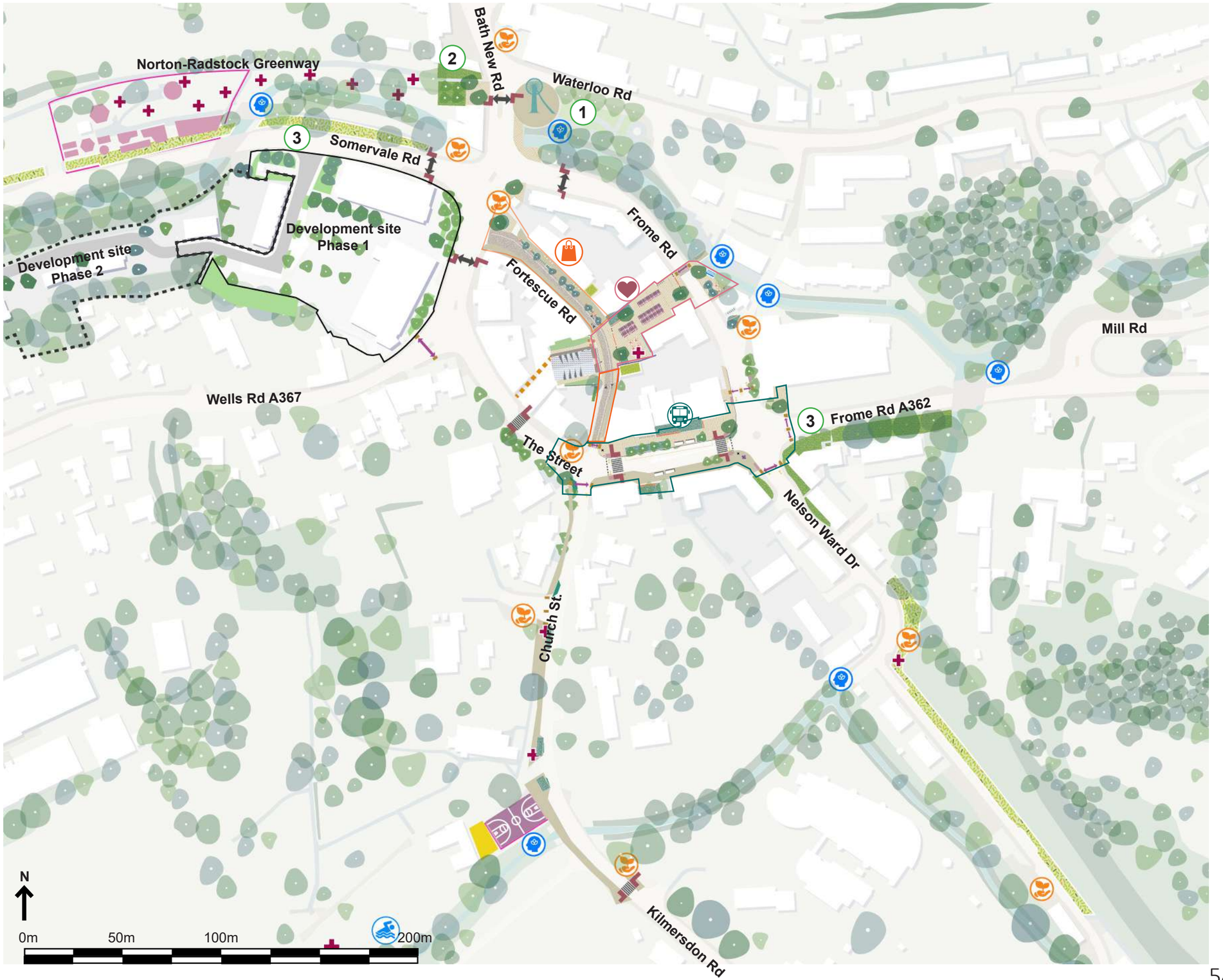
LANDSCAPE AND PUBLIC REALM OPPORTUNITIES

Central heart and market place
Create an open and flexible space for events and markets, connecting the Trinity to Wellow Brook. Specimen trees and rain gardens will green the space with generous and social seating elements.

Fortescue Road
Thicken the public realm and create linear gardens and places to dwell in between narrow linear gardens or parklets. Deliver shop front enhancements and pop up opportunities in vacant plots to animate the street.

The Street
Create a series of rain gardens and spacious bus shelters to provide a green and attractive gateway to Radstock. Enhance connections for pedestrian and cyclists with enhanced crossings.

- Community mini productive gardens
- Mindful place by Wellow Brook
- Create a natural swimming spot
- (1) Gateway garden with Radstock Pit Wheel
- (2) Extension to the gateway garden
- (3) Enhance the green approaches to Radstock
- Natural play
- Enhance MUGA with surfacing, seating and extended offer for youth user groups
- Enhance crossings for cyclists and pedestrians



Project 8: Streetscape Improvements (Fortescue Road Design Idea)

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Specimen trees
2. Large gardens
3. Biodiversity roof
4. Linear gardens / parklets with integrated seating and cycle storage
5. High quality surface finishes and extended public realm
6. Buff tone to Fortescue Road with quiet cycle route and contraflow lane
7. Integrated pick up/drop off and loading bays
8. Generous seating elements
9. Art wall and climbing plants to blank facades
10. Flexible space for markets / seasonal events
11. Opportunities for active uses to occupy ground floor levels and activate the space with external seating
12. Improved access to the Trinity with accessible ramps and wide steps
13. Pop up unit to infil vacant plot on Fortescue Road

Project 8: Streetscape Improvements (Fortescue Road Design Idea)

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

1. Trapèze linear gardens, Paris - AAUPC
2. Mural - Tara Johnston
3. East Street branding, Southwark - We made that Architects
4. Footbridge, Ljubljana
5. Central Parade event, New Adlington
6. Southgate, pop up event, Bath - MGS
7. Riverside pontoon, Ljubljana
8. East Street Exchange, Southwark - We Made That Architects
9. Integrated cycle storage, Manchester
10. Notre Dame de Calais illuminated, Calais
11. Bridget Joyce Square, London - Robert Bray Associates

Project 8: Streetscape Improvements (The Street Design Idea)

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Toucan crossing with tactile paving and surface markings
2. High quality pavement with wide footways
3. Extended footways
4. Buff tone to carriageway and contra flow cycle lane
5. Generous bus shelters with green roofs
6. Potential to redesign junction, creating pedestrian friendly crossings and reduce widths of the carriageway

- Rain gardens
- Biodiversity roof
- Wild verges
- Existing soft landscape
- Proposed specimen gateway tree
- Proposed street trees
- Existing trees
- Gateway feature bench
- Cycle parking
- Wayfinding finger post sign
- Generous seating
- Art wall
- Clad wall with natural stone

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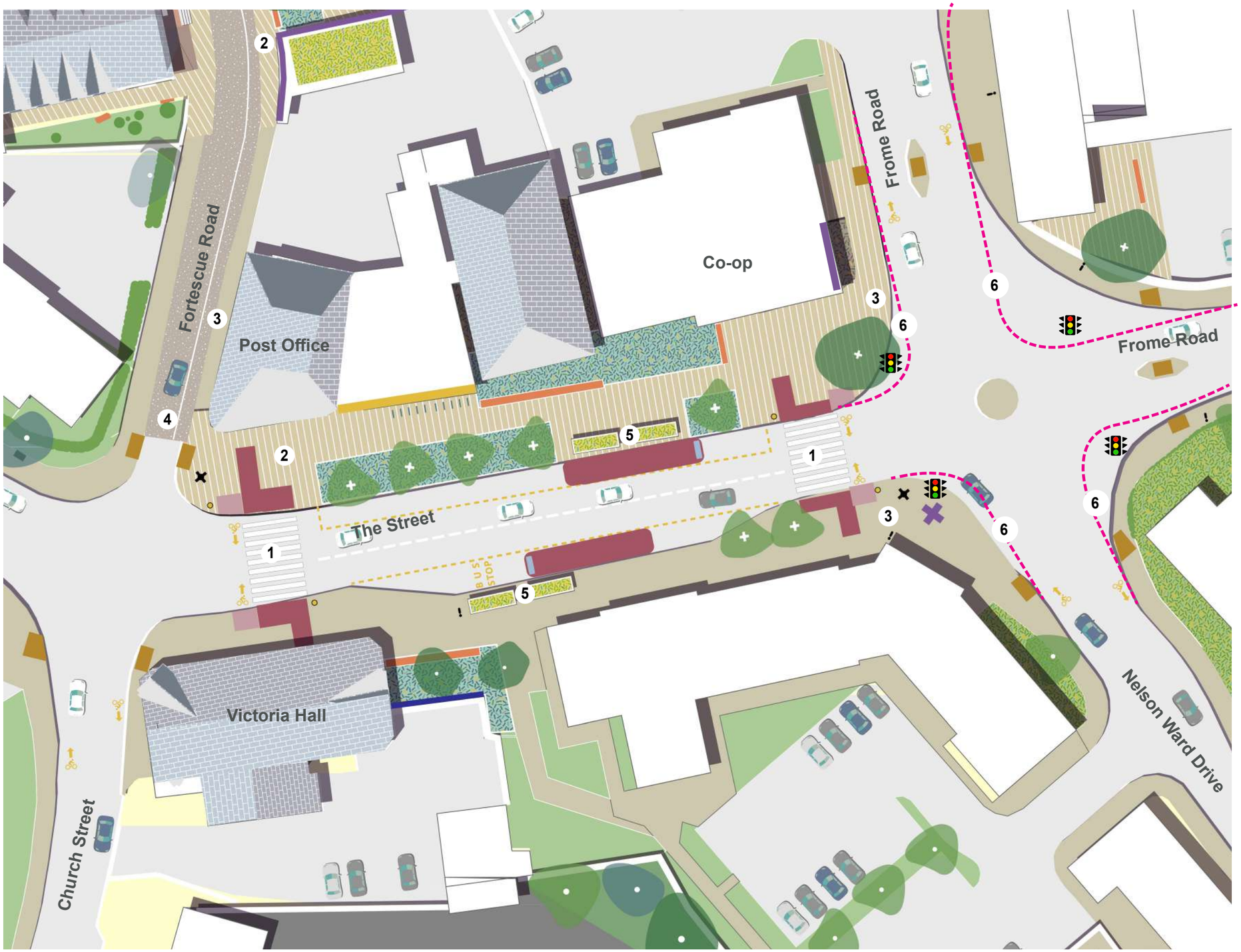


Project 8: Streetscape Improvements (Fortescue Road Design Idea)

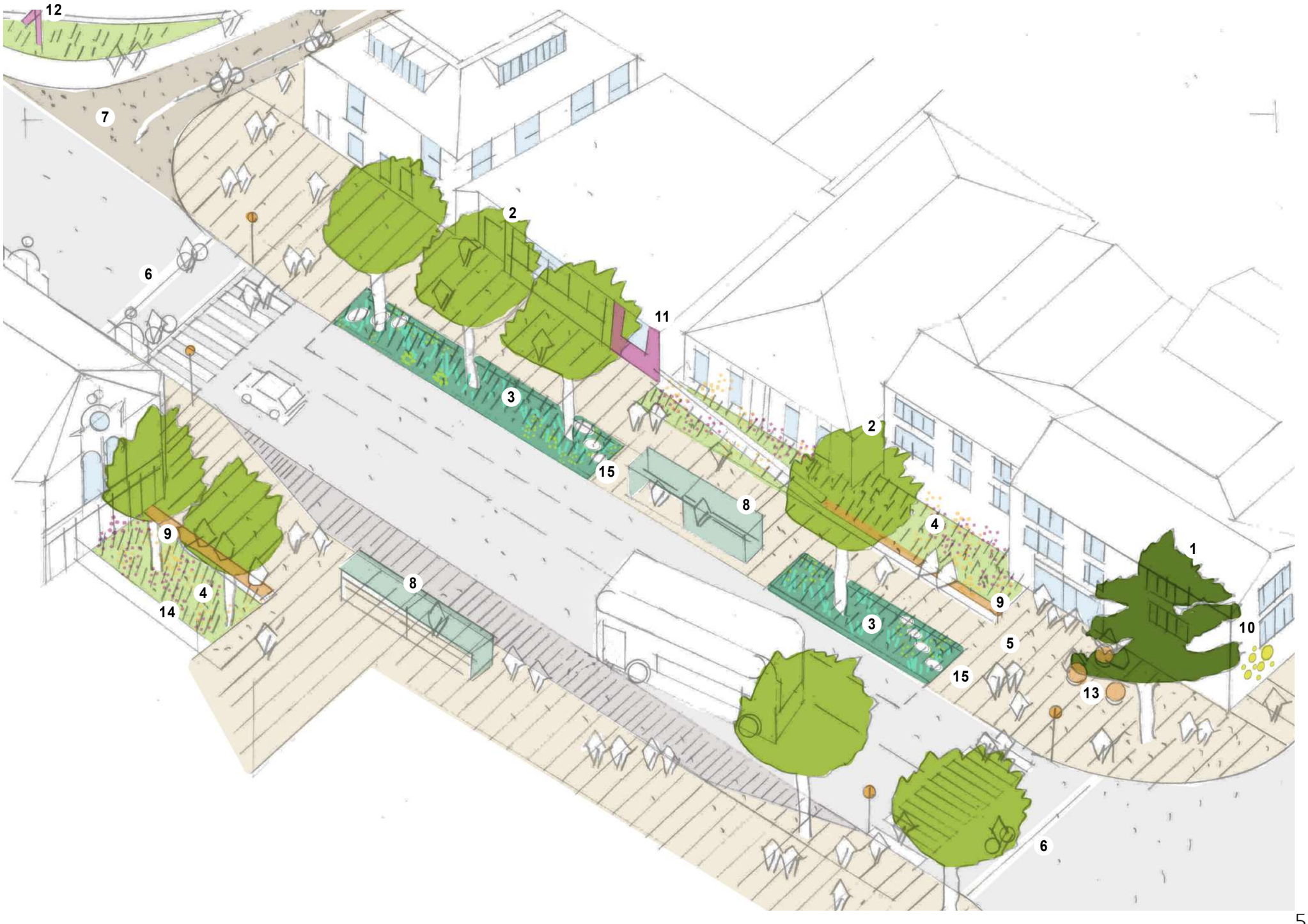
RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

OPPORTUNITIES

1. Specimen gateway tree
2. Street tree planting
3. Rain gardens
4. Ornamental gardens
5. High quality surface finishes and extended public realm
6. Enhanced pedestrian and cyclist crossings
7. Buff tone to Fortescue Road with quiet cycle route
8. Large bus shelters
9. Generous seating elements
10. Art wall
11. Pop-up/hole in the wall small business opportunity
12. Wayfinding finger post sign
13. Gateway feature seating
14. Clad the wall in natural stone to match historic building
15. Stepping stone paths



Project 8: Streetscape Improvements (Fortescue Road Design Idea)

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

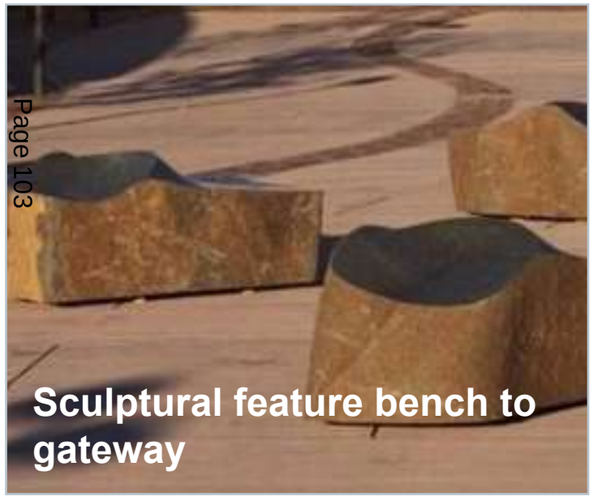
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Rain gardens and dwell spaces

Generous social seating

Rain garden planting

Radstock stone walls


Sculptural feature bench to gateway

Hole in the wall / facade enhancement to post office

Finger post sign

Cycling connections

1. White Hart Lane Bust stop gardens, Tottenham - MUF
2. Generous timber bench, Seattle - GGN LA
3. Grey to green rain garden, Sheffield - Nigel Dunnett
4. Radstock stone walling
5. Sculptural featre bench, Stone Forest
6. Burnt Oak News Stand, London - We made that Architects
7. Finger post sign, mmcite
8. Toucan crossing example
9. Natural stepping stones, incidental play
10. Interactive bus stop, Department for Transport
11. Specimen pine tree, Gillete Square, London - JL Gibbons

Natural play

Interactive bus stop with green roof

Specimen tree to gateway

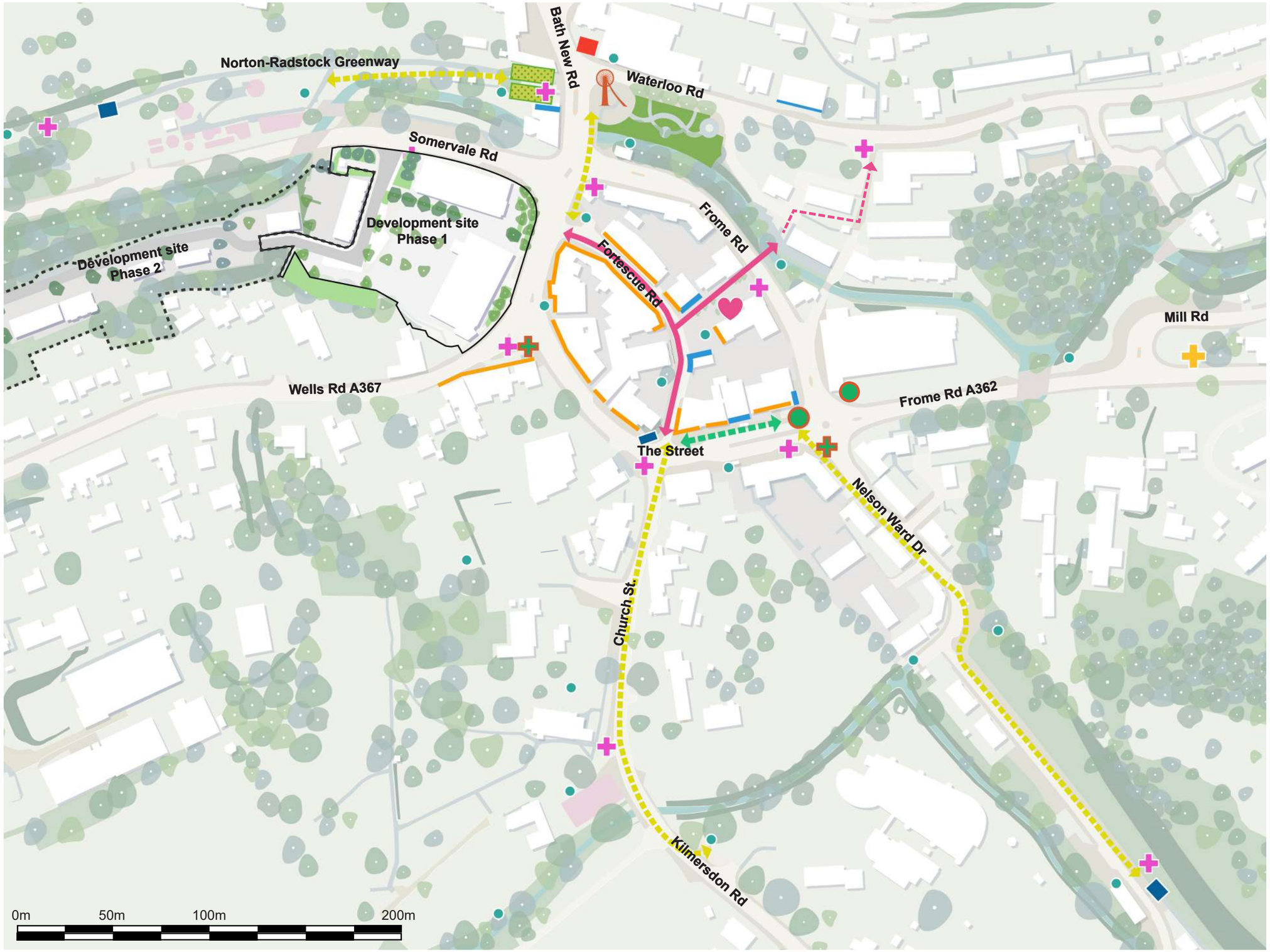
Project 9: Wayfinding Strategy

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

WAYFINDING AND ARTWORKS OPPORTUNITIES

- Gateway features
- Radstock Pit Wheel - illuminate for evening impact
- Gateway Specimen trees (pine trees to reflect existing mature trees)
- Existing gateway garden
- Extension of gateway garden
- Information boards
- Hidden treasures/ discoveries
- Fingerposts
- Art walls
- Playful routes
- Shop front enhancement and signage strategy
- Green gateway street with interactive bus signage
- Heart space
- Enhanced central streets promoting walking and cycling through the town



Project 10: Temporary Use of Vacant Properties

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

The term 'meanwhile use' refer to the short-term use of temporary empty buildings until they can be brought back into commercial use. It takes a problem and turns it into an opportunity to keep an area vibrant. Landlords can usually continue to look for new occupants whilst the temporary use is taking place. These uses benefit the local community by providing new uses such as meeting & rehearsal spaces, popup shops, exhibitions & art installations.

Commercial spaces in a town centre can remain empty when one occupant leaves and another has yet to be found. These empty spaces can have a detrimental effect on the vitality of a town centre.

Meanwhile use has become recognised as a serious tool for regeneration in recent years and has the power to test ideas and capacity, build local consensus, prove local demand for spaces and provide space or facilities required by local people. They can also increase footfall through events, provide local employment and training opportunities enlivening high streets.

All of the shops and most of the commercial premises in Radstock town centre are privately owned so interventions would require landlord buy-in and funding support to deliver temporary uses.

When premises become vacant, B&NES will work with owners to find temporary & permanent uses to improve the vitality of the town centre. Where possible grant funding can be used to incentivise bringing vacant buildings into use where there are social and economic benefits generated .

Advertising Vacant shops

The Invest Bristol & Bath team offer extensive tailored support to companies interested in relocating and growing in the area. Bath & North East Somerset Council works with partners to provide access to a searchable online database of commercial property for the B&NES area including Radstock.

A link to Invest in Bristol & Bath will be included on the Radstock Town Council website for businesses wishing to advertise their vacant properties and for those wishing to find a property in Radstock.

Retail

The B&NES 2018 Retail Study stated that for convenience goods retail provision, the combined Midsomer Norton and Radstock area are well provided for in terms of the range of stores and scale of floorspace, albeit it is heavily orientated towards Midsomer Norton, with the Lidl, Tesco and Sainsburys stores. These stores, along with other stores in the town centre, allow Midsomer Norton to retain the majority of grocery shopping trips generated by local residents. They also attract a large proportion of grocery shopping trips from Radstock residents. The general trend in terms of food shopping provision in Radstock is for a falling market share with retained trips generally concentrating upon top-up food shopping. This reinforces the conclusions of previous studies that there is a particular qualitative need for improvement within Radstock in order to rebalance provision.

The B&NES 2021 Retail Study update was prepared to contribute to the B&NES Local Plan Partial Update to cover a number of issues including policies to deliver on the Council's declaration of climate and ecological emergencies, along with transport and travel policies, the district's housing and employment land supply, the role of city and town centres in the green recovery and a review of existing allocated sites. The study reviewed recent and current retail trends, including how the COVID-19 pandemic has effected the high street, retail and food/beverage sectors, recent changes in national planning policy and legislation relating to retailing and town centres. It provided advice on how local planning policy in B&NES for retail and town centre development may need to adapt to respond to current trends and changes to policy & legislation.Preparation of the study began shortly before and then during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had a significant effect upon the UK economy and how the population went about their working and day-to-day lives, with a particular impact upon retailing and town centres. Whilst the immediate effects of the pandemic through 2020 and the early part of 2021 are plain to see, the longer term effects on the UK economy and the retail sector have yet to be fully realised.

Influencing the business mix

The Department for Levelling up, Housing & Communities provides guidance on planning for retail and other town centre uses. Local planning authorities can take a leading role in promoting a positive vision for these areas, bringing together stakeholders and supporting sustainable economic and employment growth. They need to consider structural changes in the economy, in particular changes in shopping and leisure patterns and formats, the impact these are likely to have on individual town centres, and how the planning tools available to them can support necessary adaptation and change. A wide range of complementary uses can help to support the vitality of town centres, including residential, employment, office, commercial, leisure/entertainment, healthcare and educational development. The same is true of temporary activities such as 'pop ups', which will often benefit from permitted development rights. Residential development in particular can play an important role in ensuring the vitality of town centres, giving communities easier access to a range of services.

Effective and creative leadership by local authorities and other stakeholders is key in bringing forward a vision for town centres that meets wider economic and community needs. Stakeholders with an interest in the success of the town centre should be encouraged to engage in the evolving vision for it. Radstock stakeholders and residents have been involved in the development of this action plan and will continue to be involved in the further development of the priority projects.The central policy aims for the B&NES Local Plan 2022 - 2042 includes creating opportunities for sustainable economic development, the types of jobs that are needed in our communities, and the right type of space available for businesses to grow.

Public Toilet Provision

During the engagement in 2022, people said that they would like to see more public toilets in Radstock Town Centre. Toilets will be available for public use in the Trinity Methodist Church and B&NES has been successful in obtaining a grant from the Changing Places fund to provide a fully accessible toilet in Tom Huyton Park. This was installed and opened to the public in November 2023.

Digital Technology

Rather than seeing changing shopping habits as a threat, it is important to be forward thinking in how digital opportunities can help town centres develop. Whilst global shopping habits have changed with the internet, leading to concerns about the changing role of our town centres, there are also tremendous opportunities to use digital technologies to improve how people enjoy and experience what town and city centres have to offer. By embracing digital in planning and providing for its uptake, councils can help boost the way local town centres are promoted, accessed, used, organised and understood. It is an essential part of giving places a commercial advantage and should be a building block of wider tourism promotion too.

Links to Other Projects

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

A The Active Way

B Broadband

C Green infrastructure - Green & Blue Space in Radstock

D Hope House Centre

E RADCO Redevelopment

F Skills & Better Pathways to Employment

G Somervalley Links to Bristol and Bath

H Transport Strategy

Project A: The Active Way

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Bath & North East Somerset Council was awarded national funding from Active Travel England in September 2022, following a successful bid which was supported by the West of England Combined Authority. This three-year pilot will focus on the Somer Valley, due to there being a higher than B&NES average percentage of inactive adults, higher levels of childhood obesity, lower levels of active travel, higher rates of car ownership and limited public transport options.

The Active Way project promotes social prescribing into a range of active travel activities, and has a broad cycling, walking and wheeling offer with interventions for all age groups. It will build people's confidence, motivation, knowledge and skills to engage with walking and cycling activities long-term. Active Travel is defined by Sports England as "walking to school, cycling to work, or other everyday journeys you make to get from place to place – rather than solely for leisure or fitness". There is strong evidence that active travel interventions (such as The Active Way) increase walking, cycling and physical activity and encourage local interventions and build or improve local walking and cycling routes or networks. Social prescribing is a means of enabling health professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services recognising that people's health and wellbeing are influenced by many different factors. Schemes can involve a range of activities that are typically provided by voluntary and community sector organisations. Examples include volunteering, arts activities, group learning, gardening, befriending, cookery, healthy eating advice and sports.

The Active Way can be accessed through self-referral as well as referrals from community services, local health professionals, and the 'The Active Way Hub' in the Healthy Living Centre Radstock. The service acts as a one stop shop for walking and cycling support, activities, cycle hire, cycle repair, and information on active travel routes. There will also be regular pop-up hubs in high-street locations in Midsomer Norton (unit 14 on the high street), Radstock (library) and Paulton (library), offering the same interventions.

The project aims to improve people's health by increasing levels of physical activity, rates of mobility and target under-represented groups. It will seek to reduce dependence on prescribed pain medication, reduce morbidity, mental health need, health inequalities, and improve life expectancy.

The project will also bring greater awareness of the benefits of active travel, tackle barriers to accessing sustainable transport, support a modal and cultural shift to active travel providing people with travel choices and supporting changes in behaviour. Intended environmental benefits include the creation of clear links between infrastructure development and the proposed social prescribing schemes, and reduced traffic congestion, air, noise and water pollution.

Further information can be found here: www.theactivewaybathnes.co.uk

The following programmes provide broadband infrastructure in Bath & North East Somerset:

Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme

The Government is providing up to £210m worth of voucher funding as immediate help for people experiencing slow broadband speeds in rural areas. Businesses in Bath & North East Somerset could benefit from grants of up to £3000 to get gigabit broadband installed as part of a £2 million trial taking place in four areas around the UK. Suppliers will be offering vouchers worth between £500 and £3000 each to local businesses which can then be used to pay for the installation of gigabit speed connections. The aim of the trial is to encourage the market to extend full fibre infrastructure in the UK by increasing demand and reducing the cost to customers.An effective broadband connection is a "must-have" for the vast majority of businesses, whether small or large. Improvements are being made to broadband infrastructure across Bath and North East Somerset which will allow businesses to take advantage of the benefits and efficiencies that greater connectivity allows. While the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme is only a test project, it is anticipated that there will be further Government-backed schemes to help businesses get connection speeds approaching one gigabit.

The many benefits of a full fibre gigabit connection include:

- allowing businesses to upload and download massive files quickly
- enabling widespread use of videoconferencing throughout an organisation
- providing an unprecedented level of reliability whilst greatly enhancing resilience
- future proofing - making sure that businesses have the technology in place to deal with the ever increasing demands for internet speed and connectivity
- allowing businesses in remote communities to compete on a technologically level playing field

Information about the scheme and to search for broadband suppliers can be found on the website https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk.

Connecting Devon & Somerset

Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) is a local government-led partnership which helps to deliver next generation broadband infrastructure to areas where the market has failed to invest. Over 315,000 homes and businesses already have access to superfast broadband as a direct result of investment by CDS. It is also one of the most cost-effective broadband programmes in England with costs per premise in the lowest quartile nationally, according to BDUK figures.

More than 40,828 rural homes and businesses in Devon and Somerset will receive access to full fibre broadband by the end of 2024 through contracts with Airband and Wessex Internet. The contractual commitment from all suppliers is for full fibre which is Gigabit capable. This means that even if residents only require a Superfast (30Mbps) connection now, from day one it is capable of Ultrafast (100Mbps) or Gigabit (1,000Mbps) speeds when they require it. Although the contracts seek to connect as many homes and businesses without superfast (minimum 30Mpbs download speed) broadband as possible, not every premise can be included within the public funding available.The contracts are also for open access which means other internet service providers (ISPs) can provide their content over the new networks. Get Up To Speed is a programme of free workshops and talks on the benefits of broadband to business is being coordinated by the Get Up To Speed team, which is part of the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme.

https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk

Project C: Green Infrastructure - Green & Blue Space in Radstock

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Green Infrastructure is the network of planned and managed natural and semi natural green and blue spaces and provides a wide range of evidenced economic, social and environmental benefits. It is also increasingly recognised for ways in which it helps address the climate and ecological emergencies. This includes mitigating extremes of weather by absorbing flood water through provision of sustainable urban drainage, rain gardens and green roofs and by, providing urban cooling in extreme heatwaves by provision of green space, access to water and increasing tree canopy.

Improving the connections between green and blue spaces also improves connectivity for species to move between habitats and for people to access them, as well as improving the wider green network to enable people to walk and cycle to local community facilities and services.

In Radstock, improving existing, and creating new green infrastructure will also develop Radstock as a visitor destination. It will enhance the town centre, heritage assets and facilities including the award-winning museum and will better connect well established active travel routes such as the popular Colliers Way and Greenway, that connect Radstock to neighbouring settlements and countryside.

Somer Valley Rediscovered is a strategic green infrastructure project led by Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) Council, Wessex Water, B&NES Public Health and Natural England.

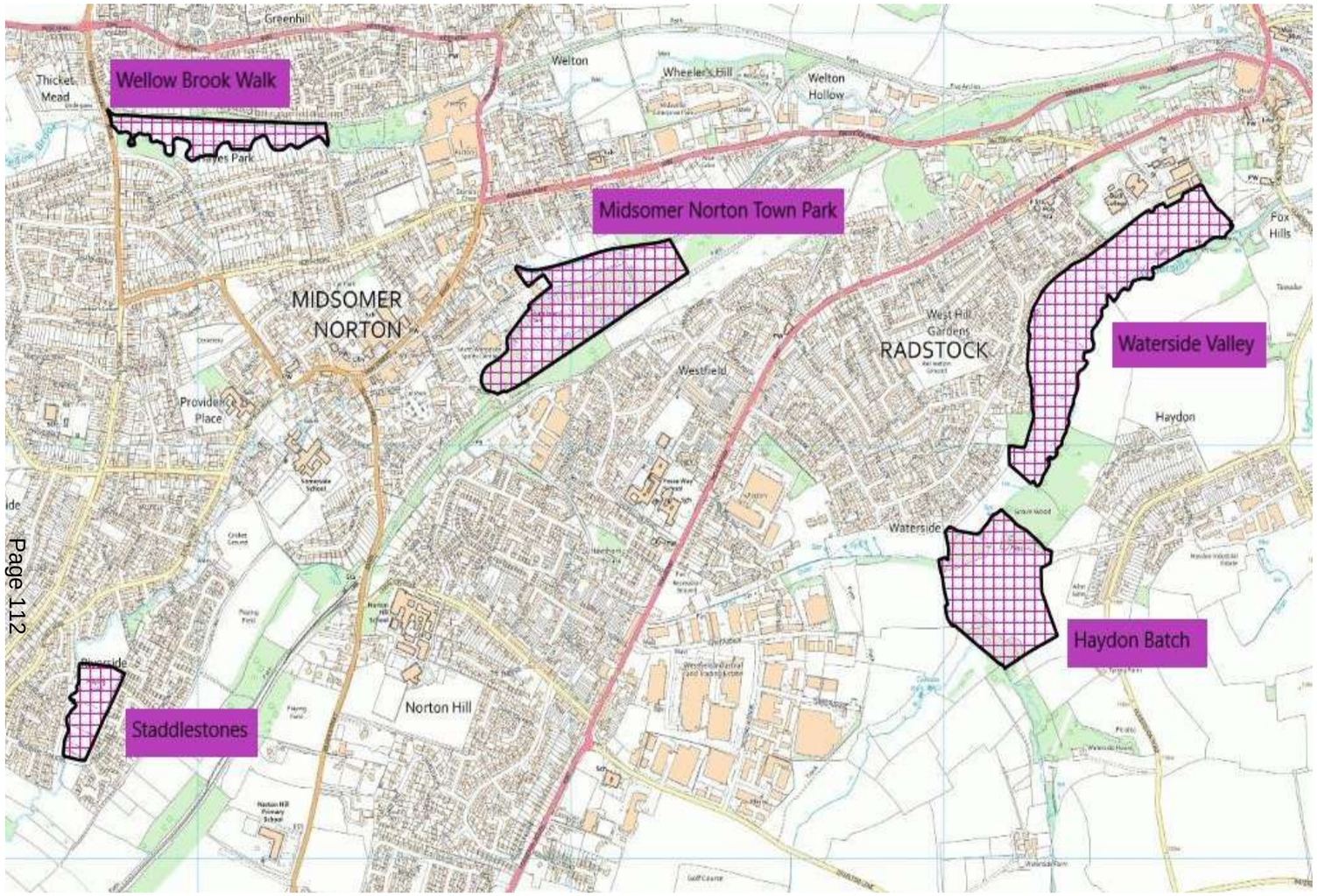
In response to growing evidence that access to greenspace has positive effects on both physical and mental health Somer Valley Rediscovered aims to improve biodiversity and, by increasing people's connections to nature, improve health and wellbeing.

Projects will include providing better access to greenspace, habitat restoration, setting up volunteer networks to manage sites and a programme of events to intrigue and inspire people to enjoy and value their local natural spaces. It will enable communities to 'rediscover' their local walks, natural environment and heritage.

Project C: Green Infrastructure - Green & Blue Space in Radstock

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives



Following a project development phase, a successful bid to the WECA Green Recovery Fund has provided funding for a three-year project. This focuses on the following 5 key greenspaces:

1. Haydon Batch (Radstock)
2. Waterside Valley (Westfield),
3. Midsomer Norton Town Park,
4. Wellow Brook Walk (Midsomer Norton)
5. Staddlestones

Somer Valley rediscovered aims to:

- Re-connect people to their local greenspaces
- Improve Biodiversity and build Climate Change resilience
- Improve the Health and Wellbeing of all sectors of the community
- Promote the area as a visitor destination for walking and cycling

Working with the town and parish councils there will be projects to improve biodiversity, along with access and interpretation improvements to the sites. There will also be an extensive programme of community engagement including volunteering opportunities, events and activities, and working with the local health authorities, green social prescribing activities.

As all the sites are within urban areas close to where people live, they also have the potential to be places that people can visit on foot or by bike, rather than using the car to visit sites further afield. A Community Engagement Programme will include volunteering, events and activities and Green Social Prescribing. Going forward, funding will be sought for other projects that fall under the objectives of Somer Valley Rediscovered. As well as improving existing greenspaces, the project will also look for new opportunities.

Further information can be found here: https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/green-infrastructure
GI & Nature Recovery Prospectus https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/GI%20and%20NR%20prospectus.pdf

Project D: Hope House Centre

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Hope House Surgery, working in Partnership with B&NES, has designed and built a new state of the art health and wellbeing facility for Radstock. The Hope House Centre, in Waterloo Road, opened in July 2022 and houses the Hope House doctors surgery, Children's Centre, health visitors and bookable community space.

The relocation of Hope House Surgery to a purpose-built facility has provided an opportunity to improve patient services and address the inadequacies of the previous accommodation and to respond to the growing population in the locality.

The Hope House Centre incorporates a Community Health and Wellbeing space supported by the Radstock and Westfield Big Local Partnership, with a Big Local grant administered on behalf of the Big Lottery Fund. This space allows for local voluntary organisations to provide additional mental health support, as well as space for child and parent groups, exercise programmes, family support and general health improvement programmes.

It also offers a range of services such as minor operations, chronic disease management and family planning. It also offer physiotherapy, a diabetes prevention programme and counselling services which local people would otherwise need to travel to further afield to access.

The centre will house The Active Way Hub, a one stop shop for walking and cycling support, activities, cycle hire, cycle repair, and information on active travel routes.

Project E: RADCO Redevelopment

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

The Radstock Co-operative Society (Radco)

In October 2019 the B&NES Planning Committee approved a hybrid planning application seeking full planning permission for the demolition of the existing 'Radco' co-operative supermarket and its replacement with 1795sqm of retail floor space (of which 1123sqm relates to the replacement supermarket), office floor space (722sqm) and 28 flats; these elements of the scheme are to be provided within two mixed-use three-storey buildings. Full permission was also granted for the associated infrastructure including a 54 car park short stay spaces (90 minutes) serving the retail & commercial element customers and 30 spaces serving the residential element. The full permission element of the application was referred to in the submission as Phase 1.

The application also sought outline permission for residential development towards the rear of the site along with its associated infrastructure. Permission was sought at this stage for the means of access, scale and landscaping of this element of the site with all other matters reserved. Outline permission was sought for 26 dwellings in this area and this element of the proposal is referred to as Phase 2 in the submission. Work was not to commence on Phase 2 until the completion of all piling operations on Phase 1.

The site is situated within the Radstock Conservation Area in the heart of Radstock in a high profile position on the corner of Wells Road and Somervale Road (A362). The previous Radco supermarket building was constructed in 1959 and was a well-known landmark in the town. A service yard and the store's large car park was located to the rear of the store and is a locally designated Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI). The Wellow Brook runs through the northern part of the site and is a designated Environment Agency 'Main River'.

Prior to receiving planning permission, the plans for the site were consulted on widely in 2018. Demolition of the old store commenced in early December 2022. An internal soft strip took place first, with Bath Demolitions moving on to the external demolition. Project works have taken into consideration the environmental impact. Bath Demolition aimed to recycle concrete & repurpose old materials for reuse on site. Measures have also been implemented to protect the local wildlife, such as otters; the riverscape & trees.

Discussions have taken place with the Local Planning Authority on how to bring the site forward given the current economic pressures. It is likely that some small amendments will be made to the scheme. The construction contract is due to be awarded in the summer of 2023. Whilst the new site is being redeveloped, Radstock Co-op is operating from a purpose built, light and spacious community store located on The Street in Radstock. It has an extensive product range beyond the typical convenience store offering.

Project F: Skills & Better Pathways to Employment

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Businesses need support

Businesses can access support to engage with employability and skills benefits:

Universal Business Support Service (UBS)

The Universal Business Support Service provides free expert advice to help any start up or established SME business grow and suceed. This West of England initiative is delivered in partnership with Bath & North East Somerset Council.

For more information visit: https://www.investinbath.co.uk/business/support/free-advice-service

Invest in B&NES

Invest in B&NES provide in person workshops and networking events in Midsomer Norton, allowing people to connect with other local businesses and learn new business skills. These events are funded by B&NES as part of the Universal Business Support and Recover, Evolve, Grow Programmes.

For more information visit: https://www.investinbath.co.uk/

Company links with schools

Students in Radstock can also access opportunities to engage with employability and skills benefits:

Workforce for the future

The programme is designed to help address enterprises future skills needs through diagnostics and by upskilling and retraining staff. There is also support to bring in new staff, including placement ready students or aprenticies to help develop the future workforce. School engagement can support with:

- The development of a talent pipeline and your brand's social value
- The opportunity to address skills shortages
- The structure, the content & the delivery of a range activities to inspire students
- A supported introduction to 95 secondary schools & colleges (including SEND & alternative education) in the region
- Staff upskilling

For more information visit: https://engine-shed.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/School-Engagement-Workforce-for-the-Future-Flyer-WECA.pdf

Careers Hub

The Careers Hub works with secondary schools and colleges to transform careers for education the West of England's young people. The Hub encourages collaboration between providers, the public and the business community to provide positive career outcomes for young people. The Hub is also supported by the Careers and Enterprise Company.

For more information visit: https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/employment-skills/careers-hub/

Project G: Somer Valley links to Bristol and Bath

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

The 'Somer Valley Links to Bristol and Bath' project forms one of the Strategic Corridor projects being delivered by the West of England Combined Authority in coordination with Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES) as part of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS). The project seeks to improve connectivity between the towns and villages in the Somer Valley and Bristol (principally, via the A37 and A362 corridors) and Bath (principally, via the A362 and A367 corridors).

Analysis undertaken by the Combined Authority and B&NES has identified that the principal corridors are dominated by high-levels of car use, with limited prioritisation for Public Transport and generally low-quality active mode infrastructure. This, in turn, leads to low levels of bus use, walking, wheeling and cycling to, from, and within the Somer Valley, reinforces car dominance, and restricts opportunities for residents and businesses in the area. The project, therefore, seeks to redress the balance of transport modes within the Somer Valley by delivering bus prioritisation, high-quality active mode infrastructure and by better facilitating access to public transport through community connections, which will provide residents with a genuine choice of modes that is reliable and improves their access to services and future employment and leisure opportunities.

The project forms the mechanism by which the West of England Bus Strategy, Joint Local Transport Plan and Bus Infrastructure Programme overarching objectives will be taken forward for the Somer Valley corridors. The project is currently being progressed by the Combined Authority through the transport business case process, where it is currently at Outline Business Case (OBC) stage. At OBC stage, the list of options across the corridors developed at the earlier stage is refined and a set of deliverable packages produced that meet the aims and objectives of the CRSTS programme. Whilst options for Radstock are being considered, it is only following the completion of the OBC and the development of the Full Business Case (FBC) that specific interventions to be taken forward will be identified. However, residents of Radstock are likely to benefit from: improved bus reliability delivered through prioritisation measures on the A362 and A367 corridors; increased opportunity for walking and cycling in the town and between Radstock and other towns and villages in the Somer Valley; and targeted improvements to junctions along the corridors that will deliver bus prioritisation and other operational efficiencies. With improvements to infrastructure and a subsequent shift to more sustainable transport modes, it is anticipated that there will be improvements to existing congestion on routes to and from Radstock.

The current timeline for the project is as follows:

- Completion of the Outline Business Case – early 2024
- Completion of the Full Business Case – late 2024
- Construction and implementation of infrastructure – commencement in 2025

Somer Valley Transport Strategy 2017

The report noted that the car is the main means of travelling to work for most residents in the Somer Valley. In 2017, Somer Valley residents worked in a wide range of locations; nearly 20,000 residents travelled daily, of which around 27% worked locally in Midsomer Norton/Radstock/Paulton.

The continued growth of housing and commercial development within the Somer Valley is likely to lead to increased use of existing off-street car parking, which surveys showed was well used. In the future there may be the need for further provision.

The report also noted that there is anecdotal evidence that some parking in Radstock is used by commuters who continue their journey to Bath by bus or car sharing. This was supported but should not take spaces away from town centre uses and shoppers.

Survey data indicated that Radstock has limited public parking with small car parks at Waterloo Road and Church Street and limited on-street parking. Survey data showed that these were well used. In addition, the CoOperative store had 261 spaces but the survey showed a maximum occupancy of only 97 spaces. Around 20 spaces were also allocated for long stay use with a permit system for those working in the town centre. With the redevelopment of the RADCO site in 2023, these spaces are no longer available.

Key actions included monitoring the impact of introducing limited lengths of stay in Church Street and Waterloo Road car parks on nearby on-street parking and seek to maintain the level of parking to protect the towns local role. In the future if demand continues to increase, additional spaces may be sought. A study or survey could be undertaken to see if a Park and Ride/car share could be promoted as a new transport interchange in Radstock.

Balancing Your Needs: A parking strategy for Bath & North East Somerset, 2018

This Parking Strategy was commissioned by Bath and North East Somerset Council to provide an effective long-term plan for the management of all aspects of parking.

A consultation process was undertaken to inform the strategy and involved interviews with public and private parking operators, surveys to resident associations, parish & town councils and other organisations active in the area and targeted letters to certain business groups.

The strategy was developed in line with the Placemaking Plan, Core Strategy & the Somer Valley Transport Strategy. To promote sustainable transport, it aims include enabling a shift to more sustainable modes of transport away from car use, provision of safe sustainable transport routes, promoting walking & cycling and improving accessibility.

The report says that evidence at the time suggested that there is available capacity on-street parking in Radstock. The current levels of off-street parking in the Somer Valley will be maintained to ensure access to facilities.

Car parks in rural areas will remain free of charge where charges do not currently apply in order to improve the economic viability of the settlements.

The strategy will remain in place until such time as circumstances demonstrate that it is in need of review and alteration. To determine the point at which this is required, a number of key performance indicators have been identified against which the strategy can be monitored. This includes occupancy levels of public off-street car parks.

The report notes that monitoring should be undertaken as a minimum every two years, with an interim review of strategy taking place in 2022 and a full review in 2026 prior to a revised strategy being produced from 2027.

Evidence Base

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

The following evidence was used in preparing the Radstock Regeneration Action Plan:

- Radstock Town Centre Action Plan Scoping Document, July 2022
- Radstock Conservation Area Assessment, 1999
- Jubilee Festival Audience Survey, June 2022
- Radstock Town Centre Vitality Audit, July 2022
- Radstock Trinity Methodist Church Report, Wendy Tomlinson, September 2022
- Radstock Heritage Report, Wendy Tomlinson, October 2022
- Outdoor Events Space Initial Scope, Bath Whalley, October 2022
- Activating Radstock Town Centre: Outdoor Events & & Cultural Programme, Beth Whalley, January 2023
- Radstock Sites & Premises Assessment, Holwest Ltd trading as DKA, Stage 1 report December 2022 & Stage 2 report March 2023
- 2021 Census data
- Radstock Town Centre Public Realm Opportunity Study, July 2023

February 2024

RADSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

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Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan

Engagement Report
October 2022

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan

Report of Public consultation & engagement 7th – 15th October 2022

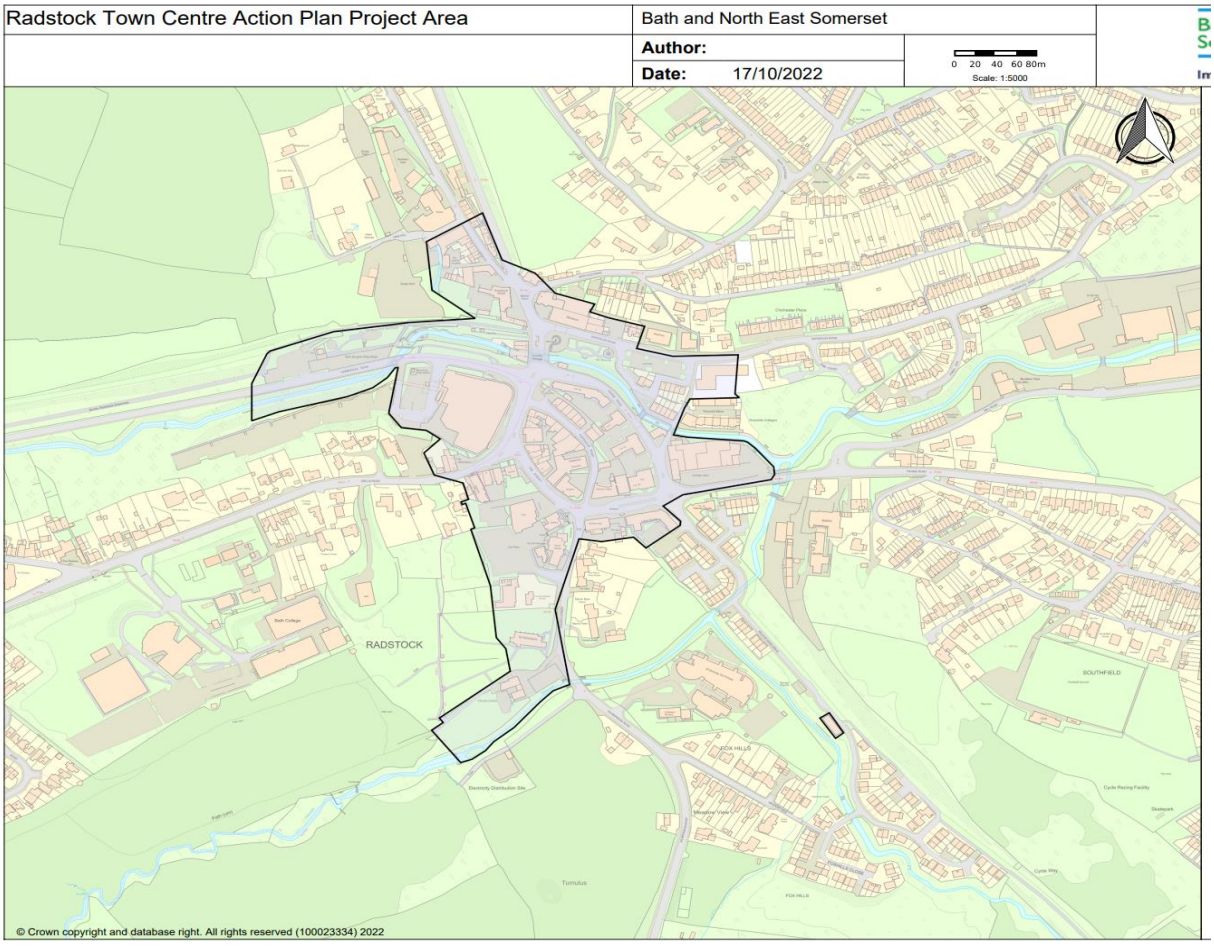
1. Introduction

Bath and North East Somerset Council has been successful in obtaining funding from the West of England Combined Authority Housing Regeneration Enabling Fund to prepare a regeneration action plan for Radstock Town Centre, working in partnership Radstock Town Council, landowners and stakeholders. This will facilitate delivery and access funding to support the infrastructure needs arising in communities including in response to strategic growth.

Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan developed by March/April 2023 and will identify opportunities, agree priority projects & access project funding. The Action Plan will be guided by the existing Local Plan and feed into the new Local Plan.

Housing and employment growth planned for the town and surrounding area means more reliance on the town centre facilities. The focus in Radstock will be on improvements to the vitality and viability of the Town Centre.

Project scoping took place early part of 2022 in partnership with Radstock Town Council, B&NES officers & members & informed engagement.



2. Consultation Engagement Sessions

Drop-in public engagement events were held in Radstock. The times and venues were as follows:

- 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm, Wednesday 7th September 2022, The Library, Radstock (for businesses)
- 10am – 1pm, Saturday 1st October 2022, The Library, Radstock
- 10am – 1pm, Tuesday 4th October 2022, Outside the Library, The Street

Due to the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the events planned for the 10th & 13th September were postponed until 1st & 4th October.

The Radstock Town Centre Area Action Plan online engagement was open between the 5th of September and the 14th of October 2022. Details of the engagement were published on the B&NES and Radstock Town Council websites **(Appendix 1)**

The public were informed about the engagement events through articles published by the media, posters, B&NES & Radstock Town Council social media channels, email and through local radio (Capitol).

Posters detailing the consultation were displayed in locations in the town centre and included the time, date and location of the drop-in engagement events. Details about the events were also published on the B&NES & Town Council websites, B&NES & Town Council social media channels, B&NES press release and shared through word-of-mouth. The press release was circulated to the Journal, Guardian, Nub News & Somer Valley FM **(Appendix 1).**

3. Pre-Consultation

The scoping document has been developed over the past year through a process of baseline evidence gathering and engagement with B&NES officers & members which looks at the types of project areas that could be tested through the Action Plan **(Appendix 2).**

Councillors and the Combined Authority were briefed verbally on the scoping document progress and involved in the press release that went out to publicise the engagement events.

This scoping document is the focus for this public engagement, the results of which will inform the development of the Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and Delivery Plan. This will be developed by March 2023.

4. Consultation Responses Assessment

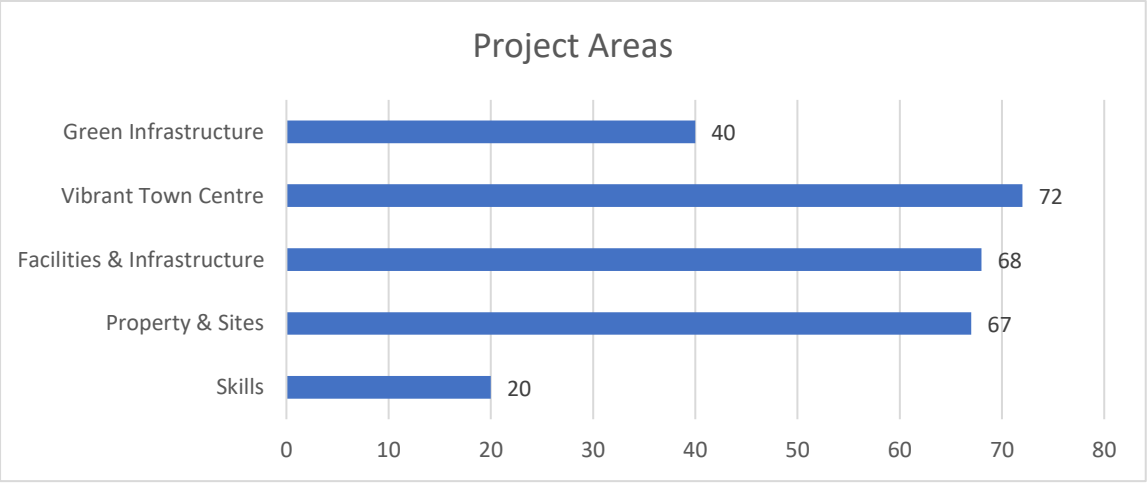
Approximately 100 responses came from attendees at the engagement events in September and October 2022. 63 responses were made via the online survey on the Town Council website.

Engagement Events

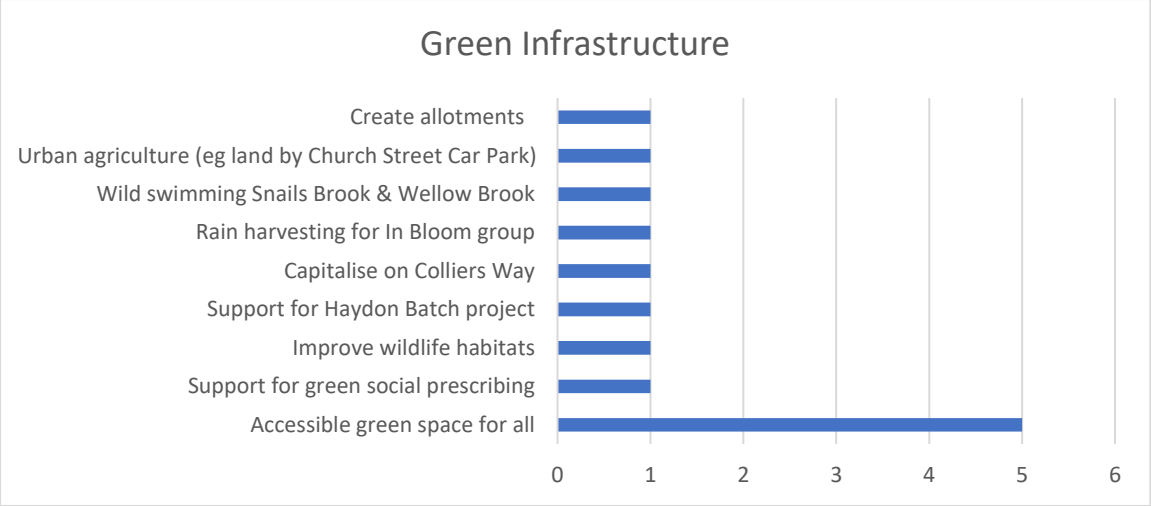
Display boards (**Appendix 3)** at the engagement events and the online survey invited stakeholders to provide feedback on project ideas, what might bring more people to Radstock, what uses and improvements would they like to see on vacant sites and if there were any other improvements they'd like to see in the project area.

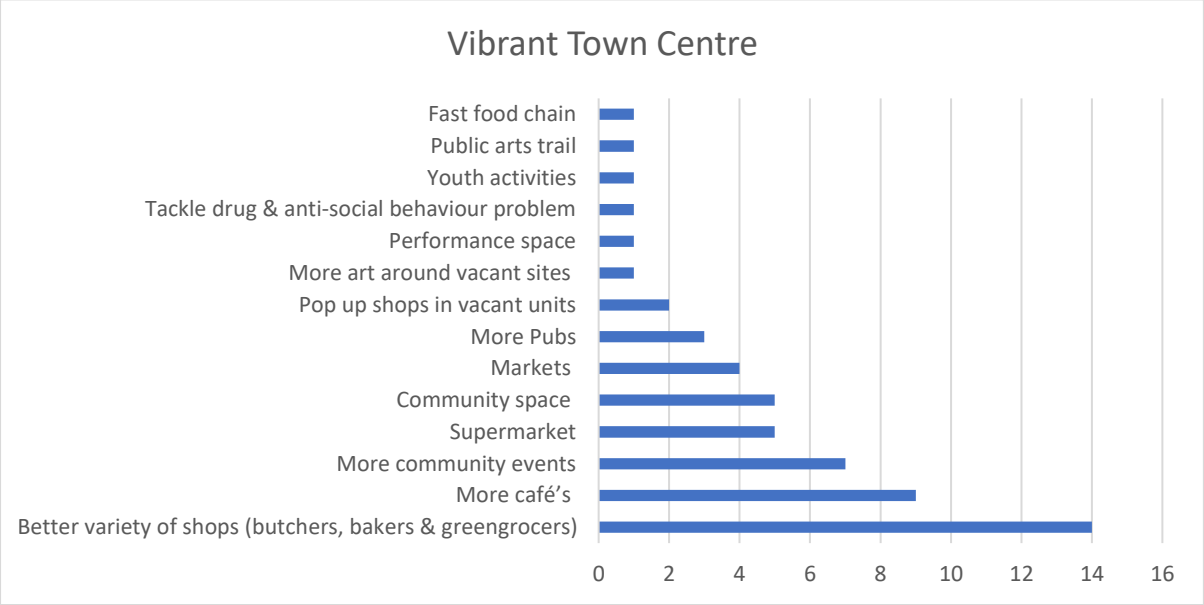
Responses from the engagement events, comments put on the boards in the library and feedback from the online survey are shown in the following tables. Some people added more than one comment. People were asked to choose the 3 project areas that they supported.

The following table shows the support for each of the five project areas:



Comments & project ideas received for each of the project areas are shown in the following tables:


Green Infrastructure
Create allotments
Urban agriculture (eg land by Church Street Car Park)
Wild swimming Snails Brook & Wellow Brook
Rain harvesting for In Bloom group
Capitalise on Colliers Way
Support for Haydon Batch project
Improve wildlife habitats
Support for green social prescribing
Accessible green space for all
0
1
2
3
4
5
6


Vibrant Town Centre
Fast food chain
Public arts trail
Youth activities
Tackle drug & anti-social behaviour problem
Performance space
More art around vacant sites
Pop up shops in vacant units
More Pubs
Markets
Community space
Supermarket
More community events
More café's
Better variety of shops (butchers, bakers & greengrocers)
0
2
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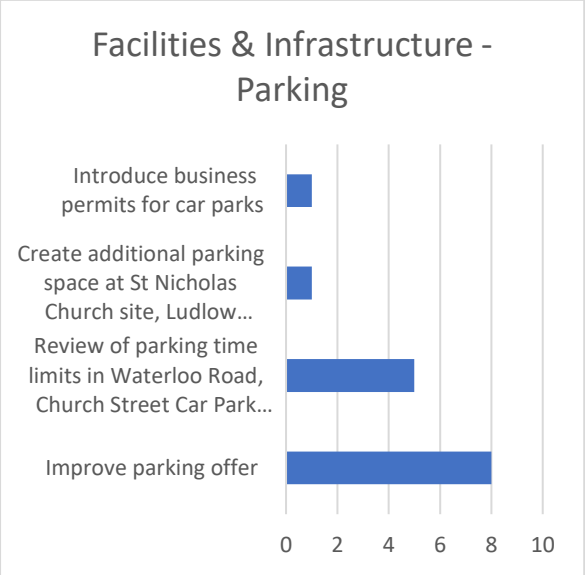
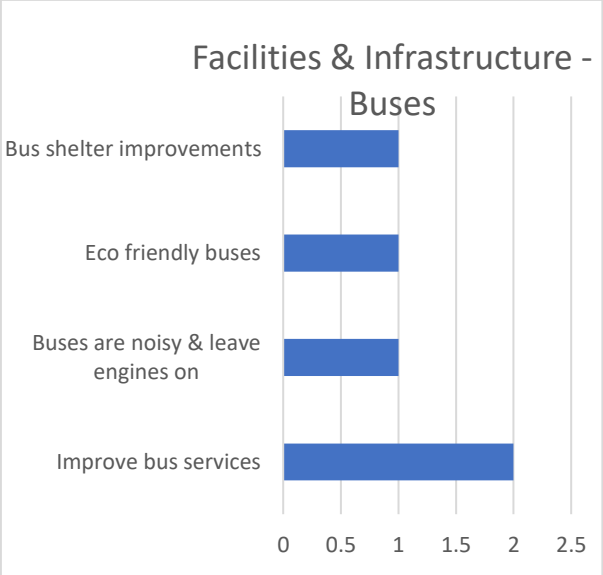
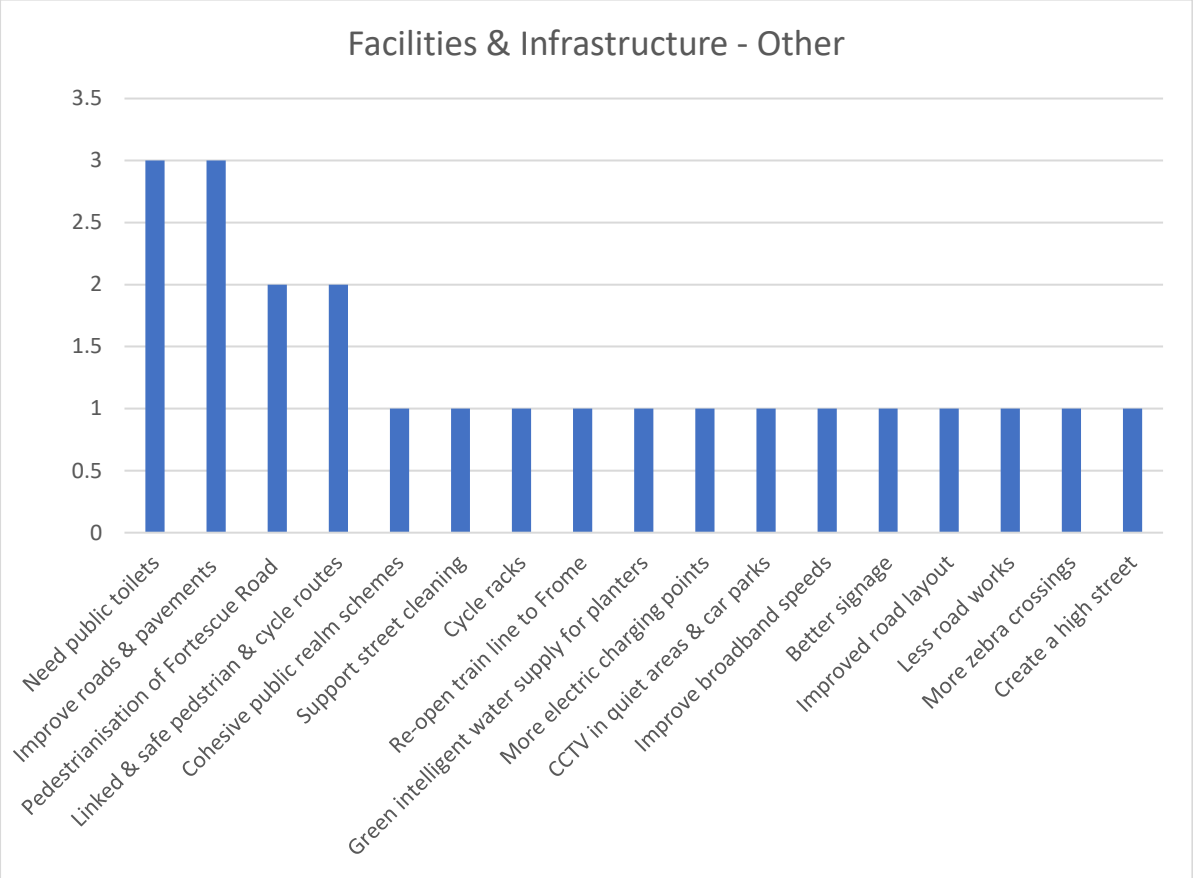
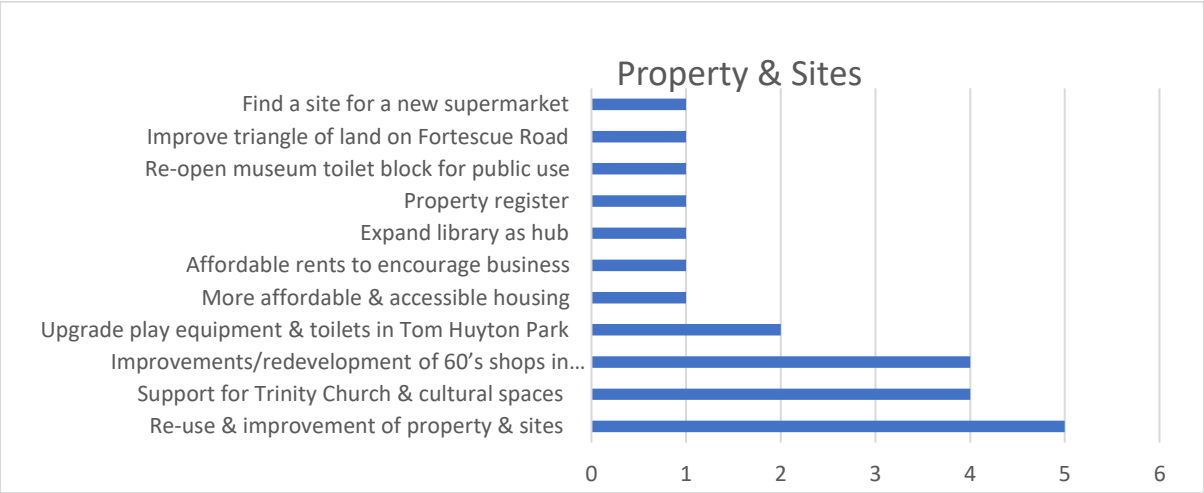
8
10
12
14
16


Facilities & Infrastructure - Parking
Introduce business permits for car parks
Create additional parking space at St Nicholas Church site, Ludlow...
Review of parking time limits in Waterloo Road, Church Street Car Park...
Improve parking offer
0
2
4
6
8
10


Facilities & Infrastructure - Buses
Bus shelter improvements
Eco friendly buses
Buses are noisy & leave engines on
Improve bus services
0
0.5
1
1.5
2
2.5


Facilities & Infrastructure - Other
3.5
3
2.5
2
1.5
1
0.5
0
Need public toilets
Improve roads & pavements
Pedestrianisation of Fortescue Road
Linked & safe pedstrian & cycle routes
Cohesive public realm schemes
Support street cleaning
Cycle racks
Re-open train line to Frome
Green intelligent water supply for planters
More electric charging points
CCTV in quiet areas & car parks
Improve broadband speeds
Better signage
Improved road layout
Less road works
More zebra crossings
Create a high street


Property & Sites
Find a site for a new supermarket
Improve triangle of land on Fortescue Road
Re-open museum toilet block for public use
Property register
Expand library as hub
Affordable rents to encourage business
More affordable & accessible housing
Upgrade play equipment & toilets in Tom Huyton Park
Improvements/redevelopment of 60's shops in...
Support for Trinity Church & cultural spaces
Re-use & improvement of property & sites
0
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2
3
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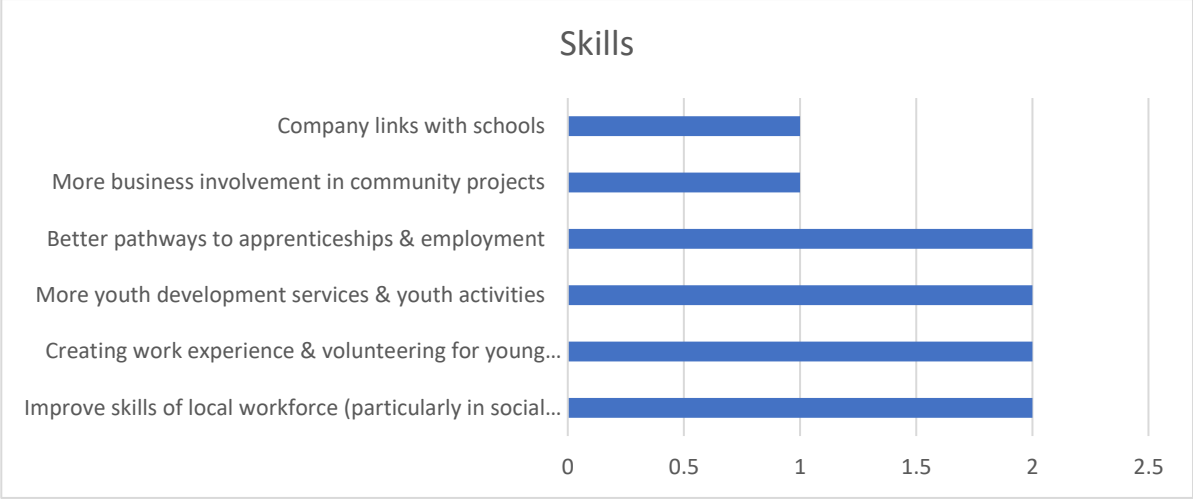
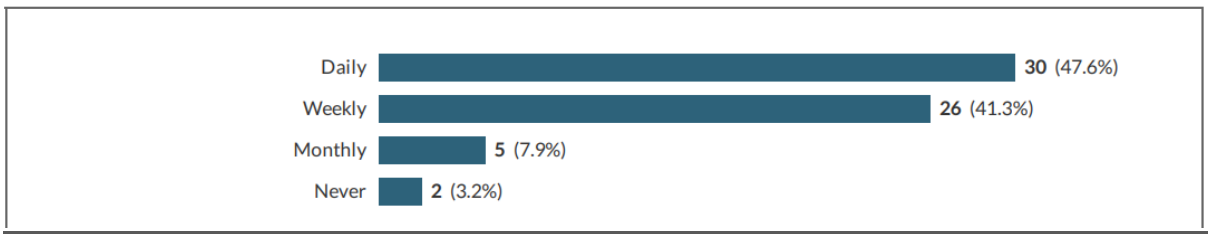
6



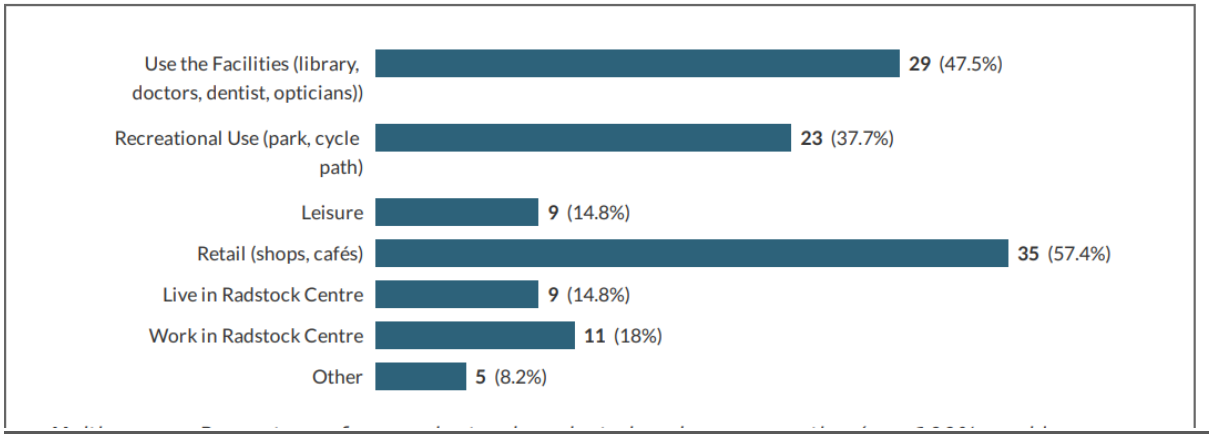
Online Survey

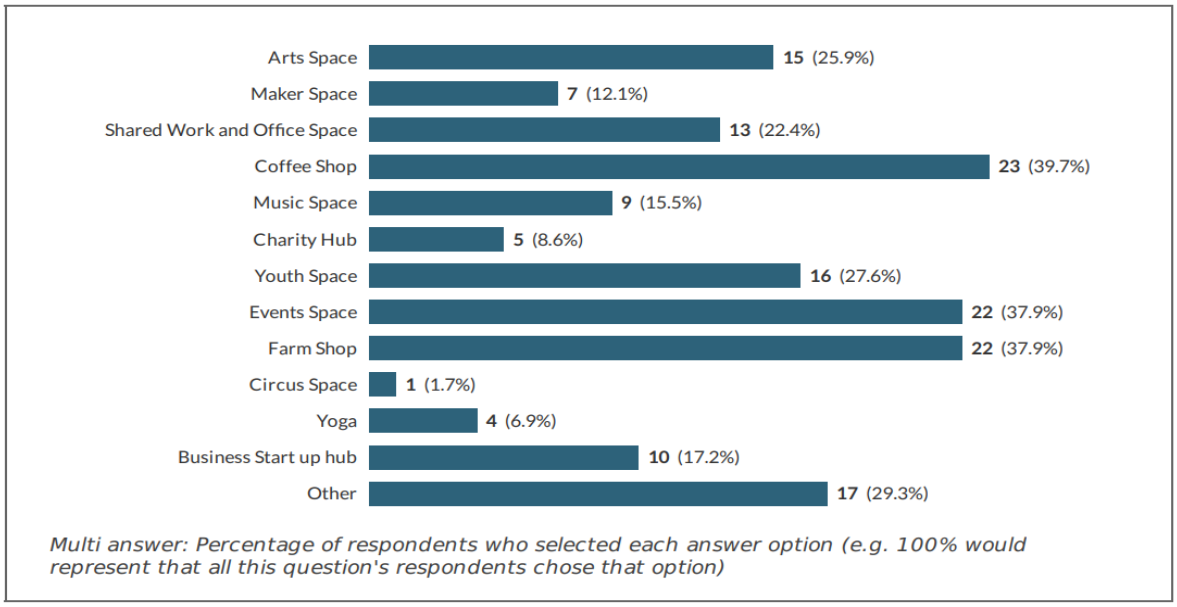
An online survey was available on Radstock Town Council website from the 5th September until 15th October 2022. This asked the same questions as on the engagement boards with an addition by the town Council on where people travelled from to visit the town centre and what the purposes of their visit was. There was also a question specifically focused on cultural events. There were 63 responses and the feedback is included in the tables above. The following tables show responses to the additional questions:

How often do you visit Radstock's Town Centre?



Why do you visit Radstock's Town Centre?





People taking part in the engagement wanted to see more accessible green space in the town, a better variety of shops, cafes & pubs, more community events & event space, a review of car parking, improvements to bus services and infrastructure, accessible public toilets, improvements to roads, pavements & the 1960's row of shops in Fortescue Road, re-use & redevelopment of vacant sites and improvement of skills in the workforce.

5. Next Steps

The projects ideas will be considered and included in the Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan where feasible. The Action Plan will be developed by the end of 2022 and further consultation will take place in early 2023. The Regeneration Team will then identify funding and partners to facilitate the delivery of priority projects.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Press & Advertising
Appendix 2 – Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan Scoping
Appendix 3 – Display Boards

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Radstock Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan

Public Consultation Report
February/March 2023

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

1. Introduction

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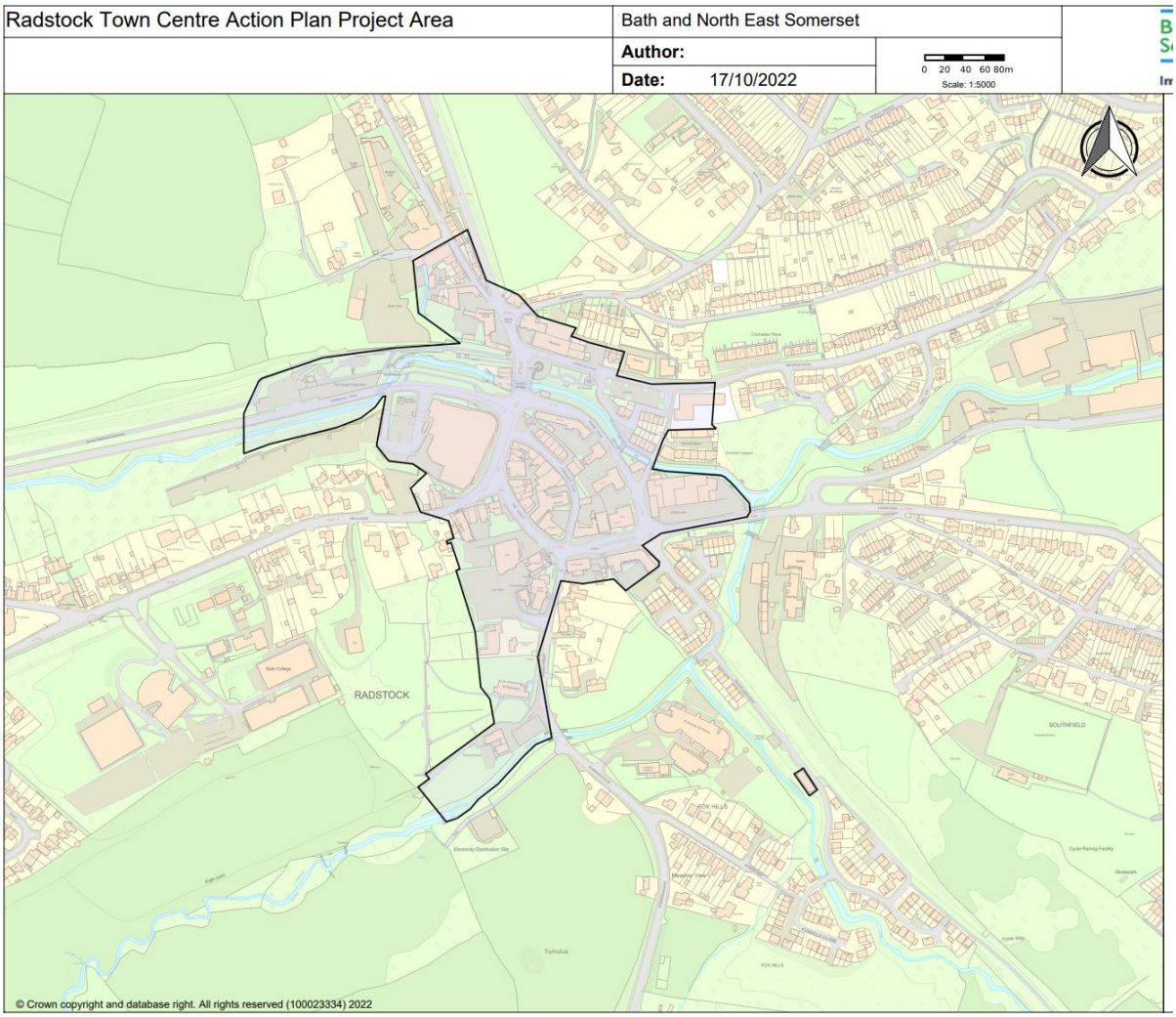
Project scoping took place early part of 2022 in partnership with Radstock Town Council, B&NES officers & members & informed engagement that took place in September/October 2022.



Consultation February/March 2023

Further consultation took place in February 2023 to receive feedback on project ideas that were identified in the scoping exercise and feedback from the 2022 engagement. Once again people were informed about the engagement events through articles published in the local media following the issue of a press release.

Comments were sought on projects through an online survey on Radstock Town Council website, on boards that were in the library between 21st February and 7th March, including at a drop-in session on 28th February.

Comments were received from around 40 people and were generally positive, supporting the proposals put forward. Feedback is summarised in the table below:

Project	Comment Summary
Trinity Church Community Hub	• Support for use of Trinity Church as a community hub which includes a café, concert space, social activities, arts & indoor markets. • Relocation of the library would free up the existing site for redevelopment. • Library must stay in Radstock

Cultural Programme	• Support for a cultural events programme, branding focused on the mining heritage, Radstock Festival. • Build on the presence of Radstock museum to attract visitors.
Outdoor event space	• Support for weekly markets to attract locals and visitors to the town centre • Investigation of venues that could be used for outdoor events. • More events in the town would bring life to Radstock. • Public Piazza for markets etc. • The introduction of markets/pop up shops need a minimum amount of sellers otherwise it would not attract visitors eg a smaller version of the monthly Frome market.
Tree planting	• Anything that improves the visual appearance of the town centre and would help to attract visitors. • Greenery softens the traffic noise, absorbs pollution and is beneficial for helping to offset climate change. • Investigate rain garden drainage systems.
Renewable energy solutions & Additional green & blue space	• This is important due to the climate emergency that has been declared by B&MES and Radstock Town Council. • Support for incorporating renewable energy solutions and retrofitting into Trinity Church and other redevelopment projects. • Green spaces should be developed as a priority for health & wellbeing & to visually improve the town centre.
Parking, signage & streetscape improvements	• Several people thought that there wasn't a problem with the parking offer, but others thought that there should be a review. • Loss of the parking at RADCO is an issue. • More longer stay parking for workers • Agreement that there should be an improvement in the pedestrian movement around the town and safer crossings. • There should be priority given to pedestrians & cyclists over cars. • Pedestrianise Fortescue Road • Institute one way system around the centre • Widen pavements
Management of vacant properties	• Agreement with the suggestion for temporary uses in vacant properties including popup shops & art installations. • Creative use will breathe life into the town centre.
Improve town centre offer	• Support for the provision of more public toilets and for a better variety of shops so that residents don't go elsewhere to shop.

	• High Streets will continue to suffer until the cost of living and inequality crises are resolved. • Attract a greengrocer
Site improvements	• Important to preserve vacant and sites with potential for re-use. • Derelict and outdated buildings add to the general feel that parts of Radstock are run down. • Support for improvement to the St Nicholas Old School & the 1960's shops in Fortescue Road as a priority. • Fortescue Road needs desperate refurbishment • Nicer shopfronts don't give consumers more spending money. • Housing/flats must stay above Fortescue Road shop. They improve community feel. • Useful to have footpath to access centre from Church Street car park. • Retain school site as much as possible. • A new business at Leigh House may provide new jobs. • Support for accessible housing in the Brunel Shed • Housing on Old Printworks would be problematic due to poor accessibility. • All of the site improvements need to be considered taking into consideration the changes to the old 'RADCO' site. Too much commercial/offices and there will be no community feel – not enough and there will not be any money in the area to spend on local businesses/services etc

Radstock Regeneration Action Plan Consultation Report, November/December 2023

1. Introduction

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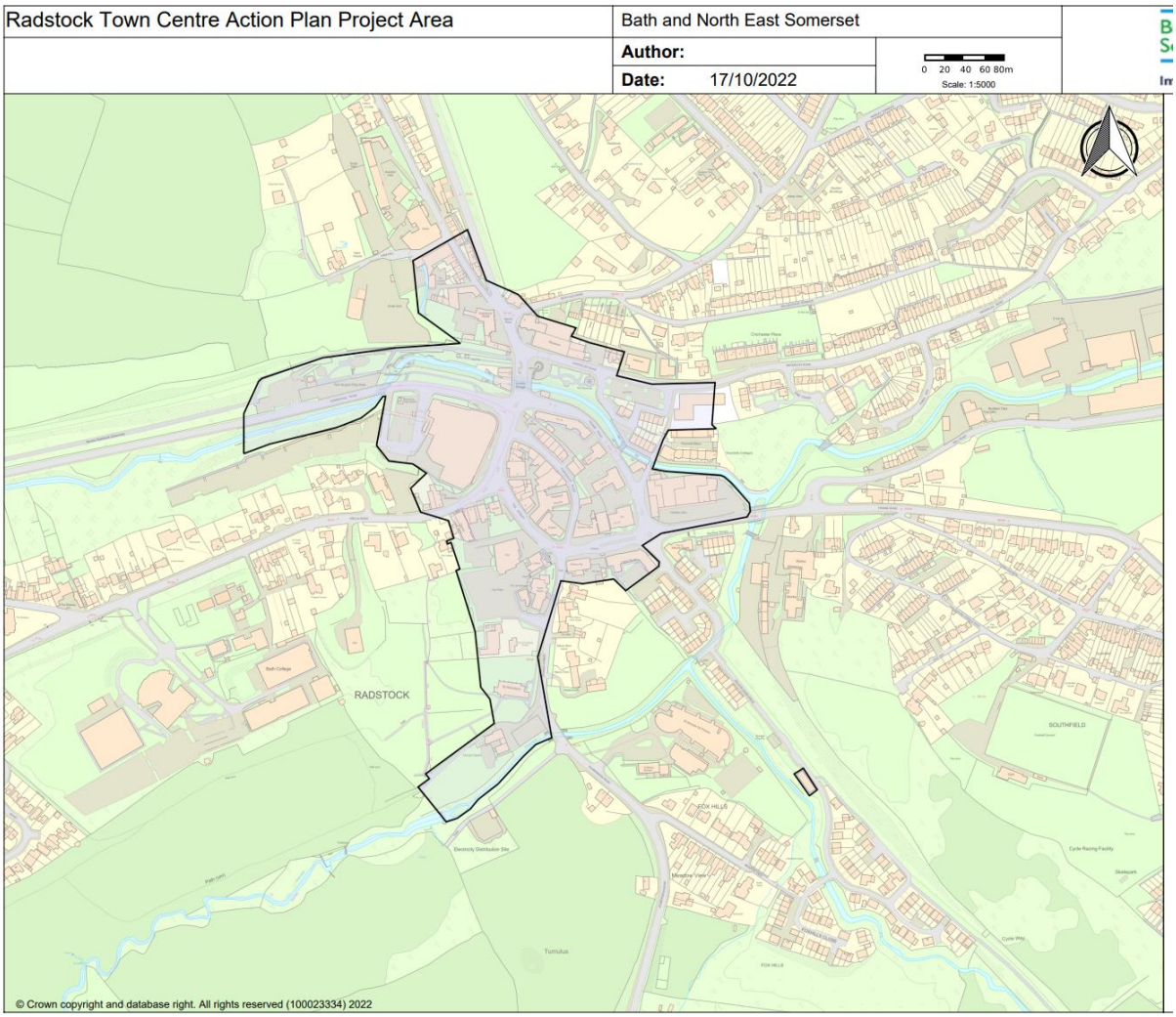
Housing and employment growth planned for the town and surrounding area means more reliance on the town centre facilities. The focus in Radstock will be on improvements to the vitality and viability of the Town Centre.

Project scoping took place early part of 2022 in partnership with Radstock Town Council, B&NES officers & members & informed engagement that took place in September/October 2022.



Consultation November/December 2023

Further consultation took place in November 2023 to receive feedback on the Radstock Regeneration Action Plan document including the project ideas that were identified in the scoping exercise and feedback from previous engagement. Once again people were informed about the engagement events through articles published in the local media following the issue of a press release.

Comments were sought through an online survey on Radstock Town Council website and are included in the table below:

Comments Summary

Comment
• Please look at the parking issues in Radstock centre. • Bollards needed on Fortescue road outside the shops as people are parking and driving along the pavement very close to the shop doorways which is highly dangerous. • Parking is the lifeblood of the shops and businesses in Radstock and any reduction in this will drive customers away to other places ie Midsomer Norton where parking is a lot easier in turn making businesses unviable and therefore close.

• The parking spaces in Fortescue road are too few for the amount of shops. Some of the double yellow lines that could be removed and turned into parking. • Parking needs more monitoring to stop people overstaying the allowed time giving better turnover of customers. Church Road car park is very often full. • It would be nice to think that people would/can walk but Radstock has quite an Elderly population and is quite spread out and need transport to get to the shops etc. • Radstock also has some niche shops ie the dance shop. So some people travel distances to visit and spend money in other shops whilst there.
• The proposals for the Radstock town centre are on the whole welcome. • It's great to see the proposed new trees. • Loss of parking from Fortescue Road is a retrograde step as a small town like Radstock, and these shop in particular,are dependent to a considerable extent on car borne traffic. Loss of this parking will be harmful to the economic life of the town as people will just go and shop elsewhere. We have already lost much of our parking in the town centre with the development of the railway land. Were any shopper surveys undertake to inform this proposal? Please remove this proposal from the plans. • I find the 'art walls' a really worrying concept. They will just encourage graffiti and look intimidating to some. They are a very urban concept, more fitting for a large city like Bristol, not for a small country town like Radstock.
• Enhancing the river bank, introduction of signage, improvements of shop fronts in Fortescue Road and The Street, additional play spaces and natural play areas across the town centre and enhancing the Miners Pool are all really good ideas. • Bringing the "square" area into use for events and markets would be particularly welcome, especially if the "ransom strip" issue can be resolved with the Co-op, and the area opened up to Fortescue Road in front of Trinity. Bigger bus stops would be a good idea, and it doesn't look like any road space would be lost, as the central reservation would be removed to make space for the wider pavements. • Project 8 in particular envisions the narrowing of Fortescue Road and removal of all the parking and replacement with rain gardens, seating and dwell areas. This would be a great problem to all the businesses in Fortescue Road. I understand that these projects are not finalised and there is a lot of further work to do. However, the loss of parking is likely to overshadow all the good proposals in the plan if the Council cannot reassure local people and businesses that the parking will not be lost. All of the businesses in Fortescue Road rely on this short term parking and any scheme to enhance the town centre as an active location offering shops and services should be trying to extend the parking rather than remove it. • There is really no need for the double yellow lines in Fortescue Road, and these could be removed to provide additional short term parking. Whilst we may look towards a car free future, we are not there yet. The town centre depends of ready access by car and "pop in" customers. • There is an out of control drug problem in the town, and Fortescue Road is affected by anti-social behaviour regularly. There have been any number of low level violent incidents in Fortescue Road in recent weeks and the problem is clearly getting worse quite quickly. • The absence of public toilets in the centre of town is also a problem • It is very positive that funding has been secured for improvements, which are badly needed. Anything that can be done to encourage people into town will be welcome.

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Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	**Cabinet**	
MEETING DATE:	**7th March 2024**	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: E 3502
TITLE:	**Heritage Services Business Plan 24-29**	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 - Heritage Services Business Plan Appendix 2 - Heritage Services Business Plan Risk Register		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 This is the update of the Heritage Services Business Plan 2024-2029. It covers the five financial years from 2024/25 to 2028/2029 and has been prepared following the annual in-depth review of business activity. The revised Plan includes an analysis of the risk involved.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to;

2.1 Approve the Heritage Services Business Plan 2024 - 2029

3 THE REPORT

The report introduces the Heritage Services business plan going to Informal Cabinet on 20th February 2024 and Cabinet on the 7th March 2024.

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 the Council's visitor businesses.

Heritage Services expects to deliver a financial surplus in 2024/25 of £12.2 million. This will exceed pre-pandemic income and profit although visitors will still not have returned to 2019 levels.

The Service will use the carbon baseline work undertaken during 2023 to inform its ongoing response to the climate and ecological emergency. The actions required to achieve net zero by 2030 will be set out and costed during 2024.

The Service will commence design work for the new Fashion Museum within the Milsom Quarter and continue to develop plans for the creation of a Fashion Collection Archive in Locksbrook, in partnership with Bath Spa University. Following repairs to the Victoria Art Gallery roof it will reopen the Upper Gallery, providing free access to the Council's art collection along with the creation of a new, community engagement space in the Gallery footprint.

The Service is committed to ongoing investments to safeguard and preserve the Council's heritage assets, to elevate the visitor experience and optimise commercial performance. and developing the skills of its staff to effectively achieve the outcomes outlined in the Plan.

In 2024, at the request of the Director of Sustainable Communities, the Service will review its relationship with the Council as set-out in the original Cabinet Decision in 2004 that established the Service as an Independent Business Unit. This will consider the role of the Heritage Advisory Board in providing external quality assurance as part of the yearly budget setting process. This may require a revision to the original Cabinet paper from 2004.

A provisional capital budget of £17.5m was added to the capital programme for the financial years 2024/25 to 2028/29 for Fashion Museum Renovation. The next key milestones for the project are to achieve RIBA stages 2 (concept design) and 3 (spatial co-ordination) which will link to submission of planning documents. The Business plan refers to the plan to fully approve an agreed amount of capital budget in 2024/25 to progress the project beyond the early-stage work currently being charged to the revenue budget. This approval of capital budget will be timed for when we have greater certainty on cost estimates. All decisions to proceed with the project will be managed via the B&NES Gateway process and the approval processes for the provisional and approved capital programme budgets.

Whilst not a main theme of the Business Plan the Service will also be working to create a corporate approach to Culture for B&NES. This will include:

- An audit of current cultural activity delivered by Council staff including Heritage Services, Libraries, Regeneration and Green Infrastructure
- An audit of cultural infrastructure in B&NES – both venues/attraction and groups/organisations
- An integration of Council cultural activity (with a focus on Heritage Services Community Engagement work) into the nascent delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- An inclusion of principles relating to Culture in key Corporate strategies including the Local Plan, Transport Action Plan, Skills Plan and any other planning deriving from the Economic Strategy

This work will inform a public facing, corporate approach to Culture in the Authority with the aim to:

- Ensure Council cultural activity is as targeted as possible to deliver on the Corporate Strategy and other key strategic plans

- Understand and explain how and why the Council will support culture in B&NES
- Demonstrate to funders that the Local Authority is committed in a meaningful way to culture (thereby encouraging funding in Council and 3rd party cultural activities)
- Allow the Council to actively support a vibrant cultural sector in the Authority
- Be responsive and complementary to the regional cultural picture as denoted by the WECA Cultural Compact

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 N/A

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 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.

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 plans for the Service to make meaningful progress to be more Equitable, Diverse and Inclusive are included in the Plan.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 The plans for the Service to make meaningful progress towards net 0 are included in the Business Plan

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 N/A

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The Business Plan has been reviewed and approved at both the Council's Corporate Management Team and Informal Cabinet

Contact person	Robert Campbell – Head of Heritage Services +44(0)7815 018899
Background papers	Heritage Services Strategy Heritage Services Annual Report Heritage Services Business Plan 23-28
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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Bath & North East Somerset Council

Heritage Services Business Plan 2024–2029

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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 the Council's visitor businesses.

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The Service is committed to ongoing investments to safeguard and preserve the Council's heritage assets, to elevate the visitor experience and optimise commercial performance. and developing the skills of its staff to effectively achieve the outcomes outlined in the Plan.

2. Service Vision and Mission

A document outlining the Service's strategy 2022 – 2027 can be found here.

2.1. Bath and North East Somerset Corporate Strategy

Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) has one overriding purpose – to improve people's lives.

It has two core polices – tackling the climate emergency and giving people a bigger say. Further to this it has three principles that translate its purpose into commitments: prepare for the future, deliver for local resident and focus on prevention.

The Corporate Strategy has nine priorities for the period 2023-2027. Heritages Services feels that it can contribute significantly to 7 of these through its current and future activities:

- Clean, safe and vibrant neighbourhoods - working with local communities to promote civic pride and preventative approaches
- Support for vulnerable adults and children – securing safe, effective services that meet the needs of our changing population
- Delivering for our children and young people – working with our partners to narrow the early years attainment gap
- Healthy lives and places – working with health and other partners to tackle inequalities, promote healthy places, and support people to live healthier lives
- Good jobs - aiming to increase the median wage in a regenerative economy
- Skills to thrive - an inclusive economy where prosperity is shared
- Cultural life - valuing and developing its contribution to Bath and North East Somerset.

To this end we will be aligning a lot of the work we undertake against key Council documents including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Economic Strategy with the data contained with the Strategic Evidence Base underpinning how we direct many of our activities.

We are proud to be a Service that is part of B&NES and everything we do is dedicated to delivering on the purpose, principles, commitments and priorities of the Council. This is evident throughout the content of this plan.

2.2. 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.

2.3. 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.

2.4. 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 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.

3. Business Strategy

3.1. Performance Overview

Roman Baths

Visitor numbers at the Roman Baths have exceeded budget throughout 2023/24. During Q3-4 of 2022/23 the COVID recovery accelerated, stimulated by significant changes in the value of the Pound in the autumn 2022. Figure 1 below shows footfall relative to budget, pre-pandemic and prior year.

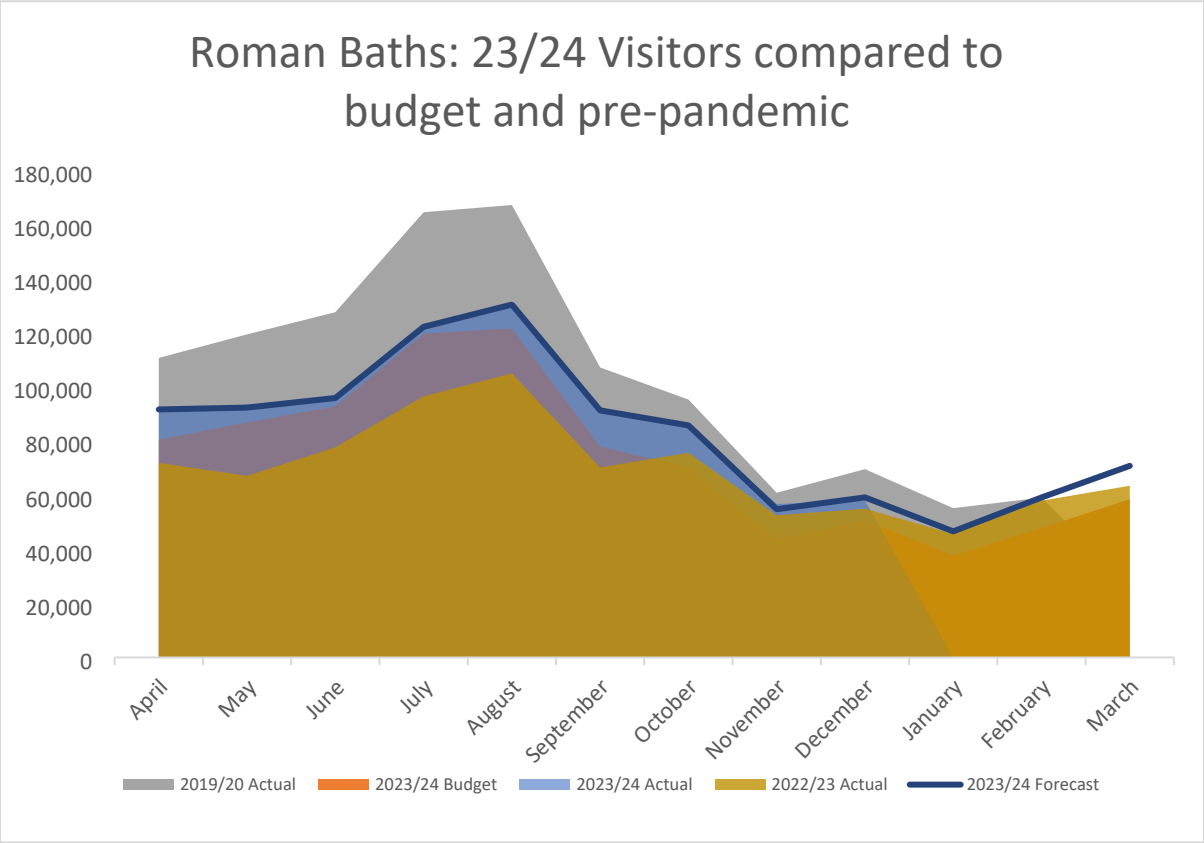

Figure 1: 23/24 Financial Year Roman Baths visitor numbers

Cost of living pressure is having an impact on the visitor economy. People are taking fewer trips, however spend per trip is higher, as people focus on deliberate memory making in special places. During summer 2023, the Roman Baths prospered in this environment; the torchlight evenings, Champagne bar and marketing focus on the 2000 year's of history to be experienced have delivered on visitor aspirations for an immersive, unique and memorable experience.

The current forecast for visitors in 2023/24 has increased from a budget of 888,000 to 1,000,000.

The AB socio-economic demographic of visitors to the Roman Baths has afforded some protection from the inflation pressures in the economy and Roman Baths has historically performed well during a recession, particularly when GBP is weak as inbound tourism is stimulated and domestic visitors chose to stay in the UK rather than travel abroad. These external factors, coupled with the continued investment to guarantee high quality visitor experience, have supported strong visitor numbers in 2023/24.

This increased footfall has translated to improved income forecast for retail where the growth in spend per visitor, which was reported last year, has been sustained. Investment has also been made in the Roman Baths shop which has led to an improvement in the average transaction value.

One of the ongoing restrictions on post-COVID recovery has been reduced visitor numbers from China. China reopened it's borders fully during 2023, with the UK added to the list of approved destinations in August. Visits from China to the UK are still significantly lower than 2019; Mandarin uses of the audioguide at the Roman Baths are 48% lower than 2019. Visit Britain currently forecast inbound Visits to China will recover to 2019 levels by 2026, the uncertainty associated with the recovery of this market is further commented on in section 4.

The chart below 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.

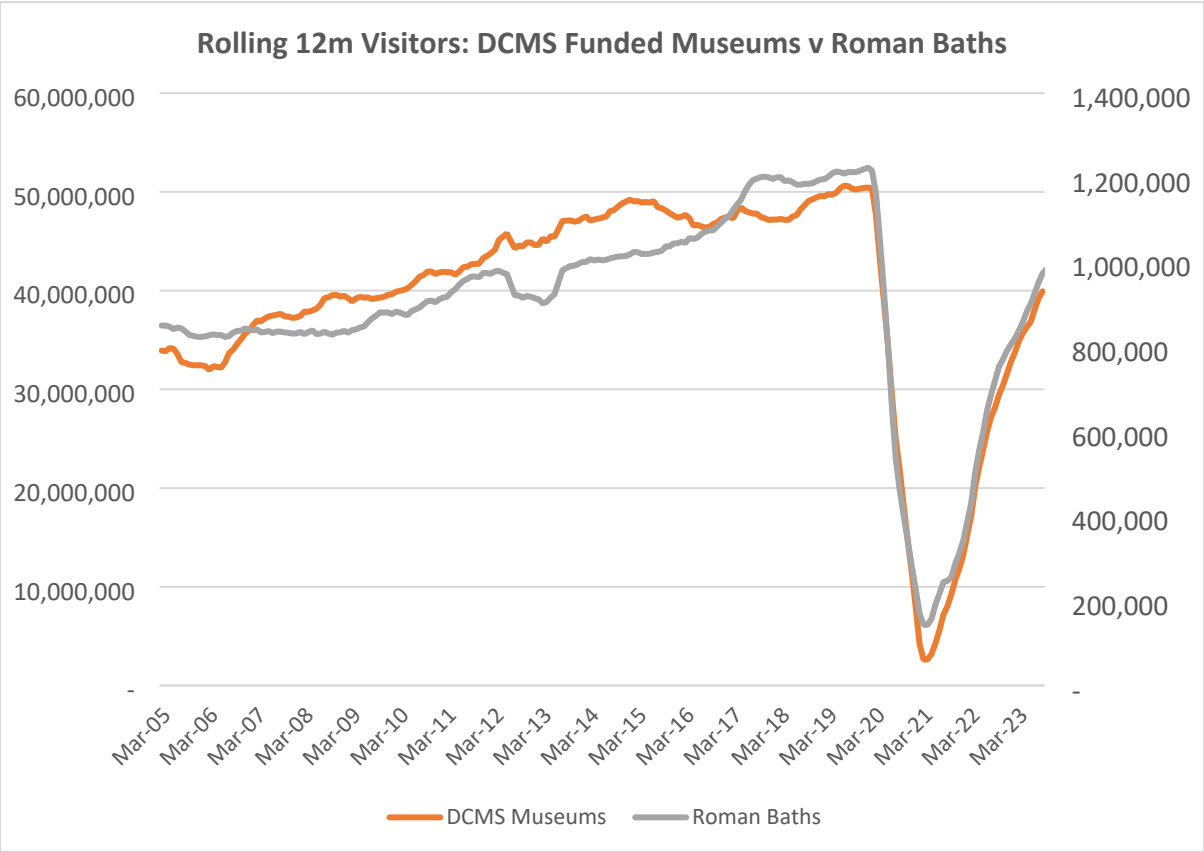

Figure 2: Rolling 12 month DCMS funded museum and Roman Baths visitor numbers

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. The Roman Baths has recovered a further 21% of pre-pandemic visitors over the 12 months to September 2023. At the end of September, the Roman Baths has recovered to 80% of January 2020 compared to 79% for the DCMS museums.[1]

The recovery pace seen in the first half of 2023 has started to slow, this is also reflected in Visit Britain's 2024 forecast, which shows a 5% increase in inbound travel from 2023, a notable slowdown compared to the double-digit growth observed during 2023.

[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, 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.

World Heritage Centre

The World Heritage Centre has been fully open for 20 months. During the financial year-to-date it has welcomed 112,815 visitors, over double the number who visited during the same period last year. Prior to opening, visitors to the centre were expected to be around 10% of the visitors to the Roman Baths, however footfall has consistently been above that level.

Victoria Art Gallery

Visitor numbers at the Victoria Art Gallery were ahead of budget until the closure of the Upper Gallery for essential roof repairs in autumn 2023. The Lower Gallery remains open and, as access to the Upper Gallery is free, the admission revenue budget is still expected to be achieved.

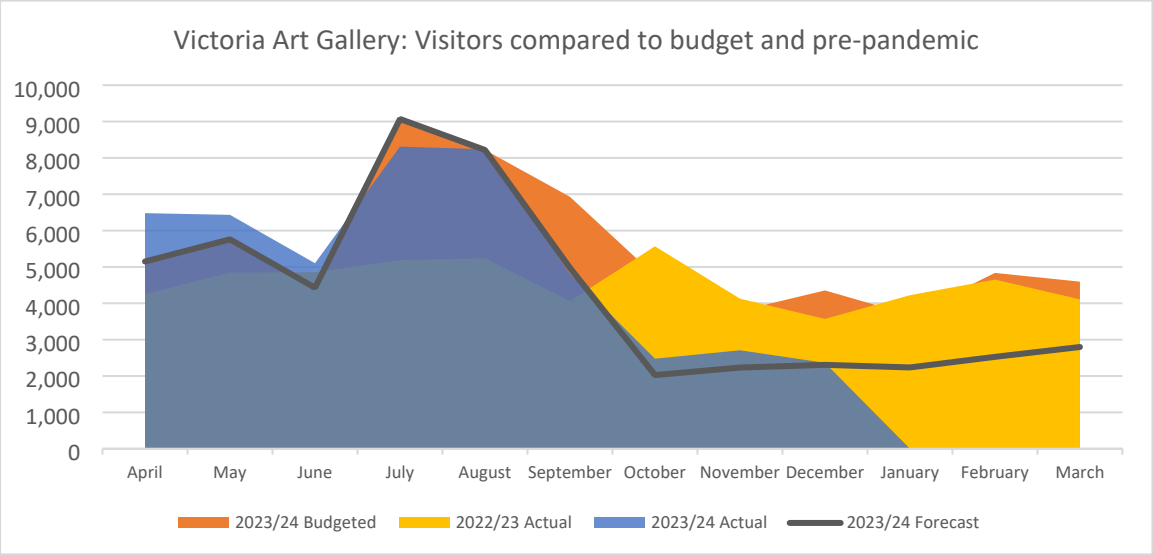

Figure 3: Victoria Art Gallery Visitor Numbers

At the end of August (prior to the closure of the Upper Gallery) visitor numbers were up over 40% on the prior year, driven by a strong exhibition programme and supported by popular engagement activities in the Upper Gallery during the summer holiday period.

Visitor figures are still lower than they were pre-pandemic. This change is primarily linked to changes in visitor behaviour, particularly in older audiences, following the pandemic. This sector wide trend is markedly impacting those venues, like the Victoria Art Gallery, where older visitors made up a larger share of the pre-pandemic audience. It is important to note that visitors to Gallery exhibitions are 30% higher in the financial year to December 2023 than they were over the comparable period last year. This growth was particularly driven by Kaffe Fasset's *Timeless Themes* show which also provided a particular commercial success.

A new system of issuing tickets for the Upper Gallery, introduced in 2021, has resulted in more accurate visitor numbers being reported for the Upper Gallery; it is not possible to disaggregate the impact the change in recording Upper Gallery visitors, from the overall drop in visitors to galleries seen across the sector .However, it is likely that the 19/20 visitor figures overstated the number of free visitors that the Gallery received.

Fashion Museum

Whilst the Fashion Museum is now closed, we have continued to loan the collection to other institutions. In 2023 over 1.1million people have seen Fashion Collection objects across the UK and around the world.

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.

	2022/23 (actual)	2023/24 (forecast)	2024/25 (proposed)	2025/26 (proposed)	2026/27 (proposed)	2027/28 (proposed)	2028/29 (proposed)
External turnover (£000)	20,737	24,336	27,509	29,628	30,350	31,164	31,978
Net Profit (£000)	5,700	10,410	12,198	13,346	13,537	13,851	14,088
Profit as a % of income	27.5%	42.8%	44.3%	45.0%	44.6%	44.4%	44.1%

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 is forecasting the highest surplus it has ever achieved in 2023/24, with growth projected in 2024/25 and subsequent plan years. However, it is already clear that the Service is drawing to a close the period of substantial growth in the surplus it returns. In the outer years of the plan we expect the surplus to plateau as the physical constraints of the Roman Baths prohibit uninhibited growth in visitor numbers.

The financial targets for the Service absorb the recent increases in pay and further anticipated pay awards to be agreed by the Council for each year of the plan, as well as other inflation pressures on the cost base. With the future anticipated rises to the living wage, pay is expected to be the biggest cost pressure facing the Service.

In the 22/23 iteration of the business plan it was noted that Heritage Services had agreed with B&NES Council that 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. In light of the Council's overall funding situation it has been agreed that as much surplus as possible must be returned to the Council to assist in its overall objective of improving people's lives.

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

In 2024 we will launch a new audio-tour at the Roman Baths that will support visitors' understanding of the site and bring our interpretation in-line with the most up-to-date understanding of Roman Britain. Underpinning the reinterpretation of the site is a research strategy that seeks to reveal previously untold stories, particularly those of marginalised people. To that end the Roman Baths Manager will supervise a post-doctoral student with the University of Exeter and the University of Reading to explore the main research themes identified and we will continue to support our programme of scientific analysis and conservation work on the Roman collection.

The Roman Baths will also launch a new community engagement strategy that will support the reinterpretation themes and re-focus our efforts on engaging with new audiences, including those who we have not traditionally welcomed at the site. The strategy will also seek to align our engagement endeavours with Council priorities as identified in plans such as the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and nascent Economic Strategy.

The Service will pilot offering free admission to school groups for schools where 30% of pupils receive free school meals; it will also build on its partnership with Tickets for Good, providing free tickets to those most affected by the cost of living pressure. These measures

are designed to ensure that its sites are accessible to those who might find price a significant barrier to entry.

A programme of temporary exhibitions will continue to be delivered at the Victoria Art Gallery, including the Toulouse Lautrec *Masters of Montmartre* show, which opened in February 2020 and had to close due to the pandemic. We will also open a new community engagement space in the gallery in 2024. This new room, majority funded by external donations from the Friends of Victoria Art Gallery and another individual, will allow us to drastically improve the community engagement offer at, and social benefit that can be derived from, the Victoria Art Gallery.

At the Bath Record Office a new audience development plan 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.

Following the appointment of a Volunteer coordinator in 2023, a volunteering strategy will be put in place with a focus on growing numbers, diversifying roles and volunteer cohort and improving the volunteer experience.

3.3.2. To be a supporter focussed organisation

At the end of 2023 we had issued 39,308 Discovery Cards to residents, following the scheme's relaunch in 2022. In 2024 the Service will continue to promote the scheme to residents across B&NES, with a particular focus on increasing take-up in areas where residents generally haven't previously held Discovery Cards. The Service will seek to provide a technical solution which will allow Discovery Cards to be issued in the community, removing the need for residents to attend one of the Heritage Services sites, or a One Stop Shop to obtain a Discovery Card.

The Service will tender for a new Customer Relationship Management system to enable us to systematically manage and analyse visitor data, providing valuable insights into their preferences, behaviours, and engagement patterns. This will allow us to tailor our offerings and communications to meet the specific needs and interests of our various audience segments. This will foster a stronger connection between the Roman Baths, Fashion Museum and Victoria Art Gallery and our supporters and develop deeper, more meaningful relationships.

Heritage Services will also increase its staffing resource in the marketing and fundraising team, to support the delivery of the fundraising campaign for the Fashion Museum project and also to support the delivery of the ambitious income targets identified for the Roman Baths.

3.3.3. To Maximise Income

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

Roman Baths

- The increase in income will be driven by:
    - **Additional visitors.** The Service is projecting a sustained recovery from the pandemic, with Roman Baths' visitor rising from 1 million in the 23/24 financial year, to 1.1 million in 2024/25. This uplift in visitors yields £2.1 million of additional revenue and £113k of retail uplift.
    - **Price increases.** Price increases planned for 2024 will increase the price for both individuals and groups. The effect of these price changes across the year is £600k.
    - **Price structure changes.** Through changing the effective price points at different points in the year, the Service expects to generate a further uplift of £510k, the changes are planned in response to current and anticipated visitor demand. The specific changes planned are to
        - Increase the price in February and March
        - Increase the group price in June
        - Increase the price in October

- We will also:
    - Ensure 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.
    - Review the admission pricing strategy, to ensure that visitation is stimulated during periods of greater capacity and income maximised at periods of greatest demand.
    - Re-tender the catering contract to ensure that the Council is maximising returns from a high-quality catering offer in the Pump Room.

Victoria Art Gallery

- Bring the Toulouse Lautrec show back to the Gallery, this show opened in February 2020 but was curtailed due to COVID. It is expected that this will attract a sizeable and broad audience.
- Increase repeat audiences, and especially families and schools, via programming in the new Community Engagement space to be opened behind the first floor gallery.
- A review of the potential for increased 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 maximise revenue through the private hire of the Council's heritage venues and parks, delivering a high quality experience for all external and internal clients. There will be a focus on attracting more corporate business through improved marketing and product development. Work will also continue to improve the operability of the Guildhall as an events venue.
- Develop and pilot a series of ticketed events to generate revenue and diversify income streams. Events include silent disco, comedy evening and gladiator school.

3.3.4. To operate efficiently and effectively as an organisation

In July 2024, The Roman Baths, Victoria Art Gallery, and Fashion Museum will re-apply for accredited status through the Arts Council England's Accreditation Scheme, the UK industry standard for Museums and Art Galleries. The scheme ensures that Museums manage their collections properly, engage their users and are governed appropriately. As part of this process the Service will revise its forward plans, collections development policies, learning and engagement strategies, access policies, emergency plans and other key strategic documents that underpin our work and support the overall Service strategy.

At the Roman Baths the Service will begin to implement the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP). The CMP will inform our conservation priorities over the next 5 years.

The Systems and Commercial teams will work to retender the Visitor Management and Retail systems during 2024, to implement in 2025. These critical system infrastructure projects will underpin the revenue generation over the lifespan of this business plan.

Across the Service we will continue to progress a strategic approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). With two members of the Senior Leadership team having taken part in the Travelling Together Programme and with support from some external expertise we will create an EDI strategy for the Service. This will pick up our approach to EDI in all areas of our operation ensuring we can deliver on our moral requirements as well as our creative and income generating aspirations.

The Service will engage in the Council's Corporate Landlord project, exploring opportunities for efficiency in the delivery of maintenance and compliance activity, whilst safeguarding the Service's ability to be agile and responsive.

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 reward and recognise exceptional performance in line with the Council-wide 'Being Our Best' change programme
- Using the 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
- Encouraging further initiatives which encourage cross site working to break down silos and develop a single service culture in line with the Council-wide 'Being Our Best' change programme

The Service will continue to evaluate its staffing complement and structures to ensure that it is able to deliver on the Strategic Priorities outlined in this document. In order to deliver the income figures above the Service has increased it's staffing complement and overall wage bill post COVID. The key areas of movement from pre-COVID to the start of the 23/24 financial year related to the opening of the new World Heritage Centre and Clore Learning Centre, the transfer of the Council's private hire business (and staff) into Heritage Services,

an investment in community engagement resource and the appointment of a project lead for the Fashion Museum.

The key areas of movement in 23/24 and into 24/25 are:

- **Pay award.** The confirmed pay award in 2023/24 was significantly higher than budgeted, particularly for the lower grades. 72% of Heritage Service staff are grades 3-6. This means the inflation pressure of fixed value pay awards is greater in Heritage Services that across the organisation as a whole. There is an assumption of 5% pay inflation in 24/25.

- **Regrades.** We have regraded our Retail Team from 1-3. This aids recruitment and retention. In addition there have been a small number of regrades for other individuals.

- **Visitor driven staffing.** The planned increases in visitors (budget 888,000 in 2023/24 to proposed 1,100,000 in 2024/25) results in increases in the Visitor Experience, Retail and Facilities teams. Note – across these teams the proposed FTE is still lower that the headcount in 2020.

- **New posts recruited.** There were a number of new posts recruited in 2023 that were not included in the budget when first derived in autumn 2022.

- **New posts proposed.** There are five new posts proposed in the budget for 2024. These roles include additions to the marketing, fundraising, curatorial and sustainability functions in the Service.

3.3.5 To bring benefit to B&NES, 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 management plan for the region;

- Represent The Roman Baths and Pump Room as a board member for the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions;

- Work to establish a Corporate Approach to Culture across B&NES.

- Work with other teams within the Council's to contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Economic Strategy, Skills plan, Transport Action Plan 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.

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

Over the last 12 months, the Service has made progress in this area. It now has a carbon baseline which sets out the carbon footprint of the Service's operation.

In understanding the carbon footprint the Service is able to prioritise it's activity to achieve the maximum impact. The Service has set up four working groups to take forward actions in four specific areas:

1. Facilities
2. Retail
3. Procurement
4. Travel (including visitor travel)

The priorities for each of these areas are set out below.

Facilities

- Improving building fabric
- Energy source options appraisal
- Improve object micro-environments, efficiencies and controls

Retail

- Retail supply chain assessment
- Set decarbonisation engagement prerequisites and standards for suppliers
- Resourcing / discontinuing unstainable products
- Forecasting financial impact of these changes.

Procurement and food and beverage

- Supply chain assessment
- Establishing sustainability requirements for catering tender

Travel

- Create environmental criteria for evaluation of collection loan requests.
- Promote public and active travel for staff, volunteers and visitors
- Improve data collection on visitor travel modes
- Engage and partner with organisations in both the transport industry to promote sustainable travel.
- Work with partners in the heritage industry to develop a consistent and recognised method for apportioning the carbon cost of visitor travel.

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.

The Council aims to establish a new Fashion Museum in Bath City Centre, in the Old Post Office, 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 themes such as design, making, 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 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 Inequality

The aim is for both facilities to be hubs for inclusive cultural engagement – with programming and activities targeted at most communities across 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 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

A provisional capital budget was added to the capital programme for the financial years 2024/25 to 2028/29 for Fashion Museum Renovation. As part of further work to progress with the Museum design we will further develop the capital programme. The funding plan for the project is as follows:

- The Old Post Office site was acquired in 2021/22. This was funded via a repayable capital grant from the Revolving Infrastructure Fund which is planned to be repaid from capital receipts from disposal of Corporate property assets.

- The total provisional capital budget is envisaged to be drawn from service supported borrowing funded from net admissions income, Corporate Supported Borrowing representing Council Subsidy and a fund-raising target including future grant applications.

- The Council will make a proportion of this funding available so that the feasibility and design work on the Old Post Office site can continue in 2024. The next key milestones for the project are to achieve RIBA stages 2 (concept design) and 3 (spatial co-ordination) which will link to submission of planning documents.

- A fundraising campaign will contribute to the remaining project costs. This will include grant applications and third-party contributions.

- The aim is for the new museum to open between 2028 and 2030. This time horizon will be narrowed during the RIBA design stage 2-3. This timescale is dependent on a successful fundraising campaign to ensure sufficient approved capital budget is available for contracts to be awarded.

- An independent charity will be launched in 2024 to support the project.

4. Risk

The Services' strong recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic has been swifter than projected and, whilst inflationary economic pressures restrict the level of disposable income that potential visitors have to spend on leisure activities, there is less uncertainty when revising this Plan than over the last few years.

It should be noted that there is a greater degree of uncertainty attached to the recovery of the Chinese market. Use of the Mandarin audio guide at the Roman Baths was 48% lower from January to November 2023 compared to 2019 and airline bookings for January and February 2024 are around 60% of pre-pandemic levels. China, once the second most valuable inbound market to the UK, is projected to drop to the fourth position in the latest Visit Britain inbound travel forecast. Although Visit Britain's sentiment research indicates a strong desire among the Chinese market to explore the UK's history and heritage, presenting a positive outlook for iconic destinations like the Roman Baths, the UK's drop in the Nations Brand Index suggests other destinations may benefit from China's pent-up travel demand.

The Plan assumes that the global economic pressure referenced above will not have a significant impact on the financial performance of Heritage Services. 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. Potential further international uncertainty driven by geopolitical incidents also casts a shadow over the future years. Any impact on the USA market will have an adverse impact on the Roman Baths as this is currently our largest overseas market.

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 Service feels that project is eminently viable and fundable. At this stage the risks associated with this project are commensurate with a project of this scale and ambition and no more than this.

Progress has been made on the pathway to net zero, however the implications of achieving net zero are currently unquantified and the interventions required are uncosted and unfunded.

There is some uncertainty around the long-term storage of the Council's reserve collections (those historic items not currently on display or immediately available to access). The majority of these are stored at the ex-Culverhay school site. The Service will need to work with Corporate Estate colleagues to establish a long-term solution for the storage of these items.

A more detailed Risk Assessment is included in Appendix 3

Appendix 1: Financial Summary

Heritage Services Business Plan 2024-29

Contents

Business Plan Summary

	Prior Year Actuals		2023/24		2024/25	Plan Years			
	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	Budget £'000	Forecast £'000	Budget £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'000	2028/29 £'000
Admissions	(8,495)	(15,890)	(17,528)	(19,893)	(23,076)	(25,371)	(26,123)	(26,892)	(27,678)
Retail Sales	(1,155)	(2,303)	(2,283)	(2,664)	(2,795)	(2,946)	(2,912)	(2,923)	(2,927)
Room Hire	(369)	(966)	(714)	(656)	(682)	(690)	(699)	(707)	(716)
Catering	(264)	(479)	(334)	(404)	(416)	(415)	(427)	(440)	(453)
Other Income	(378)	(998)	(308)	(679)	(528)	(195)	(177)	(190)	(191)
Grants/Contributions	(3,687)	(101)	(22)	(40)	(12)	(12)	(12)	(12)	(12)
Total Income	**(14,347)**	**(20,737)**	**(21,189)**	**(24,336)**	**(27,509)**	**(29,628)**	**(30,350)**	**(31,164)**	**(31,978)**
Employee Costs	5,003	5,370	5,629	6,153	7,101	7,582	7,884	8,200	8,527
Premises Costs	1,297	1,574	1,628	1,621	1,700	1,776	1,880	1,993	2,113
Transport Costs	24	39	30	30	36	37	38	39	40
Supplies & Services	1,936	5,252	3,084	3,413	3,715	3,774	3,831	3,917	4,001
Other Costs	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maintenance	386	634	509	508	569	602	615	628	642
Investment	249	700	485	608	586	716	770	750	790
Total Expenditure	**8,895**	**13,569**	**11,365**	**12,335**	**13,708**	**14,488**	**15,019**	**15,527**	**16,114**
Internal Income	(2,719)	(3,279)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Recharge codes	4,170	4,741	1,585	1,585	1,597	1,788	1,788	1,779	1,770
Internal Recharges	**1,451**	**1,461**	**1,585**	**1,585**	**1,597**	**1,788**	**1,788**	**1,779**	**1,770**
Contribution to Reserves	0	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
(Surplus) / Deficit	**(4,001)**	**(5,700)**	**(8,233)**	**(10,410)**	**(12,198)**	**(13,346)**	**(13,537)**	**(13,851)**	**(14,088)**
Operating Margin	27.9%	27.5%	38.9%	42.8%	44.3%	45.0%	44.6%	44.4%	44.1%
Operating Margin (pre investmei	29.6%	30.9%	41.1%	45.3%	46.5%	47.5%	47.1%	46.9%	46.5%
Wage %	34.9%	25.9%	26.6%	25.3%	25.8%	25.6%	26.0%	26.3%	26.7%

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
Discovery 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

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Corporate Risk

HERITAGE SERVICES

DATE UPDATED: February 24

Head of Heritage Services

28/02/24

Nr	Description	Current Risk Score: Likelihood (1 2 3 4 5; L M H)	Current Risk Score: Impact (1 2 3 4 5; L M H)	RAG Score	Mitigation	Action Status to manage risk	RAG
1	There is a risk that in-bound tourism will decline, caused by global events (incl Pandemic, Brexit, recession, terrorism) resulting in fewer visitors to the Council's attractions.	3	4	12	Establish medium term plan to rely less on in-bound market for core revenue via fundraising and commercial events Develop domestic marketing and product plan Deploy domestic marking plan contingency if in-bound tourism declines. Work with Visit West to promote Bath and our sites as valid destinations Maintain relationship with Chinese partner	On Target	
2	There is a risk of reduction in business caused by recession/cost of living crisis in the UK, resulting in a loss of income to the Council.	3	3	9	Roman Baths audience dominated by A-B1s are less price sensitive Create a strong domestic marketing and offer plan Create products for the family market A flexible pricing strategy also allows us to be responsive to changes in the market Establish how commercial offer can be adapted/shaped to mitigate this risk Create a Supporter Strategy that will grow other income streams for the organisation	On Target	
3	There is a risk that visitor numbers at the Roman Baths is of such large volume, caused by a resurgent domestic and international market and lack of management by Heritage Services resulting in reputational damage, loss of income and damage to the monument	3	4	12	Set capped visitor numbers and negotiate with travel trade to ensure budget targets can be realised whilst limiting the number of visitors onsite to manageable levels Invest in a conservation management plan to ensure that large volumes will not compromise the fabric of the monument Establish strategies to increase yield per/visitor including increased ticket prices and improved retail performance	On Target	
4	There is a risk that a terror attack will occur at or in the environs of the Roman Baths with death and/or injury to staff and visitors and a subsequent impact on attendance	3	5	15	Roman Baths is located in City Centre availed by City Centre Security Scheme and covered by CCTV control room with strong police presence Undertake emergency planning exercise to test preparedness Ensure all frontline staff have undertaken ACT training Employ professional security guards Put in place a 'recovery from incident plan'	On Target	

Head of Heritage Services

28/02/24

5	There is a risk of staff signing off sick or underperforming due to stress/workload/poor internal communication issues causing harm to individuals and the performance of the Service. This may also result from issues with recruitment requisite staff especially in frontline roles			3					3			9	All staff to have forward job plans with SMART objectives on Clear Review Staff engagement and internal communication plan instigated Develop initiatives which encourage cross team working to break down silos	**On Target**
6	There is risk that the service will not attract a diverse workforce caused by a lack of initiatives to encourage applications from as broad a pool of applicants as possible impacting on the overall performance of the service				4				3			12	EDI working group convened to look at position statement and EDI impact assessment Senior staff have undertaken 'Travelling Together training' EDI strategy scheduled to be completed by end of 23/24 for delivery in 24/25	**On Target**
7	There is a risk that the service does not represent diverse narratives and or delivers a wide range of activities in its content output caused by a lack of diverse representation in the workforce/lack of consultative approaches/ lack of formal audience understanding resulting in reputational risk and sub optimal business performance			3					3			9	Narrative at Roman Baths reviewed in-line with most up-to-date scholarship Build into content planning and co-creation approach for new Fashion Museums Additional Community engagement positions added to staffing cohort	**On Target**
8	There is a risk of damage/loss to the collections due to unsuitable storage conditions resulting in reputational damage to the service and the loss of important cultural treasures			3						4		12	Work with the Corporate Estate team to establish a long-term solution to the storage issues faced by the Service Develop Fashion Collection Archive Ensure Fashion Collection is suitable stored at Dents	**Potentially Off Target**
9	There is a risk of disruption to the Spa water supply to the Roman Baths and Pump Room complex caused by over-demand by other users or sinking of new boreholes, resulting in a poorer visitor experience and environmental damage to the Great Drain.		2							4		8	Maintain a presence on the spa water monitoring group and frequently remind colleagues in the Council of the dangers posed by over-demand on the spa water.	**On Target**
10	There is a risk that the Re-Fashioning Bath Project is not delivered due to lack of funding resulting in an extended period of temporary storage that will place additional revenue pressure on the service				4				3			12	Create a robust and realistic fundraising plan for the project Explore multiple governmental, grant and private funding opportunities Invest in fundraising resources in Heritage Services	**On Target**

Head of Heritage Services

28/02/24

11	There is a risk of a longer-term downturn in revenue from room hire and catering and pressure on prices charged, caused by wider business pressure and economic uncertainty and increased fuel costs, resulting in a loss of income to the Council.			3					3			9	Venue Hire team has been re-structured to enable more focus on the Corporate market whilst maintaining success with weddings Further work to optimise venue hire revenue in the Guildhall	**On Target**
12	Risk of cyber attack leading to a leak of customer details and breech of GDPR regulations as well as taking down all our websites and ticketing system which would have a financial impact .			3					3			9	DDOS Cover agreed and purchased providing high level of internet protection with Lumen. SLA's in place with Gateway our Visitor Management System provider and Blaze who manage our networks to minimise the risk. Security updates and fast response times are covered in the SLAs.	**On Target**
13	There is a risk that the Service does not achieve net zero by 2030 due to having no plan of action resulting in reputational risk and an ongoing contribution to the environmental and ecological emergency			3							5	15	Carbon Baseline assessment undertaken Environmental action plan initiated for confirmation and initiation in 24/25	**Potentially Off Target**
14	There is a risk the Service's Museums do not receive their Accreditation Standard from ACE in 2024		2							4		8	All Accreditation documents will need to be looked at this year and updated as required. The Forward Plan for the Roman Baths has been written.	**On target**
15	There is risk that a Health and Safety Incident causes harm to staff and/or Service Users				4				3			12	Staff trained on managing health and safety incidents All staff have relevant health and safety responsibility in clear review Health and safety included on management team meeting agenda Quarterly health and safety report Mental Health first aider programme Regular 1:1s and Clear Review Anonymous feedback opportunities for staff Close working with Corporate Health and Safety Team	**On Target**
TOTAL	**15**											**163**		

Average	10.9
Maximum	15
Minimum	9

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