

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

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

Thursday, 12th September, 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, Housing 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

33 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

34 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Dave Wood declared a personal interest in item 12 – Annual Climate and Nature Progress Report – as CEO of Avon Needs Trees and Director of Avon Needs Trees Trading Ltd.

37 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was no urgent business.

38 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 22 questions from Councillors and 19 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.]

39 STATEMENTS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Members of the public and Councillors made statements as follows:

- Cllr Susan Charles (Corston Parish Council) – Accessible Planning
- Gill Sinclair – Speed Limits in Peasedown St John – Ms Sinclair also presented a petition containing 49 signatures regarding the problem of speeding traffic in Ashgrove, Peasedown St John.
- Barney Frith (Off the Record Youth Forum Representative) – Current Priorities of the B&NES Youth Forum and their hopes to work more closely with local politicians on their priority areas
- Kate Morton (on behalf of Becky Brooks Director of 3SG) – Re-procurement of Community Contracts
- Steve Osgood – Unique use restrictions applying to the Bath Recreation Ground
- Joe Laishly (on behalf of Samantha Walker) – Raising the UN Flag
- Lara Amro – Proposal for a Palestinian Resettlement Scheme
- Jane Samson – Listening to different communities within B&NES
- Lin Patterson – Rights for Nature

(Copies of the statements are attached as an appendix to these minutes).

40 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING - 11TH JULY 2024

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th July 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

41 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

No single member items were requisitioned to Cabinet.

42 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

No matters were referred by Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels.

43 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

44 ANNUAL CLIMATE AND NATURE PROGRESS REPORT

Cllr Sarah Warren, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel, introduced the report, moved the officer recommendation, and made the following points:

- This is the first combined annual report on B&NES' progress in tackling the climate and ecological emergencies.
- This has been the warmest northern hemisphere on record. Global atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations stood at 425 ppm in July, up from 421 a year previously, when the safe level for human civilisation is calculated by scientists at 350.
- It is pleasing to report that B&NES continues to be seen as a local government leader in this field, ranking seventh of all local authorities according to Climate Scorecards UK, and being awarded our first B score by the Carbon Disclosure Project. We were also one of just 24 local councils to have implemented, a year ahead of government mandating, a biodiversity net gain policy which ensures that biodiversity will be in a better state following a building project than before. We have made solid progress in carbon emissions reduction.
- Last financial year, we opened the Keynsham Recycling Hub with a 783kWp solar array, rainwater harvesting and more than 200 trees; and installed air source heat pumps in our care homes Cleeve Court and Coombe Lea, to utilise the solar panels previously put in, with further projects for decarbonisation of our estate in the pipeline.
- A new council-led development at Englishcombe Lane will deliver new homes for people with autism or learning difficulties and will create a nature-rich setting and aims to achieve the Building with Nature accreditation and deliver 20% biodiversity net gain; whilst council-owned Charlcombe Meadow is being converted to a Community Nature Reserve thanks to developer funding from our new biodiversity net gain planning policy.
- We have made three trial through-traffic restrictions permanent, with trials of another five either live or planned; and are working closely with our Transport Authority the West of England Combined Authority on planned improvements to infrastructure for walking, wheeling and cycling.
- In terms of our regulatory role, we are consulting on planning policy that will be still more stringent in requiring energy efficiency and biodiversity net gain for developers (having already introduced regulations in 2023 requiring zero carbon new build housing), and we hope to further ease the planning pathway for renewable energy. We have also issued compliance notices to landlords whose rental properties failed to meet minimum energy efficiency standards, resulting in improvements in the energy efficiency of 70 homes.
- This work has been challenging during these last years in local government, in the context of ever deeper cuts to budgets.
- We remain just as committed, but to achieve net zero (both here in Bath and North East Somerset as well as in other UK local authorities) will require a step change at national level, in terms of leadership, of funding, and of loosening the shackles upon local government in the key areas of transport, renewable energy, energy efficient buildings, and protection of nature.

Cllr Dave Wood seconded the motion and stated that the leadership a Council can bring on this issue is key. He noted the publication of the country's first local Nature Recovery Strategy and mapping. The community is also creating the largest new woodland development in the south west in a generation. He stated that he would like to see more leadership on sustainable food production and national flood management in the future.

Both Cabinet Members thanked the officers for their hard work in producing this report.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- (1) To note the positive progress achieved over the past year across the priorities set out in the Climate Emergency Strategy and Ecological Emergency Action Plan.
- (2) To approve the Annual Climate & Nature Progress Report before presentation of the report to full Council on 19th September 2024.

(Note: Cllr Dave Wood declared a personal interest in this item as the CEO of Avon Needs Trees and as Director of Avon Needs Trees Trading Ltd).

45 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) RENEWAL

Cllr Tim Ball, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, introduced the report, moved his proposal, and made the following points:

- The current PSPO was put in place in 2021 and will expire on 17th September 2024. Under the legislation the order must be reviewed and renewed every three years. This process involves consultation with local stakeholders and the community.
- The draft PSPO has been effective in reducing anti-social behaviour and crime caused by drinking in designated areas. The recent consultation shows that both the public and local stakeholders overwhelmingly support the renewal.
- The Police believe that the orders provide a useful tool to help to combat anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Alison Born seconded the motion and made the following points:

- The data from the consultation shows the high level of public concern regarding anti-social behaviour.
- Although the PSPO is not a "magic bullet" it is a useful tool with which to address this issue.

RESOLVED (Unanimously):

- (1) In the light of the outcome of the consultation, and consideration of the legislative criteria for adopting Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs), to make the Bath City Order and Midsomer Norton Order as set out in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of the report.

- (2) To request the Head of Legal Services, or an authorised signatory on their behalf, to sign and seal the Bath City Order and the Midsomer Norton Order.
- (3) To request the Head of Corporate Office to undertake publicity relating to any agreed Order.
- (4) To request the Community Safety Partnership to receive regular monitoring reports on the impact of the PSPOs, including equality impacts, and updates on support and treatment available for people who misuse alcohol, including street drinkers.
- (5) To thank those who were involved in the consultation process and publicise the outcomes of the consultation.
- (6) To agree that the decisions for future PSPO Order Renewals for Bath City and Midsomer Norton should be dealt with as single member decisions.

46 REVISED NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LOCAL PLAN

Cllr Matt McCabe, Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development, introduced the report, moved the officer recommendation and made the following points:

- The Labour government has launched a consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. In particular, the way that our house building targets are calculated.
- It is suggested that we have a 0.8% annual increase of our existing housing, plus the calculated Affordability Uplift.
- The result of this is a 9% drop in Bristol's housing target, a 20% increase for North Somerset, a 30% increase for South Gloucestershire but a 104% increase for B&NES.
- The problem is that we cannot expand the city of Bath. It has a World Heritage listing and because we have a mapped "Green Setting" for the city, we can't expand into it without harming the listing.
- Bath can deliver around 5000 houses over the next 20 years (mainly from brownfield sites) but that does not change because the government has doubled our housing target. It is not acceptable for the government to demand that North East Somerset takes Bath's housing.
- Even if we were to bring 11 thousand homes to B&NES we still would not have addressed the affordability crisis in Bath.
- We need to tackle land banking, land pricing, viability studies concluding that affordable housing is impossible. We need to enforce policy and to compulsory purchase land or buildings for affordable housing.
- It is important to engage with the government now. The proposal is for the Cabinet Member and senior officers to undertake the consultation response, but also to reset our new local plan. Whatever the result of the consultation, officers need to start working on this new house building target. We do need to go back out to our residents clearly setting out what this doubling of our numbers might look like. Despite the changed goal

posts, all the evidence we have gathered is still important evidence in planning terms.

- The way forward would be a resetting of the Local Plan, and a full and frank discussion with government about how we deal with a double World Heritage city and its housing needs.

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

- We believe in house building and the need for more houses. However, these need to be the right kinds of houses in the right places.
- We have a shortage of social and truly affordable housing. We have many larger properties, few smaller bungalows, and have an aging population whose children have flown the nest and would want to move if there was somewhere to move to. Our rental market is extremely competitive and rents are very high. Houses for sale show that there seems to be a minimum entry point exceeding eight times average earnings.
- Against that we have developers who say, rightly, that they pay a lot to purchase land, particularly in Bath, and in order to maximise their profits they cater for the executive market which is not what is needed.
- Bath is the only City in the country with one, let alone two World Heritage inscriptions covering Bath, and the volume of Green Belt in North East Somerset, I trust some allowance can be made for these very special circumstances.
- When considering, with local communities, where to build the new houses we must consider the necessary supporting infrastructure.
- Transport is also important, and we have to plan the infrastructure to allow proper choice of viable travel methods to places of employment, leisure, retail and health.
- Whilst there are challenges ahead getting things right at this stage will deliver much needed appropriate housing, in sustainable locations, so there is a huge opportunity.

Cllr Paul May noted that many residents will be concerned by the debate around potential changes to Green Belts. Green Belts have been a protection against urban sprawl and have been in place since 1938, their most important attribute is openness. He stressed the importance of access to open countryside, outdoor recreation close to cities, protection of valuable landscapes, nature conservation and retention of land for local food growing. There is tension between deliverability and affordability and there are considerable land options held by developers in B&NES. Climate and nature recovery must be balanced with the demands for new housing.

Cllr Sarah Warren stated that we are badly in need of truly affordable homes and homes in which people can live truly sustainable lifestyles with low energy bills and be able to go about their lives without the need for cars in most instances. Cllr Warren noted the constraints of national policy and that while the Council is committed to net zero, this is one of the areas in which we lack powers to achieve it. So, unless government ensures that something changes to require developers to think differently about creating real communities that support sustainable lifestyles, it remains another uphill battle for local government.

Cllr Tim Ball stated that the quality of social housing in the area is very poor and that we must work with social landlords to provide improved affordable housing. B&NES

is heavily restrained due to its geography and World Heritage status and it will be impossible to achieve the amount of building that is required. It will be important to work closely with current partners.

Cllr McCabe summed up by stating that devolution is also a challenge along with achieving the right housing mix. Land, funding and skills will also be a challenge, and it remains a priority to deliver sustainable development. Discussions will take place with neighbouring authorities.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- (1) To note the government's proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and to agree the key elements of the Council's response to the consultation on the revised NPPF and other changes to the planning system as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report.
- (2) To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development, to agree and submit the Council's response to the government's consultation on the revised NPPF and other changes to the planning system.
- (3) To agree that the Local Plan needs to be reset and that preparation should progress towards submission in advance of the Government's new deadline of December 2026.
- (4) To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development, to agree and publish a revised Local Development Scheme setting out the revised programme for Local Plan preparation.
- (5) To agree that we continue to co-operate with our neighbouring authorities and the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to ensure that strategic planning delivers the affordable housing we need, as well as the supporting infrastructure.
- (6) To authorise the Executive Director for Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development, to issue communications relating to the resetting of the Local Plan and the proposed next steps as set out in Section 10 of the report.

47 B&NES PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

Cllr Mark Elliott, Cabinet Member for Resources, introduced the report, moved the officer recommendation and made the following points:

- The way in which the council buys its goods and services can be a powerful tool in supporting its long-term vision and a major contributor towards fulfilling the ambitions and priorities of our corporate strategy.
- The latest version of the Procurement Strategy aims to further align to the council's Corporate Strategy by:

- guiding us to maximise opportunities and value created through our contracting.
- preparing for new procurement regulations with enhanced flexibilities.
- driving forward collaboration; and
- continuing to develop the skills and capabilities of those involved in procurement activity across the organisation.
- It is also reassurance that we will continue to spend public money in a way which is fair, accountable and obtains best value.
- Officers will monitor delivery of the strategy using an Action Plan and will measure progress against the stated outcomes.

Cllr Paul Roper seconded the motion.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

To approve the revised Procurement Strategy for publication.

48 2025/26 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Cllr Mark Elliott, Cabinet Member for Resources, introduced the report, moved the officer recommendation and made the following points:

- The Medium-Term Financial Strategy is a key, underlying document which provides the framework for all the strategic planning of the council. It sets out the current financial challenge we face, the strategic direction, and the financial priorities, and sets out our mechanisms for financing our activity.
- It is a pre-cursor to the budget setting period and sets out what savings we believe will be required, and our approach to addressing predicted funding gaps.
- Last year we set out a two-year balanced budget, but this is somewhat speculative until the new Chancellor's budget on 30th October.
- One of the key challenges is the large ongoing demand on Children's Services. The increase in numbers of children in care, the increase in cost per child from external providers and the huge increases in numbers of children with Special Educational Needs, many of whom are using services provided by external providers.
- The long-term fix must be, firstly, to put a stop to the back-door privatisation of social care for both adults and children. Many services are run by for-profit private providers. At the last cabinet meeting we discussed and agreed to use the Culverhay school site to build new Alternative Provision and SEND Schools. Yesterday, the decision by Cllr May to repurpose Charlton House as a new Special Residential and Day School was published. These kinds of decisions, which allow us to provide in-area, council run services, rather than commissioning out-of-area, privately run services, are key both to getting control of the budget and providing a better experience and service to our vulnerable children.
- It is also important to work with our colleagues in the Health Service to develop much better mental health services for the most vulnerable children in our society.
- We are taking action to bring the social care spending back under control, but there are no quick solutions, and this will require capital investment to improve the financial position over time.

- On the up-side our Heritage Services and Parking Services continue to perform very well. In these incoming generating services, where we have much more control over our own destiny, we are showing how a well-managed, well-run council can use its assets to try to mitigate at least some of the enormous financial pressures we are facing elsewhere. Without this income, those pressures in Children's Services would be felt even more harshly.
- Things will continue to be difficult for local government financially. However, we are taking action, putting in place the in-house services which will help alleviate the pressure in the long-run, and will continue to balance the books despite these pressures.

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

- The council has statutory duties set by national legislation which remains our commitment, but things change over time, so the primary aim is to live within our means, seek financial efficiency improvements, seek to improve income and invest revenue expenditure for new ideas in a corporate sensible way.
- Accountability to the public requires transparency and the council takes that responsibility as a significant priority.
- The broken system of Children's Services has left many other local authorities on the verge of bankruptcy. The service is dictated by strict legal requirements and inadequate government funding for those requirements. Earlier intervention and use of new technologies can help us transform our service working with parents. This also highlights the power of capital investment to reduce long term revenue pressures. We are also dedicated to working with the newly created in-house adult service to help children transfer more effectively to adulthood.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

To approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

49 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT TO 30TH JUNE 2024

Cllr Mark Elliott, Cabinet Member for Resources, introduced the report, moved the officer recommendation and made the following statement:

“This is the quarterly Treasury Management report prepared in line with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, and the Treasure Management Indicators for the 1st Quarter of the Financial Year.

They are reassuringly lacking in any surprises. Our return on operational investments has just tipped above the benchmark rate for, I think, the first time since rates started rising, which is due to rates now very slowly starting to fall. (It is safe to assume we will always track very slightly behind benchmark in a rising market and would hope to be slightly above benchmark in a falling market.) We borrowed a further £10m nett in the period, but we're still very well within our safe borrowing limits, and we're currently predicting we will be £550k below our budgeted interest and capital financing requirement, which will help offset some of the in-year pressure I was talking about in the previous speech. As usual all

our Treasury Management Indicators are well within the parameters set by our Treasury Management Strategy, and the report demonstrates a well-run, well-managed Treasury function. I commend the work of the officers.”

Cllr Alison Born seconded the motion.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

- (1) To note the Treasury Management Report to 30th June 2024, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice.
- (2) To note the Treasury Management Indicators to 30th June 2024.

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services

CABINET MEETING – 12th September 2024

STATEMENTS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

1. Cllr Susan Charles (Corston Parish Council) – Accessible Planning
2. Gill Sinclair – Speed Limits in Peasedown St John (Petition)
3. Barney Frith – (Off the Record Youth Forum Representative) – Focus of the Youth Forum
4. Kate Morton (on behalf of Becky Brooks Director of 3SG) – Re-procurement of Community Contracts
5. Steve Osgood – Unique use restrictions applying to the Bath Recreation Ground
6. Joe Laishly (on behalf of Samantha Walker) – Raising the UN Flag
7. Lara Amro – Proposal for a Palestinian Resettlement Scheme
8. Jane Samson – Listening to different communities within B&NES
9. Lin Patterson – Rights for Nature

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M	01	Question from:	Cllr Joanna Wright
Can the Traffic Management Team's prioritisation for the Local Highways Improvement Programme (formerly TIP) be shared with councillors, so we have a clearer understanding of which schemes are being selected for LHIP funding?			
Answer from:			Cllr Manda Rigby
<p><i>The Council delivers an annual programme of Local Active Travel Safety Improvements (previously named Transport Improvement Programme). The Traffic Management Team maintain a list of requests, these are assessed annually by Officers, and the draft programme developed in discussion the Highways Cabinet Members, prior to Full Approval as part of the Councils budget approval process.</i></p> <p><i>We are hoping to complete the assessment through September / October 2024 and will be able to share the draft programme as part of the budget setting process.</i></p>			
M	02	Question from:	Cllr Joanna Wright
Please can you provide the Equalities Impact Assessment for the new electronic voting system for councillors at full council at the Guildhall?			
Answer from:			Cllr Kevin Guy
<p><i>The purpose of replacing the outdated AV system in the Chamber was to improve the user experience and accessibility by replacing the microphones, speakers and visual solutions. This also applies for those attending in person or watching our webcasts. This was an operational decision that was procured in accordance with contract standing orders with no express requirement for an EQIA.</i></p>			

M	03	Question from:	Cllr Joanna Wright
<p>The Peace Motion was passed unanimously by B&NES Council in July (you can read it here: https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s82779/Green%20group%20Peace%20motion.pdf). One of the actions requested was:</p> <p>"Asks the Council Leaders to write to the Government urging a ceasefire, the release of hostages, and advocating for lasting peace with a two-state solution on the global stage."</p> <p>Where will this letter be made publicly available, and how will the public be informed about the actions taken by their council representatives after a motion is passed?</p>			
Answer from:			Cllr Kevin Guy
<p><i>It is not current practice to make letters arising from motions available to the public (they do not form part of the official record of the meeting) nor is there any requirement to inform the public of subsequent actions. Arrangements will be made to ensure a copy of these is sent to the Councillor who moved the successful motion.</i></p>			
M	04	Question from:	Cllr Shaun Hughes
<p>Within the Economic Strategy for B&NES 2024–2034, page 3, it states “As a major anchor institution, the University of Bath plays a key role in the economic, cultural and environmental well-being of B&NES contributing £380m pa to the economy and supporting 5,950 jobs locally”.</p> <p>Could I ask for these figures to be broken down into how these figures were arrived at and the source of your information.</p>			
Answer from:			Cllr Paul Roper
<p><i>The passage from this section of the Economic Strategy is a supportive statement from the University of Bath as one of our partner organisations in the strategy’s development. These figures were developed from their economic impact statement. This is an independent</i></p>			

analysis conducted by BiGGAR Economics in November 2021 of the economic contribution the University of Bath makes to the UK and the local community.

Within Section 9 (pages 59 and 60) of the report it provides a detailed breakdown of the economic impact and the economic impact in terms of jobs. This shows methodology as to how the figures were formulated.

M

05

Question from:

Cllr Colin Blackburn

I would like to request to see a list of Planning Appeals 'lost' in B&NES, that have been awarded costs against us, over the last 5 years? Please include how much these individual cases have been awarded.

Answer from:

Cllr Matt McCabe

18/02898/FUL- £5,000 paid 17/7/2019, 17/05819/FUL- £360.00 paid 16/1/2020, 19/03747/FUL - £3807.00 paid 05/06/2020, 20/03716/FUL - £3,500.00 paid 09/06/21, 20/01039/FUL - £280.00 paid 28/07/21, 20/01119/FUL - £2059.06 paid 29/10/21, 19/00542/UNDEV - £7530.00 paid 17/03/22, 22/01299/FUL - £45,270.00 paid 23/10/23.

M

06

Question from:

Cllr Colin Blackburn

Which budgets have these payments have been made from?

Answer from:

Cllr Matt McCabe

Planning Budget Code Appeals NCB52

M	07	Question from:	Cllr Colin Blackburn
Which financial year were these costs paid in?			
Answer from:		Cllr Matt McCabe	
<i>See answer to question M05.</i>			
M	08	Question from:	Cllr Sam Ross
The aim of the Journey to Net Zero transport strategy for Bath was a 24% reduction of car journeys and miles within Bath by 2030. What has been the progress towards this target since the launch of the strategy in May 2022?			
Answer from:		Cllr Sarah Warren	
<p><i>The targets for decarbonising our transport network are set out in Bath & North East Somerset Council's Climate Emergency Strategy. Transport currently accounts for 29% of carbon emissions in the B&NES area which is approximately in line with the national figure of 28% in 2022 (2022 UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Final Figures). Nationally, transport is proving the hardest area of human activity to decarbonise. Before 2020 there had been relatively little overall change in the level of greenhouse gas emissions from domestic transport over the previous three decades, with emissions only 3% lower in 2019 than they were in 1990. Across all sectors however during the same period emissions of carbon dioxide have reduced by 46.3% (around 279.5 MtCO₂) to 324.2 MtCO₂ (2022 UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Final Figures).</i></p> <p><i>The Journey to Net Zero for Bath, identified the scale of change required in B&NES to meet the carbon neutrality target in transport terms. There are many potential pathways to achieving this target, for example, one scenario would require:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• 7% decrease in the number of car journeys across the local authority area</i> 			

- 25% reduction in kilometres travelled per person by car each year
- Electric cars: 76% pure battery, 14% petrol hybrid
- Buses: 76% electric, 24% hybrid
- Rail: 37% of freight rail is electric, 100% passenger rail is electric

These percentage reductions are from a baseline of 2016.

In line with national figures traffic levels in Bath are likely to have risen between 2022 and 2023 as traffic is still recovering in response to the global pandemic. Nationally, Department for Transport data indicates an increase of 2.2% in motor vehicle traffic between 2022 and 2023 (ref <https://roadtraffic.dft.gov.uk/summary>).

B&NES has a number of automatic traffic count sites located across the district that monitor traffic flows on key routes, including those in Bath. Whilst these don't capture every vehicle travelling within Bath, they are a good proxy in terms of what the general level of traffic flows are in the city. Comparing data from a number of key sites across Bath comparing traffic levels between 2019 and 2022 indicates a reduction in traffic levels of 1.14%.

M	09	Question from:	Cllr Sam Ross
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According to an answer in June 2024, no records indicate when North Road was last fully resurfaced. The poor surface has led to several people getting seriously injured while cycling on North Road. Why does the Council not hold this data?

Answer from:	Cllr Manda Rigby
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The asset history data is held on an asset management system called Confirm holding historic data back to 2000 when the system was introduced, records prior to this would have been archived and periodically disposed of so resurfacing records prior to 2000 will not be retrievable. A long section of North Road, Bathwick in poor condition was resurfaced in August, the works were completed on the 23rd August 2024.

M	10	Question from: Cllr Lesley Mansell
<p>In March 2024 B&NES Council passed a motion unanimously that the Labour Group seconded. This is to include in our equality impact assessment process a category for those who have experienced being in care. This will recognise them as having a protected characteristic. The aim of this is to ensure that all our policies, practices and services provide appropriate support and that they do not discriminate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has this category been added to the template? - How many issues have been recorded since March 2024 and how many recommendations have been made in relation to this? - When will the action plan relating to this be reported to the Adult and Children’s Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel? 		
Answer from:		Cllr Paul May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yes, the question about care experience is now fully embedded in the template when applying for any job across the council and we are seeing people use this.</i> • <i>4 young people in the Care Experienced Team have made applications and were flagged successfully. 3 have been successful in securing employment within council departments.</i> • <i>A cross-council working group has been set up to set out and oversee how this motion is embedded across the council – the group had its first meeting on 1st August and meets every 6 weeks. This is being led by Cherry Bennett (Director of People & Change) and an action plan will come from this work. It will be shared with scrutiny in 2025.</i> 		

M	11	Question from: Cllr Lesley Mansell
<p>Following the recent proposals on car parking in Radstock,</p> <p>Woodborough Road - proposed parking restrictions TRO 24-022 - Representations have been received stating the current proposal will inadvertently create several new issues for residents and road users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has the fact that these changes will reduce current parking spaces and reduce visibility for road users? - Will the council consider an alternative for example traffic calming measures instead? - And will there be an opportunity to engage further with residents on this proposal in a meaningful way? 		
Answer from:		Cllr Manda Rigby
<p><i>The parking restriction proposals in Woodborough Road are aimed at helping to slow traffic by staggering the layout of where people can park. Currently vehicles park all along one side. There would be minimal reduction in the amount of parking space. Officers have advised that they layout will not compromise safety and will lead to lower traffic speeds.</i></p> <p><i>Although traffic calming can be a very effective way of reducing vehicle speeds, it is expensive, and we don't have the resources to implement it wherever there are issues with excessive speed. It is worth being aware that some traffic calming layouts can also affecting parking. We have added the request for traffic calming to a list of requests we maintain for when we consider future highway improvements. There is always more demand for highway schemes than the budget can cover.</i></p> <p><i>The current parking proposal provides a more immediate way to reduce speeds and make the road safer. The consultation closes on 12th September. Letters have been sent to properties adjacent to where the restrictions are proposed. Details can be found under the 'Have your say' section of the council website. https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/take-part-street-parking-tro-consultation</i></p> <p><i>Responses will be considered before a decision is made on whether to go ahead with the parking changes.</i></p>		

Supplementary Question:	
What is the supporting evidence to substantiate the statement that this will have a minimum effect on parking, bearing in mind that currently, parking is kept to one side of the road, although people could park on the other side of the road, but they don't? If it moves, then sight lines are more likely to be restricted so where is the evidence to show that this proposal will be an improvement?	
Answer from:	Cllr Manda Rigby
<i>The evidence is set out in the officer report, they carried out a survey and concluded that it would have a minimal impact. The consultation on this proposal has closed today (12th September 2024), and the next stage is to look at all the representations before making a decision on whether or not to go ahead.</i>	
M	12
Question from:	Cllr Lesley Mansell
Following the recent proposals on car parking in Radstock, The Street and Fortescue Road TRO 24-022 - The proposal is to mark up what is already in place with a waiting limit of 30 minutes between 8 – 6.00 p.m. How will this help local businesses and customers who need more than 30 mins and find the extra costs proposed for the car park behind the library a further burden?	
Answer from:	Cllr Manda Rigby
<i>There are no changes being proposed to the current parking restrictions as marked and signed in The Street and Fortescue Road. Officers discovered that the historic Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), the legal document which we produce to put in parking restrictions, does not match with what is on the road. The proposal is purely to amend the TRO so that it does match what is on the road. The rules about amending TROs requires us to publicise the changes which is why this has been done. If councillors would like to put forward future changes to parking restrictions, such as changing a 30-minute time limit to 1 hour, they should ask officers by emailing TrafficManagementTeam@bathnes.gov.uk</i>	

M	13	Question from:	Cllr Robin Moss
<p>It was agreed at the budget meeting in February 2024 that £802k would be cut from the funding through a “Review and recommission community support contracts”- £400k in 2024-25, £402k in 2025-26.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What progress has been made towards the 2024-25 budget target? 2) What discussions & consultation have taken place with the not-for-profit sector? 			
Answer from:			Cllrs Paul May and Alison Born
<p><i>The council engaged with not-for-profit organisations that are currently delivering community support contracts to identify opportunities for savings in May 2024. Following an engagement event the council set up a dedicated e mail for community providers to raise any further enquiries. There are two further engagement sessions planned with the sector in September and October.</i></p> <p><i>All ideas and opportunities for savings delivery and contract efficiencies identified by community support providers will be considered and will inform commissioning plans for 2025/26.</i></p> <p><i>A training event was held with the sector in August which was led by 3SG and the council lead for procurement to update on procurement law and explain to the third sector regarding the process of bidding.</i></p> <p><i>In November there is a planned joint training with commissioners and the sector to look at models of commissioning.</i></p> <p><i>The Executive Director for Operations meets regularly with the Director of 3SG Becky Brooks to ensure that the sector is engaged in the process.</i></p> <p><i>During this consultation it has been agreed to maintain current level of funding to the sector to ensure service continuity and to look for one off savings from other social care service areas.</i></p> <p><i>Appropriate engagement will continue as we move into the formal procurement arrangements.</i></p>			

M	14	Question from:	Cllr Robin Moss
Following the recent single member decision “E3559 Bath West Children's Centre Service insourcing” to bring this service back ‘in house’, are there any plans to involve users & staff in the ongoing management & future planning for this service?			
Answer from:			Cllr Paul May
<p><i>The decision to insource the Bath West Children’s Centre service will mean that future delivery will be provided by Bright Start Children’s Centre Services who have been providing Children’s Centre Services in Bath East, Somer Valley and Keynsham and Chew Valley for many years. Bright Start and Action for Children already work closely together and both services were actively involved in the options appraisal which informed the decision to insource. Bright Start will build on existing good partnerships that have been established within the Bath West area. Bright Start Children’s Centre services will continue to adhere to the Early Help Quality Assurance Framework which provides routine opportunities to involve both service users and staff in the ongoing management and planning of services. In the meantime, Bright Start and Action for Children will work together to support the Bath West team to make sure that the transition is as smooth as possible.</i></p>			
Supplementary Question:			
Are there any plans to involve users and staff in the ongoing management and future planning for this service?			
Answer from:			Cllr Paul May
<p><i>The commitment to involve users and staff is set out in the response provided and I will ensure that this does happen.</i></p>			
M	15	Question from:	Cllr Liz Hardman
Good practice is that any objections to planning applications from B&NES councillors and/or Parish & Town Councillors should be on the			

agenda of the Planning Committee. However there have been instances recently when this has not happened. Can you provide a list of planning objections that fit this description?

Answer from:

Cllr Matt McCabe

The Council has a scheme of delegation which sets out the circumstances in which planning and other applications should be determined by committee and when decisions can be delegated to officers. The scheme sets out that where a B&NES Councillor requests for an application to be referred to the planning committee or the Parish & Town Council support or object to an application contrary to the officer's recommendation (and provides so with planning reasons for doing so) then the application is referred to the chair/vice chair of committee who make a final determination as to whether a decision is delegated or not. It should be noted that objections and/or support comments from individual Parish & Town Councillors do not trigger a referral to the chair.

Objections from B&NES Councillors and/or Parish & Town Council will usually be listed in the representations section of each item on the committee agenda, although these will sometimes be summarised, collated with other similar comments or reference will be made to the full comments being available on the website. If there are specific instances where there are concerns that B&NES councillors and/or Parish & Town Council comments have not been included in reports, then these details should be provided to the Planning department so that they can advise further.

Supplementary Question:

For those applications that would generally come before the B&NES Planning Committee because the applications were not supported by either the Town or Parish Council or by the B&NES Ward Councillor, what percentage are now being decided by the B&NES Planning Committee or by the Chair and Vice Chair of the committee in the past six months?

Answer from:

Cllr Matt McCabe

A written response will be provided.

M	16	Question from:	Cllr David Biddleston
<p>1) Is there a record of s106 'planning gains' secured from developers in 2022-23 & 2023-24?</p> <p>2) Are there any instances over the last 5 years where s106 monies have been returned to developers, or where promised developments have not been delivered?</p>			
Answer from:			Cllr Matt McCabe
<p><i>The annually published Infrastructure Funding Statements set out both the spending and funding secured from s106 obligations for each financial year. The statement for the financial year 2022-23 is published and available on the council website. The statement for the financial year 2023-24 has not yet been completed or published but will be available in due course. We do not hold data relating to numbers of unfulfilled obligations, however, there have been four instances where s106 monies have been returned to developers in the specified period.</i></p>			
M	17	Question from:	Cllr Eleanor Jackson
<p>What were the results & conclusions from the recent consultation on parking charges?</p> <p>I have been approached by residents who felt that some of the questions in the consultation were 'leading'. Has this been reflected in consultation comments?</p>			
Answer from:			Cllr Manda Rigby
<p><i>The consultation on parking charges during the summer closed on 8 August and a high volume of responses were received. Due to the complexity of the proposals the online feedback form was separated into specific questions which were designed to help respondents provide exact feedback for each proposal, as well as any additional information they felt was appropriate. This feedback form was designed in consultation with other council services to ensure that the questions remain neutral so that responses reflect respondent own views.</i></p>			

M	18	Question from:	Cllr Saskia Heiltjes
<p>The Cabinet Member for Highways confirmed that the funding bid for traffic light improvements was unsuccessful. Could smaller-scale improvements be implemented immediately to reduce waiting times for pedestrians at priority junctions, rather than waiting for funding for the larger programme?</p>			
Answer from:			Cllr Manda Rigby
<p><i>The council has an aging stock of traffic signal junctions and crossing equipment which is why we applied to the Department for Transport for funding to help us maintain and renew them. It is very disappointing that we were not successful, and we are seeking other ways to secure funding. Our priority has to be about using our limited resources to keep this infrastructure in safe and working order. Due to that limited resource, we are not able to undertake a specific review of pedestrian wait times.</i></p> <p><i>When we renew a signalised crossing or junction, once it has reached the end of its serviceable life, part of that work involves reviewing the timings. Although there are a lot of demands on funding to renew traffic signals and other highway infrastructure, a number of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement active travel schemes being planned across B&NES will lead to several existing signalised crossings being replaced, and this may enable reduced pedestrian wait times in these locations.</i></p>			
M	19	Question from:	Cllr Saskia Heiltjes
<p>Would the Cabinet Members be able to provide us with figures on the underspend of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS)?</p>			
Answer from:			Cllr Sarah Warren
<p><i>This needs to be referred to WECA.</i></p>			

M	20	Question from:	Cllr Saskia Heiltjes
<p>The Active Travel Masterplan mentions the availability of data from automatic cycle counters and sensors. Could this data be shared with the public, or at the very least with the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel?</p>			
Answer from:			Cllr Sarah Warren
<p><i>The Active Travel Masterplan indeed references the availability of data from automatic cycle counters and sensors. We currently have over 70 permanent traffic count sites located across the district that automatically monitor traffic, including traffic volumes, speed, and class of vehicle. The data from these count sites is stored and maintained in a bespoke software package managed by our Transport Monitoring Officer.</i></p> <p><i>While we cannot provide members of the public with direct access to the data via our network, we always respond to any requests for traffic data from the general public and are happy to share the data that we hold on our system.</i></p> <p><i>We will investigate what access we can practically provide to PDS panel members going forwards and bring a written update to the next Scrutiny meeting in November.</i></p>			
M	21	Question from:	Cllr Eleanor Jackson
<p>Would the cabinet member do something to expedite adaptations for disabled people's independent living in social housing? The homeless are being hit by this issue.</p>			
Answer from:			Cllr Matt McCabe
<p><i>The Council provides a range of grants and assistance to support elderly, disabled and otherwise vulnerable residents to remain in their own homes, including disabled facilities grants. We place a high value on these adaptations which have a significant and positive effect on residents' lives, and which typically also reduce the need for further interventions. As such we aim to ensure these adaptations are</i></p>			

completed promptly and work with a range of partners, including social landlords, to ensure the process is as efficient as possible. However, the largest time component for delivery is often due to factors outside of the Council's direct control, including securing valid quotations, landlord consent and contractors time slots. If the Member has a particular case in mind, then please let the Head of Housing know directly and he will investigate on your behalf.

M	22	Question from:	Cllr Eleanor Jackson
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Following a recent planning application heard at committee, what does the administration propose to do to persuade or prevent developers submitting applications which de facto exclude disabled people? In this case, there was an allocation of a significant number of bike stands, but only one disabled person's parking space, there being a failure to appreciate that 'young professionals' can be disabled with mobility problems. In the past, applications for blocks of flats have not had lifts. Would an appropriate SPD be considered?

Answer from:	Cllr Matt McCabe
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The provision and enhancement of facilities for disabled people, that is fit for purpose is a core part of the Local Plan Partial Update as expressed through policy ST1 and the Transport and Development SPD. The SPD provides policy and guidance which seeks to improve the accessibility of public transport, walking and cycling route design for disabled people, allowing them to make a choice of active travel if they are able to. However, the SPD also acknowledges that for some disabled people, using public transport or other active travel methods including walking or cycling is not possible. To that end, the SPD provides policy and guidance to ensure that developments have accessible parking options for Blue Badge Holders who rely on their cars. The SPD includes parking standards for a range of different development types and uses, with blue badge parking generally expressed as a percentage of the over capacity of spaces provided. This sets a standard and clear expectation for developers to follow to ensure that developments cater for disabled persons. However, whilst this document provides policy and guidance, each planning application must be determined on its own merits, balancing up many considerations including the constraints of the site and other competing matters (green infrastructure, housing need, design, etc.) alongside consideration of the Public Sector Equality Duty. In some cases, this can justify deviation from the identified parking standards if there is sufficient justification to do so.

(The response was provided within 5 working days of the meeting).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

P	01	Question from:	Edmund Cannon
<p>Information and timetables on the bus stop on the London Road near to Lambridge Street have not been in place for sometime. How does B&NES work with WECA to ensure that information on services is available to bus users?</p>			
Answer from:			Cllr Sarah Warren
<p><i>The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) is the Transport Authority responsible for the Bath and North East Somerset area, and as such, all operational decisions and day-to-day management of bus service information fall under WECA's jurisdiction. This includes ensuring that bus service information is readily available to the public. Where B&NES is made aware of significant operational issues, these are escalated to the WECA Infrastructure Directors for resolution.</i></p>			
P	02	Question from:	Edmund Cannon
<p>Many residents are finding the public toilets run by B&NES to often not be in use, broken or unclean. Who does B&NES use to maintain public toilets, and will there be a review of this agreement?</p>			
Answer from:			Cllr Tim Ball
<p><i>The Council recognises the value of public toilet facilities to the public and aims to have all facilities available and clean at all times, B&NES currently has 16 sites managed by Healthmatic on its behalf. There are also privately managed toilets available to the public.</i></p>			

Regrettably, there has been a steady increase in anti-social behaviour and misuse of the toilets, particularly within our parks and sites within central Bath. This has contributed to closures and disruption to service levels. We continue to work with our colleagues within the Police to minimise these issues and address local problems. Additionally, Healthmatic has also found recruitment and retention of cleaning staff difficult more recently which is also a recognised factor.

The toilets are monitored by B&NES officers and the agreement is reviewed annually to ensure that any problems are addressed appropriately.

P	03	Question from:	Grace Wiltshire
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The recent application by Lidl to build a superstore on the London Road in Lambridge was on a site that was once owned by the Council. Please can you explain how this land was transferred to Bath Rugby?

Answer from:	Cllr Paul Roper
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Bath City Council acquired land at Mill Lane Bathampton ('Bathampton Meadows') in November 1995 with a view to entering into a land exchange with Bath Rugby. As a consequence of changing priorities, the land exchange did not proceed. Hence B&NES or its predecessors has never held any ownership interest in the Lambridge training ground as plans to acquire this by way of exchange for the land at Mill Lane never came to fruition.

P	04	Question from:	Grace Wiltshire
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Many cars are idling outside shops in Larkhall Square. What steps do residents need to take to have anti-idling signs installed?

Answer from:	Cllr Manda Rigby
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Thank you for bringing this to our attention, the council has an anti-idling officer and campaign focused on promoting awareness of issues associated with idling engines.

We have visited Larkhall this week to assess suitable locations for our current anti-idling signage banner which affixes to railings – there is a noted absence of suitable mounting points in Larkhall. We are reviewing design and procurement of alternative signing materials. In the interim we will be liaising with local business owners to seek support to display our anti-idling posters and literature.

P	05	Question from:	Grace Wiltshire
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Please can you give full details of the recent air pollution levels on London Road?

Answer from:	Cllr Sarah Warren
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Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) concentrations for this location and all other monitoring points across B&NES can be viewed on our interactive map at <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/nitrogen-dioxide-monitoring-data> and in Appendix A of our annual Air Quality Status (ASR) reports published at <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/annual-air-quality-reports>.

London Road also hosts an electronic monitoring station observing multiple pollutants. This forms part of Defra's National Automatic Urban and Rural Monitoring Network (AURN). Observed data can be reviewed at <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/interactive-map>. You can zoom in on the maps to the location of interest, clicking a location will provide recorded data for that site. The map functions work best when viewed in full screen.

P	06	Question from:	Barbara Gordon
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20mph speed limits have been introduced to some roads in Bath, which I very much welcome as a measure for all road users to make our roads and communities safer. Why are these done in batches and not through a city-wide Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)? It seems expensive to create a TRO for a few roads and then repeat the exercise for further roads.

Answer from:	Cllr Manda Rigby
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20mph limits have been introduced across Bath in phases over many years. Officers have advised that it was not possible to do a blanket 20mph limit traffic order covering all roads in the city.

The majority of roads in Bath are now covered by 20mph speed limits and there are only a small number where 30mph limits remain, mostly on main roads. Not all of these 30mph limits may necessarily be suitable for changing to 20mph and our traffic engineers would need to undertake an assessment, which is why a city-wide traffic order in Bath has not been made. Across Wales, when the default 'restricted road' speed limit was changed from 30mph to 20mph, some roads remained as 30mph following local assessments. We are following the analysis of vehicle speeds and collision data from the initiative in Wales closely to help inform our future position.

This year we have been putting 20mph speed limits in those villages in B&NES that don't have them. I am hopeful we can look at more Bath roads in the near future. Councillors can put forward their requests to our Traffic Management Team.

P	07	Question from:	Barbara Gordon
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The BANES Active Travel Masterplan was partly developed because the WECA-authored Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) is outdated. Will BANES be requesting that WECA update the LCWIP?

Answer from:	Cllr Sarah Warren
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The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) is produced by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA), our transport authority. It is a live document subject to regular updates. At present, my officers have been informed by WECA that neither Active Travel England nor the Department for Transport have required the Combined Authority to review it. We are, however, working with Officers of WECA to request an update to ensure the document reflects our aspirations as expressed in our Active Travel Masterplan, once consultation is complete and our masterplan is finalised. The BANES Active Travel Masterplan serves as a crucial tool to ensure that our local active travel goals are explicitly stated and can be integrated into broader regional strategies.

P	08	Question from:	Barbara Gordon
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Issues with the bin compound for boaters at Bathampton are ongoing. What is the Council doing to resolve these issues?

Answer from:		Cllr Tim Ball
<p><i>An agreement was reached in April 2024 in a meeting between the Council Leader, Senior Officers and Directors of the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT) to upgrade the facility and improve existing controls at the site in the interim.</i></p> <p><i>The CRT are currently engaged in a planning application process with planning officers to build a new facility and have changed waste contractors whilst increasing the frequency of collections. They have introduced a new sign on the enclosure informing users of an expected code of conduct as well as having installed a new lock on the gate.</i></p> <p><i>Council Enforcement officers have since been visiting the site once or twice a week since April to check compliance. On every occasion the area has always been clean and tidy, with no waste residue or fly tipping evidenced either the outside or inside of the enclosure during inspections.</i></p> <p><i>The enforcement team are not aware of a single complaint or comment from the public regarding this site since the new CRT procedures have taken effect.</i></p>		
P	09	Question from:
		Ann Coghlan
<p>Motions presented to B&NES Council include a footnote from Democratic Services stating:</p> <p>“Unless specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.”</p> <p>If a motion is passed unanimously, such as Vision Zero in November 2023 or the Peace Motion in 2024, but is not acted upon due to the non-binding nature of the Cabinet, how is accountability ensured? What is the significance of passing a motion at Council if the Cabinet is not required to uphold it?</p>		
Answer from:		Cllr Kevin Guy

The functions of an Authority are by law divided between functions that are solely the responsibility of Council (these are mainly limited to Policy and Budget setting as well as Licensing & Planning), those that are solely the responsibility of the Executive (Cabinet) (these are the vast majority of the strategic and operational decisions) and finally, there are some functions which are local choice (i.e., which can be one or the other and it is for Council to decide). These are set out at paragraph 2.3 of the Constitution <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s83653/Constitution.pdf>.

Council can pass motions that relate to its functions and that it can make decisions about. Such motions, if made, are binding motions and must be implemented. Where the Council resolves to do something which impacts the functions that are reserved to Cabinet, then these are only persuasive. For this reason, motions are drafted in such a way as to request that Cabinet takes action. They cannot demand that Cabinet takes action. Ultimately, Cabinet can choose to action them or choose not to. The rationale is that Cabinet must deliver within the context of a budget and must prioritise which of its functions it intends to address with the finite budget available to it.

Accountability is ultimately via the ballot box.

P	10	Question from:	Ann Coghlan
When the Council passes motions that require the support or assistance of other members, such as Equalities Officers, what is the process for ensuring that these officers are made aware of the motions that have been passed?			
Answer from:			Cllr Kevin Guy
<i>Motion text is logged and forwarded to the relevant officers and allocated to a member of the Executive Leadership team to oversee.</i>			
P	11	Question from:	Gareth Eynon
At the June 2024 Cabinet, the following question was asked, and your response given is as follows:			

Regarding the potential return of HGVs to London Road, I would like to inquire whether the Cabinet has explored options to increase deterrents for these vehicles, particularly those simply passing through the city. Given the reported external pressure to allow their return, could the Council legally consider tripling the clean air zone charge for such HGVs, which contribute to congestion, air and noise pollution, and strain on local infrastructure?

Answer from: Cllrs Manda Rigby and Sarah Warren: “All Euro I to V diesel and Euro 1 to 3 petrol (or earlier) HGVs are levied a £100 charge to enter the Clean Air Zone (CAZ) in Bath. In 2023, the Council also explored amending the Clean Air Zone Charging Order to include an additional charge of £50 for all Euro VI diesel HGVs over 12 tonnes entering the CAZ. Following a public consultation, it was decided not to proceed with the proposal at the time. Local authorities operating a chargeable Clean Air Zone determine the appropriate daily charges levied. The Charging Order acts as a legal instrument laying out the daily charges for each respective vehicle used within the zone; any future adjustments to daily charges would require a consultation and a later variation to the order.”

Based on this response, it appears that B&NES Council can choose to proceed with another public consultation and increase charges for large vehicles entering B&NES Clean Air Zone. Please could you confirm this?

Answer from:

Cllrs Manda Rigby and Sarah Warren

Following the earlier public consultation there are no immediate plans to revisit HGV charges. By the end of 2023 96% of HGVs entering Bath’s CAZ are considered emissions compliant (Euro VI) an increase from 93% since CAZ launch in March 2021. By way of comparison only 86% of vans entering CAZ are compliant although this is an increase from 63% since CAZ launch. Further info on CAZ and its contributions towards improvements to vehicle compliance and air quality can be found within the published annual and interim reports: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/policy-and-documents-library/baths-clean-air-zone-monitoring-reports>

P

12

Question from:

Gareth Eynon

At the June 2024 Cabinet, the following question was asked, and your response given is as follows:

Implementing astroturf sports pitches involves overturning surface soil, disrupting natural habitats, leading to soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, and ecosystem disruption. Additionally, the maintenance of astroturf involves chemicals that can harm soil and water quality, vegetation, and wildlife. The installation of astroturf may also contribute to heat island effects, impacting local temperature regulation. Were the Cabinet members aware of this impact when they approved the planning application for Larkhall Athletic FC to build new astroturf pitches over existing grass fields at their site off Valley View?

Answer from: Cllr Sarah Warren and Cllr Matt McCabe: “Firstly, it should be clarified that Cabinet Members form the Council’s Executive making key decisions including those relating to policy and finance, whereas decisions on individual planning applications have to be made by the non-Executive side of the Council because it is a regulatory function. The highest profile applications are decided by the Planning Committee and the majority of applications are decided by officers utilising powers delegated to them by the Committee. The application referred to was decided by officers under delegated powers. The planning application that you refer to was decided in December 2022 (it had been submitted in August) and had to be assessed in accordance with the planning policies that existed at the time. In December 2022 the policies in question were contained in the Core Strategy (adopted 2014) and the Placemaking Plan (adopted 2017). Since then, the Local Plan Partial Update has been adopted (in January 2023) which includes more stringent policies on artificial sports pitches (Policy LCR6) and Biodiversity Net Gain (Policy NE3A – which allowed the Council to take a 10% BNG approach a whole year before it became mandatory in England). Applications for artificial pitches 15 made since the adoption of the Local Plan Partial Update have had to be assessed against these updated policies and standards. New Policy LCR6 includes the following text: A management plan should be submitted with an application for a new artificial grass pitch. The management plan should outline the materials used and should consider potential sources of pollution from the installation phase through to end of life, including disposal. This includes both chemical and solid wastes including microplastics. Adequate remediation measures must be implemented and reported to ensure any identified potential harm can be suitably mitigated.”

Thank you for this response, however, it states in the following B&NES Planning document
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LwNzLml3gaTXYh26WNP4gtYiC5ggEcxE/view>:

The Local Planning authorities may give weight to relevant policies in emerging plans and further the relevant consultation response from the Planning Policy that includes relevant requirements seems to have been disregarded. The management plan appears to be without details on material, pollution impacts, lifetime, recyclability, level of infill shredding.

How will Cabinet members address this serious concern going forward with other proposed artificial pitches being rolled out across B&NES, particularly concerning the Bath Rugby ground, University of Bath and Bath Football?

Answer from:		Cllrs Matt McCabe and Sarah Warren	
<i>Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Developments must be determined in accordance with the adopted Development Plan which is read as a whole with weight given to other material considerations including emerging policies. The Local Plan partial update Policy has strengthened the position in relation to artificial pitches and the requirements that must now be met, and all new development will be considered in the light of that strengthened policy context.</i>			
P	13	Question from:	Gareth Eynon
In the recent Schools Attainment data, B&NES was the worst area in the country for Key Stage 2 children who receive free school meals. What actions are the council taking to improve upon supporting some of our most vulnerable children getting the best start in life through education?			
Answer from:		Cllr Paul May	
<i>We want the best outcomes for all our children in B&NES. Whilst we know that when in secondary school, our free school meal pupils' education outcomes do improve to be broadly in line with their peers nationally, this is not good enough and we do want to see improvement in Key Stage 2.</i>			
<i>Nearly all of the schools in B&NES are academy schools and run by a multi-academy trust, reporting to the Department of Education, not the local authority. However, this does not stop us from striving for better and committing resources to improve the education outcomes for all children. Specifically, the Local Authority has worked alongside the St John's Foundation and schools to develop the following programmes aimed at providing additional support to improve education outcomes.</i>			
<i>We believe that the best start in education starts in the early years. Our Language for life; making a difference together, programme is focused on closing the persistent word gap which impacts on children's later outcomes. With additional support from speech and language therapists and using evidence-based approaches, this programme has already worked with 23 early years settings and will target another 45 settings from September 2024</i>			

<https://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/opinion/article/david-hobdey-closing-the-gap-with-learning-for-life>

We have worked with St. Johns Foundation to develop the Primary Empowerment Programme, a programme to support seven schools in B&NES with the highest numbers of free school meals for pupils. This programme is in its third year and provides additional support to these schools to help families with literacy and numeracy.

We also deliver the Improving Educational Outcomes for Disadvantaged Pupils programme alongside St. Johns and the Big Education Trust. This programme has been developed alongside our schools to offer additional advice and support on strategies to improve attainment gaps through peer support and workshops. This year, the programme will be targeted at more schools and will include an offer of financial assistance for staffing cover to enable key teachers to attend.

Whilst work with education settings to reduce the attainment gap is fundamental, we also recognise that is important to address wider risk factors beyond the education setting that contribute to inequalities in educational attainment, including within the home, community and wider environment.

Public Health colleagues are therefore conducting a piece of work to explore what wider factors are contributing to the attainment gap within B&NES and how these can be addressed by teams across the Council and by partner organisations. Over 40 interviews with professionals working with children and young people, and with young people themselves, have taken place as part of this work.

Our work and our efforts will continue until we see sustained improvements in the attainment gaps for all children.

P	14	Question from:	Dominic Tristram
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It seems the Planning Enforcement team lacks the resources to enforce agreements set in planning applications, leading to actions that undermine B&NES planning policies. What resources are being allocated to ensure that all planning applications are properly monitored and enforced?

Answer from:	Cllr Matt McCabe
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The Planning Enforcement Service at B&NES carries out a statutory function which is the investigation and responding to breaches of planning control where they are brought to their attention. To pro-actively monitor the implementation of all planning permissions would require additional resources, and as most developments are implemented without any breach occurring it would be a matter for the Council to decide in light of that factor whether additional staff resource should be provided to enable proactive compliance checking of decisions made. Where planning breaches are identified, and where it is found to be expedient to require those breaches to be remedied, the planning enforcement service work with the individuals responsible to resolve them collaboratively as this is the most effective and appropriate action both in terms of cost and outcome. When necessary, the team do take decisive and direct action and have recently achieved some excellent results in appeals and successful prosecution proceedings, which demonstrate that we have an effective enforcement service that the public should have confidence in.

P	15	Question from:	Dominic Tristram
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Please can you provide emissions data created in B&NES for the last 5 years?

Answer from:	Cllr Sarah Warren
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We do not hold any emissions data. We do record monitored nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations from 2014 onwards, accessible through interactive maps on our webpage: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/nitrogen-dioxide-monitoring-data> and in Appendix A of our annual air quality status (ASR) reports: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/annual-air-quality-reports>

P	16	Question from:	Dominic Tristram
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The protected cycle lane on Beckford Road going towards Batheaston is often used by confused cyclists coming off the canal tow path as two way, resulting in cyclists also going towards the city centre. How will you be addressing this ongoing issue that makes it unsafe for all users?

Answer from:		Cllr Sarah Warren
<p><i>After the Beckford Road scheme was finished, the council added arrows to the cycle lane at both the access to the canal and the Beckford Gardens junction. There is also an arrow at the bus stop border. These arrows indicate that the cycle lane is one-way.</i></p> <p><i>The council has recently consulted on the draft Active Travel Masterplan which includes improvements that will give cyclists more choices to travel from the canal tow path towards Bath city centre. These improvements are proposed to be delivered through developer contributions, council investment and central government funding.</i></p> <p><i>We have been awarded funding from the Sustainable Transport Settlement to improve cycling routes in Bath and this area could benefit from improved infrastructure and wayfinding in the next three years if the proposals are approved.</i></p>		
P	17	Question from: Off the Record Youth Forum
Regarding green energy – ‘Is the geothermal heating project being extended from the abbey to other places?’		
Answer from:		Cllr Sarah Warren
<p><i>The Council have begun to investigate options for further geothermal projects to decarbonise the heat and energy of Council owned buildings in the centre of Bath including the Guildhall, Roman Baths and Pump Room. This has included some preliminary investigation into the residual potential energy from surplus heat in the Great Drain (from where the Abbey extracts heat). An energy capture project was recently completed that extracts heat from the Kings Bath to heat the new World Heritage Centre and Clore Learning Centre and assist with heating the main baths and Pump Room buildings. The Council are exploring what is possible and affordable and applying for grants to help continue decarbonising the corporate estate and reach the Council’s 2030 net zero target.</i></p>		
P	18	Question from: Off the Record Youth Forum

What is the council going to do to step up mental health support to meet the increasing importance of mental health issues for young people?

Answer from:

Cllr Paul May

A response will be provided within 5 working days of the meeting.

P 19

Question from:

Off the Record Youth Forum

Does Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Council have any specific strategies or initiatives in place to involve young people in local government decision-making, consultation, or education about how local government functions, and if so, how are they implemented? If not, would they be open to introducing new measures or collaborating on initiatives to actively engage and inform young people?

Answer from:

Cllrs Paul May and Dave Wood

The Participation Strategy has now been replaced with the Participation Toolkit for professionals working with Children and Young People this new toolkit was developed by the Connecting Families Team last year.

Children and Young People are regularly involved in consultations and all our commissioned services for young people who need extra support, have service user groups. These groups ensure that all children and young people getting support who can participate in decisions that affect them and their families and service users are actively encouraged to provide feedback.

Groups in Bath and North East Somerset that help deliver our wider consultations include the Youth Forum, run by where participants decide about campaigns and projects they undertake, based on the issues that really matter to young people in our area. Recently the Youth Forum undertook a consultation on Neurodiversity in schools, and how pupils could be supported to get extra help. This is now part of the resources page of the School's Hub. The Youth Forum can submit questions on a quarterly basis to the Children and Young People's sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

In addition, and supported by Keynsham Town Council, Keynsham Now recently celebrated its 10th birthday. It has raised over £2000 for

local charities, and its members have spoken at the youth parliament, visited the Houses of Parliament, and set out their views at Keynsham Town Council meetings.

We are always open to considering new initiatives or collaborations to actively engage and inform young people.

A copy of the Participation overview document which shows how we engage and consult with our children and young people in B&NES is attached.

Appendices

Question P19 – Participation overview document

Children and Young People's Participation in Bath & North East Somerset

Participation – Voice of the Child

Feedback and review from cyp at all stages in key decision making - Clear thread of the 'Voice of the Child' feeds into assessments and reports

Participation of Young People in:

- EHA and Single Agency Assessments
- Statutory Social Care Assessments
- Reviews
- DCT / CIN / CP Plans / IRO reviews
- PEP's – Virtual School
- EHC Plans/ reviews 0-14, 14-25

Participation Contract 2021-2026 Off the Record B&NES (OTR)

- In Care Councils, (Junior, Senior, Care Leavers)
- Young Ambassadors work across Social Care and OTR Report to
- Corporate Parents
- BCSSP Involved with
- Consultations/Recruitment/Training

Youth Forum:

- Inclusive group of yp aged 11 -18
- Involved with LA/Health Consultations and Commissions
- Local campaign work Report to:
- Youth Forum inputs into the CYP Sub Committee of H&WBB and reports to BCSSP Annually

Other B&NES commissioned cyp service user groups
Mentoring Plus
Young Carers
Black Families
Southside Advocates
Youth Connect
CAMHS Participation

Commissioned Services report annually on 6 Participation Standards.

Participation – B&NES wide

- School Councils –PSHE/Pastoral Leads
- Keynsham Now (Youth Town Council)
- Bath Youth Network

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STATEMENT FROM CLLR SUSAN CHARLES (CORSTON PARISH COUNCIL)

ACCESSIBLE PLANNING

My suggestion/request is:

" To Reform Design in the Planning Process and Construct Accessible Homes for All new build at the Onset."

Thus, saving the extra costs at present to the NHS and Social Service departments.

Grand Designs last June featured a couple who planned to build a new home as one had suffered a stroke in their fifties, and now a wheelchair user. Kevin McCleod asked 'what the most important features we're needed in this new build" views, decor, kitchen worktops were not the most important.....

Access was.....

They asked for:

1. Level access throughout.
2. 80cm wide doorways.
3. An accessible bathroom for w/chair use.
4. Light and power point switches 90cms from the floor.
5. Light stairways.

Six changes that would enhance their new way of life.

Of course, strategically placed joists for a lift shaft could be incorporated in the original plans..... in case.

A movable bathroom wall creating more space ...in case.

A bath could be replaced with the previously prepared level access wet room. ...in case.

We are a growing older population, with long operating and treatment waiting lists ...bed blocking.... lack of care home space.....couples being split due to lack of access within the family home, causing mental and practical challenges for all around you because you cannot leave hospital and go home.

Statistics say:

50% of the population will receive a long or short term disability in their life time.

£72 billion lost into the local economy per year, due to lack of access in homes and public transport for the mobility challenged.

WE ARE ALL ONE DIAGNOSIS AWAY FROM NEEDING AN ACCESSIBLE HOME AND TRANSPORT.

Independence and dignity can be lost. Imagine all that entails moving home, alterations, the upheaval, the cost, all at a time when you and those around you are coming to terms with a new way of life.

Access planned at the onset for ALL new build homes could be readily available if needed, with no need to move. Not everyone can or wants to downsize to a multi-purpose complex like the Chocolate Quarter as practical and nice as it is.

I know many who already worry about how they would manage "IF "

WE ARE ALL ONE DIAGNOSIS AWAY FROM NEEDING ACCESSIBLE HOMES AND TRANSPORT.

Thank you for your time.

PLEASE. .

Take a moment, close your eyes and imagine..... how would you get out of this building without use of your legs and eyes?

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW SPEED LIMIT OF 30mph FROM THE BATH ROUNABOUT, UP DUNKERTON HILL TO THE BEGINNING OF ASHGROVE, PEASEDOWN ST JOHN

Throughout Peasedown St John there is a 20mph speed limit. This speed limit is rarely observed whether coming into the village from Dunkerton Hill or from the A367 onto Bath Road or on Orchard Way from the A367.

At present the speed limit from the Bath roundabout up Dunkerton Hill is 50mph.

This ends at the beginning of Ashgrove which has a 20mph speed limit.

This results in vehicles arriving on Ashgrove and the first speed bump at a far greater speed than 20mph.

Vehicles leaving the village along Ashgrove can see whether something is coming the other way and generally speed up long before leaving the 20mph zone as they can see they are heading for a 50mph zone down Dunkerton Hill.

The current speed bumps and traffic controls - a build-out at the beginning of Ashgrove - do little to slow the traffic down or deter drivers from racing through the traffic control. Ashgrove is a long straight road which allows some drivers to see what is coming in the opposite direction and race to beat the oncoming traffic through the traffic control.

This also has an impact on drivers coming out of Eckweek Lane onto Ashgrove. On turning left into Ashgrove they are entering a 20mph zone but on turning right they are facing into the end of a 50mph zone and all the traffic racing to get through the traffic calming. I have witnessed many many near misses whilst waiting at the bus stop. Exiting Eckweek Lane is not for the faint hearted.

There are many problems along the Bath Road leading to Ashgrove and some solutions have been put in place over the years but what would be really useful would be an overall assessment of what could be done

to make a bigger impact on controlling the speed of traffic through our village.

I would not suggest speed cameras or anything that involves fining anybody should be used but I do believe with some well placed signage and a limit to 30mph on Dunkerton Hill a difference could be made.

There are many different aspects to getting drivers to respect the 20mph speed limit in the village - the main road through the village is pretty straight which somehow makes it "difficult" to maintain a 20mph speed - I have been told!

We have four bus routes going through the village and a coach company in the heart of the village.

PARKING

Last year the build-out on Ashgrove had double yellow lines put around it meaning we lost 2 parking spaces. Half of the houses on Ashgrove between the two traffic calming build-outs do not have a driveway or the possibility of one and therefore have to park on the road. Many of us park around the corner on Eckweek Lane but again we are about to lose two spaces there when a new-build currently being constructed is completed. The driveway to this property, the one next door and one across the road are the width of two spaces each. As much as we want people to use public transport we all do inevitably have at least one car per household and it is becoming more and more difficult to park within walking distance of our front doors.

Perhaps parking could be allowed for in a more creative way on Ashgrove instead of the build-outs?

As a Parish Counsellor I have listened to residents on Wellow Lane, Braysdown Lane and Orchard Way all ask the Parish Council to do something about speeding but as a council we feel there is little we can do without the help of BANES as these are all major traffic routes.

I have canvassed my neighbours on Ashgrove, Eckweek Road, Eckweek Lane, Gordon Road and North Meadows and I have the results here. Of the 121 homes I leafleted I have 46 responses from residents concerned about the ever increasing speeds they are seeing on a daily basis.

We are asking for a temporary speed bar to be installed on Ashgrove to collect the data needed to really understand what is happening with the average speed of the vehicles coming into and leaving the village at this location.

Coupled with the 30mph limit on Dunkerton the general consensus is that new signage - perhaps “welcome to our 20mph village”, “thank you for driving carefully” or even “welcome to our 20mph eco village” would be appropriate. In an effort to reduce emissions we do need to observe the lower speed limits in all areas and not just in towns and cities. I appreciate it is hard for some people to agree that pollution is a major problem for us when you are up the hill in Peasedown but this is also about helping to change hearts and minds wherever people drive.

For a 20mph limit to become the norm rather than an annoying nuisance. At present in Peasedown the speed limit is not observed by cars, vans, lorries or buses causing pollution, noise and danger for residents.

Thank you for your time and I hope you are able to help us with ensuring the 20mph limit is better observed in our village.

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STATEMENT FROM OFF THE RECORD YOUTH FORUM – 12TH SEPTEMBER 2024

The recent 'Make Your Mark' poll of over 500,000 11-18 year-olds (8% of the cohort), carried out by the British Youth Council (which has since had to shut down due to funding problems) found that many issues matter to young people in the UK, but their priority issue (with nearly 86,000 votes) is health & wellbeing. Their second priority is crime & safety (with nearly 79,000 votes). Only 112 young people in BANES took part in the poll (0.6% of the cohort): the priority issue for them was climate & environment, followed by jobs & economy.

We are representatives of the BANES Youth Forum. The Youth Forum is a group for anyone aged 11-18 (or up to 25 with additional needs) who lives, works or studies in BANES and who is passionate about getting young people's voices heard, and making positive change.

Our focus over the last year has been on our campaign to make mainstream schools in BANES more accessible to neurodivergent young people. We conducted peer research and wrote a report and toolkit based on our findings, which has been shared with all mainstream primary and secondary schools in BANES. Lots of schools have told us that they will try to incorporate recommendations that they aren't already doing.

Our current priorities (in no particular order), which reflect the priorities of our peers locally and nationally, are:

- Young people's mental health
- The climate emergency
- Getting more local young people engaged with politics and decision-making

We plan to work with BANES Council, the two BANES MPs and other local youth groups on these issues.

We are keen for BANES to re-join the UK Youth Parliament, so that our young people can be better represented on a national level. However, due to the uncertainty of the UK Youth Parliament's long-term future, limited funding, and our belief that we might have more impact locally, we have decided to focus on the local level for now. We're interested in setting up a local alternative to the UK Youth Parliament, and we'd love the Council's help with this.

So far we have met with BANES councillors, officers and affiliates to discuss: how the Council works, youth mental health provision and action on the climate & ecological emergency, and action on the cost of living. Our attendance at this evening's Cabinet meeting is also part of this process.

We would appreciate any assistance that the Cabinet can offer us on our three priority issues. Thank you.

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STATEMENT FROM BECKY BROOKS (DIRECTOR OF 3SG)

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you all this evening.

On behalf of the Third Sector in B&NES, and as the Director of 3SG, which supports 250 charities across the area, I would like to update the panel on the re-procurement of Community Contracts from the sector's perspective.

At the beginning of this year, we were told that there would be no 'cliff edge' in funding - and that the Council would work in collaboration with us as valued partners. Whilst I am grateful for the effort that has been made in opening up conversations with myself in the last month or so, until the beginning of this month, the Sector was largely in the dark about timelines and as far as I am aware, has had little interaction in terms of collaboration or consultation. The Sector still doesn't know what cuts are coming and where - and this has created huge anxiety, uncertainty and difficulty in making plans for the future.

We are yet to see the outcomes of the Community Services review, despite having asked for it over several months - this is disappointing, because it would be helpful to know where cuts will fall, and to understand the Council's thinking. We hoped there would be an open dialogue around this piece of work, and as far as I am aware, this has not been the case, as was promised at the beginning of this year. If this review is in another format, which I have been told that it is, we would still like to see it, where commercial sensitivities allow.

Whilst I appreciate that the Council has had a busy and pressured time with Adult Social Care coming back in house and now a CQC inspection, the Third Sector desperately needs the Council to start communicating more effectively, trusting it as equal partners to deliver services. Real change is needed for the future of procurement in B&NES and in January, we were asking for that brave and bold piece of work to be done. Having had conversations with a B&NES Commissioner, I can see that this is a huge piece of work that couldn't be done in less than a year, but we are committed to pushing for this change, for greater co-production, trust and better communication. There are great examples of work not too far from B&NES where this system has more flexibility, a willingness to invest and sustain and a grass roots understanding of the challenges of those delivering services. Such systems are where you truly become a 'valued partner'.

I would like to direct members' attention to the recent Council tender in Swindon, in which the Swindon Carers' Centre, supporting residents for over 25 years, had to withdraw, because the ask was completely unachievable for the money offered. It also meant the charity would need to close as a result of losing such a large contract. I cannot imagine what B&NES would look like without its Carers' Centre, and I am genuinely concerned that this scenario could play out with other charities in B&NES. Who picks up services then?

As of two weeks ago, we received confirmation that market engagement events are likely to take place at the end of September and early October. It is unlikely that

would-be providers will go into procurement until the end of the year and that temporary contracts are likely going to be needed to sustain services. The Housing and Homelessness Review is also being treated separately, causing even more uncertainty and confusion, whilst we understand that Early Help contracts are being worked on for 2026. Our ask is that commissioners use this time to listen and engage with the Sector in a more open way. 3SG is in the process of organising two sessions with a national procurement expert and we hope that commissioners and the Council's legal team will support this vital piece of work. Whilst we have supported the co-hosting of two sessions for providers with the Council this year, this has provided nothing new in terms of information, nor the opportunity for new solutions or dialogue.

Cabinet Members hopefully know of B&NES' Community Wellbeing Hub - an example where tearing up the rule book and cross sector collaboration has seen proven prevention results and is held up as good practice nationally. We need to rekindle that pandemic spirit - to move away from transactional relationships, with an emphasis on co-production and trust on both sides and exploring the art of the possible. BNSSG has managed to do some really interesting work in this space, and we urge B&NES Council to look at its brave neighbours who recognise that ultimately we all have to evolve our systems to thrive in the future. And that is what B&NES deserves - a strong, thriving Third Sector providing sustainable, exemplary services for residents.

Statement to the Cabinet Meeting Sept 12, 2024

Steve Osgood will say

1 I was 18 when the Recreation Ground was sold to the Citizens of Bath. In the written Agreement and Conveyance, the Council is separately identified as Guarantor of the Objects and Terms of sale, that is to say the property would

*-not be used otherwise than as a recreational **open space**
-its use not to favour any single sport, club or body
-for ever hereinafter*

Citizens are able to rely on the Council's signature, given *under seal*

2 Fifty years later, when the Council applied to the High Court for a relaxation of the Conveyance terms, Justice Hart in 2002 decreed that the Rec

-was not part of the Council's estate, was a charitable gift and should be to be so managed

There was no Appeal

3 With Council's nomination of Bath Recreation Ltd as public (custodian) Trustee to represent the interests of the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of Bath, there was no *onward conveyance*, no *consideration* involved and no *change of terms* ; the Council's parallel Obligation as Guarantor of the 1956 terms *in perpetuity*.....remains unchanged.

4 **Today** I wanted to draw Members attention to the fact that in June this year the already dubious 2014 Lease with Bath Rugby Ltd, was renewed for a further five years

-in the knowledge that it is contrary to the 1956 and 2002 terms, and in the knowledge that it is contrary to the charity's Governing Document

5 I suggest that this action compromises any proposals to develop the Rec

*- in favour of the Developer.....and to the disbenefit of the **public Trustee**, Bath Recreation Ltd*

6 Such a proposal is a legal issue before it becomes a planning matter.

Core Plan policy B8(2)b itself is subject to “.....*the resolution of unique legal issues...*”, as a pre-requisite to any proposal for development.

7 In the event such a proposal is ‘called in’ for Determination by the Minister, his Inspector will initially call upon the Council to explain

-how a piece of self financing open space, a charitable gift for Citizen’s recreation Guaranteed by the Council, has since become the site for the development of a single purpose private stadium, contrary to the terms of its 1956 Title and the 2002 High Court judgement.

Steve Osgood oc
riba rtpi
Bath

240802

Raising the UN Flag

Statement from Samantha Walker

On behalf of the Palestinian community in BANES I would like to thank you all for unanimously voting for the motion calling for a ceasefire in Gaza.

It is an important step towards acknowledging the harm inflicted on our community and the people in Palestine alike.

We hope this step at the local level, encourages other councils to adopt similar motions that could eventually lead to firmly practicing pressure on Israel.

We also think that raising the UN flag would make the Council's efforts more visible, and would remind our local community of the values that the Council hold; democracy, human rights, and international peace.

As the raising of the flag was adopted as part of this specific motion, that focuses mostly on the situation in Palestine, we strongly believe that it is vital that the flag is raised around days that are relevant to peace, the situation in Palestine, and human rights being violated in conflict.

As this action will help in supporting the local community's effort to push for a ceasefire, we think that it is key that the flag is raised as a matter of urgency, i.e. as soon as possible.

After lengthy consultation, we propose the following UN days:

September 21st (to 28th): **International Day of Peace**

November 20th (to 27th): **United World Children's Day** which commemorates the Rights of the Child. Mothers, fathers, teachers, nurses, doctors, local government leaders and civil society activists, religious and community leaders, professionals as well as young people and children themselves can play an important part in making World Children's Day relevant for their societies and communities and could be a local focus for inclusive community building.

November 29th (to December 5th): **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**. As we are very restricted and cannot even demand solidarity with the Palestinians through raising a Palestinian flag, the way

council did in the case of Ukraine/Russia, we must affirm the importance of raising the flag around days related directly to the Palestinian cause.

December 9th (to 16th): **International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime.**

The four days are scheduled before the end of the calendar year, building a momentum for more community action, and strengthening the spirit of the motion, and make it clear that the Council is keen to reach a permanent ceasefire.

Having the last three consecutively means that we will be able to solve a practical issue of putting the flag up and then down for 4 times.

The flag in this case could be raised once from November 20th to December 16.

We appreciate your good intentions, but for the council to uphold peace and not justice rings very hollow.

Thank you.

Bath & North East Somerset Council Cabinet Meeting

Date: 12th September 2024

Speaker: Lara Amro

Topic: Proposal for a Palestinian Resettlement Scheme

Ladies and gentlemen of the council,

I stand before you today not only as a resident of Bath, but as one of the 12 million Palestinians living in diaspora. Seeing the continued suffering of my people, and now the unimaginable horrors unfolding in Gaza, breaks my heart. As a proud citizen of this city, I bring to you my plea: we must do more to support the Palestinian people, just as we have done for others fleeing war and persecution.

The UK's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 was both swift and generous. Refugee schemes such as the Ukraine Family Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme have enabled over 207,000 Ukrainians to find safety in this country. These efforts are commendable, with local authorities receiving financial support to help integrate those fleeing the conflict. As we reflect on this generosity, we must now ask why the same response is not extended to the people of Gaza, who have faced decades of violence, dispossession, and oppression.

While Ukrainians have found safety in the UK, Palestinians in Gaza continue to face dire conditions. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has condemned Israel's actions, investigating charges of genocide and other war crimes committed against Palestinians. Gaza, under siege, faces starvation, the destruction of infrastructure, and a lack of access to basic human necessities. Children in Gaza now have the highest rates of amputations in the world. Homes are demolished daily, and families, including children, have nowhere to turn. Nearly 700 Palestinian children have been arrested by Israeli forces since October 7th, some as young as 12, for throwing stones at tanks. These are not isolated incidents but a systematic violation of basic human rights.

The state of Israel was founded in the wake of one of the greatest atrocities in human history—the Holocaust. In its aftermath, the world recognized the need to find a homeland for Jewish refugees. Yet, in doing so, we created a new refugee crisis—today, over 12 million Palestinians live displaced, with little to no hope of returning home. Gaza, the West Bank, and surrounding

refugee camps bear witness to this enduring crisis. The suffering of my people is not a distant memory—it is a living reality.

When Ukraine was invaded, the UK government imposed some of the most comprehensive sanctions in its history on Russia, and our leaders—rightfully—condemned the atrocities committed there. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, in October 2023, remarked, “We will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Ukraine until this war is won. Our assistance is both immediate and enduring”. But where is the same moral clarity when it comes to the suffering in Gaza? As Prime Minister Boris Johnson said of the Ukrainian crisis: “We cannot turn our backs on families, women, and children fleeing bombs, terror, and destruction”. Why should we turn our backs on the people of Gaza now?

As a Palestinian in diaspora, I cannot remain silent. I call on the Bath and North East Somerset Council to act. Establishing a resettlement scheme for Palestinians, particularly those from Gaza, is not just a gesture of goodwill—it is an act of moral responsibility. We can no longer afford selective compassion. If the UK can open its doors to over 200,000 Ukrainians fleeing war, we must be willing to offer the same sanctuary to those fleeing the devastation of Gaza.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has acknowledged the suffering of the Palestinian people, stating that “Too many lives have already been lost, and the humanitarian crisis is growing”. But words are not enough. We need action. I urge this council to take a principled stand, to set an example, and to champion the cause of a Palestinian resettlement scheme. Bath can lead the way, urging the UK government to provide safety and refuge for those who have been denied it for far too long.

Thank you,

Lara Amro

MSc. In International Development with Conflict and Humanitarian Action, University of Bath

References:

1. Gov.uk, "Ukraine Family Scheme Overview"
2. Gov.uk, "Homes for Ukraine Scheme Statistics"
3. Gov.uk, "Cost of Ukraine Resettlement Schemes"
4. International Court of Justice, "Investigations into War Crimes and Genocide"
5. UNICEF Report, "Impact on Children in Gaza"
6. Human Rights Watch, "Palestinian Children in Israeli Prisons"
7. Gov.uk, "UK Sanctions on Russia in Response to Ukraine"
8. Gov.uk, "Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Ukraine"
9. BBC News, "Boris Johnson on Ukrainian Refugees"
10. Gov.uk, "Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on the Palestinian Humanitarian Crisis"

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Listening to different communities in BANES /anti-Zionism is not anti-semitism

Statement from Jane Samson

When Bath Campaigns Network started to campaign on Gaza 10 months ago we understood that the most urgent thing to do was reach out to people in the community most affected.

We immediately contacted the mosque, the Islamic Society at Bath University and Bath Friends of Palestine.

We soon met with Palestinians, as well as residents from the wider Islamic community.

We asked "What do we need to know and understand? What do you need us to do?"

Through compassion, empathy and friendship, our community grew to include people of all faiths and none, including Jewish brothers and sisters.

We shared an understanding that Palestine is an illegally occupied territory whose people have suffered oppression and apartheid for 75 years.

Exposing the truth about Israel's war crimes is likely to incur accusations of anti-Semitism in an attempt to quash dissent.

To be clear: Israel is a Zionist state and Zionism is not Judaism.

Zionism is a system of supremacist apartheid.

Zionism can no more claim to be an expression of the Jewish faith than the Ku Klux Klan, with its burning crosses, can claim to represent Christianity.

To conflate or confuse Zionism with Judaism is an insult that sadly fuels the abhorrent and terrifying possibilities for real anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

Left unchallenged, the end game of apartheid is genocide.

It is the horror story that echoes Nazi Germany and the holocaust.

This time we cannot say we didn't know because it's being live streamed and it's happening with the full support of western governments.

This is the context in which it is hardly surprising that racism is rearing its ugly head closer to home.

This is the critical moment that requires us to be courageous and outspoken for humanity.

If you are a bystander - your silence is violence.

We all have a responsibility to take positive action to uphold human rights at home and abroad.

If we don't speak up then we give licence to exclusion and bullying.

We call upon our council to:

- Improve the inclusivity and compassion of our community.
- Tackle prejudice and racism in our streets and in our institutions.
- Look out for those members of our community who are traumatised and who now may be subject to exclusion and racist abuse.
- Protect establishments from Zionist threats that have been shutting down any events that dare to offer a voice to Palestine.
- Ensure the right to free speech and peaceful protest is upheld as a cornerstone of democracy.
- Actively promote and celebrate the strength and richness of our city's diversity and multiculturalism.
 - Establish a dedicated team that meets regularly with community members for open and honest dialogue where they can express their needs, concerns, and aspirations.
 - Stand up for humanity against racism, Islamophobia and anti- semitism.

"If a state is engaged in war crimes, crimes against humanity (which include apartheid), and/or genocide, international criminal law (eg the Rome statute) creates an obligation not just in states but in all entities and individuals to do everything in their power to stop that crime from being committed. Failure to do so would be complicity, and in many cases aiding and abetting of such a crime. We are all, therefore, legally obliged to do everything in our power to stop Israel's violations of international criminal law." Hazem Jamjoum

"Since the Court ruling on 19 July," the International Court of Justice warned "Israel has intensified attacks on the civilian population in Gaza and their natural resources,".

"Israel must stop acting as if uniquely above the law." OHRC July 2024

Statement on Rights for Nature, Lin Patterson 12-09-24

B&NES Council is recognised as one of the very best in the country for biodiversity policy and action, coming joint 1st nationally.

Our climate action plans are in line with **national legislation: the Climate Change Act 2008** and the UK's climate advisory body, the **UK Climate Change Committee** which issues regular reports. These national bodies are critical in allowing, but also limiting, what is possible for B&NES to do, and we need to engage over those national limitations.

This council is hyper-aware of the extreme urgency, growing exponentially with each passing day, for the necessity for significant action on the ecological and biological crisis. But their dazzling list of accomplishments can and must be expanded upon. How? By laying the groundwork for enshrining an advanced principle that can profoundly address the ecological emergency.

First, it requires an individual act of imagination; you, imagining, reaching, for a perspective slightly alien in our current culture, but enshrined for millennia in human consciousness: that nature is alive and has rights; that these rights could and should be legalized to protect them in the face of ever-expanding construction and exploitation of the natural world. If there were more time I would remind you of the mass extinction affecting insects, birds and mammals to tear at your heartstrings. But you know this.

Around the world this legal movement is taking hold, starting years ago with countries having indigenous populations where there was still a connection to the principle. Now governments at various levels are adopting rights for nature, including at the local level; for instance, by the city of Santa Monica in California to name but one. There is a growing, modern pool of knowledge to draw upon for drafting a measure in B&NES. I invite you to Google "Rights of Nature".

Does B&NES already have enough legal protection? No. The case of the Lidl controversy in Lambridge proved that. The only reason that nature remains intact there is that there was not sufficient turning space for enormous delivery vehicles. The land, animals and capacity for human enjoyment of nature were not protected. The land needs legal advocacy, and the B&NES **Green Motion on the Rights of Nature soon to be proposed by Cllr Joanna Wright** offers a step by step way towards that. **The motion will be presented for your consideration on the 19th.**

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