

Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Date: Thursday 26th March 2026

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Chamber, Guildhall Bath

Councillors: Andy Wait, Dr Eleanor Jackson, Alex Beaumont, Anna Box,
John Leach, Duncan Hounsell, Hal MacFie, Saskia Heijltjes and Karen Walker



Michaela Gay

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NOTES:

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

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

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

3. **Recording at Meetings:-**

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

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**Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel -
Thursday 26th March 2026**

at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, Guildhall Bath

A G E N D A

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
2. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 6.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

- (a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.
- (b) The nature of their interest.
- (c) Whether their interest is **a disclosable pecuniary interest** or **an other interest**,
(as defined in Part 4.4 Appendix B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests)

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

5. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN
6. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING
7. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 18)

22nd January 2026
23rd February 2026

8. CLIMATE AND NATURE STRATEGY UPDATE (Pages 19 - 28)

This is a policy and development item. The Panel have an early opportunity to help shape strategy.

9. PANEL WORKPLAN (Pages 29 - 32)

This report presents the latest workplan for the Panel. Any suggestions for further items or amendments to the current programme will be logged and scheduled in

consultation with the Panel's Chair and supporting senior officers.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Michaela Gay who can be contacted on 01225 394411.

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

MINUTES OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING

Monday 23rd February 2026

Present:- **Councillors** Andy Wait, Duncan Hounsell, Hal MacFie, Karen Walker, Malcolm Treby (in place of John Leach), Dr Eleanor Jackson, Tim Ball (in place of Alex Beaumont), Toby Simon (in place of Anna Box) and Joanna Wright (in place of Saskia Heijltjes)

192 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

193 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

194 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Leach gave his apologies and was substituted by Councillor Treby

Councillor Beaumont gave his apologies and was substituted by Councillor Ball

Councillor Box gave her apologies and was substituted by Councillor Simon

Councillor Heijltjes gave her apologies and was substituted by Councillor Wright

Councillor Jackson attended the meeting as the Labour member (current vacancy).

195 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

196 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

197 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

The Chair invited the following members of the public and Councillors to make 3 minute statements:

- Ward Councillor Elliott
- Ward Councillor Hodge
- Ward Councillor Roper

- Ian Wilson (against) – statement attached to the minutes
- Rachael Hushon (for) – statement attached to the minutes
- Theresa Franklin (for)
- Bethany Claus Widick (for)
- William O Connell to read Olivia Webb statement (against)
- Robert Parker (against) – statement attached to the minutes
- Tim Spratt (against) – statement attached to the minutes
- Neil Billett (against)
- Neil Dickinson (for) – statement attached to the minutes
- Malcolm Baldwin (for)
- Will Honey (unclear)
- Anne Pearson (for) – statement attached to the minutes
- Richard Brown (for)– statement attached to the minutes

198 LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS: LOWER LANSDOWN EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER (WL)

The Chair invited the lead call in member, Councillor Colin Blackburn to make his statement setting out the reasons for the call in of the decision (the statement is attached to the minutes).

Panel members asked the following questions:

Councillor Wright noted that Councillor Blackburn had mentioned process, predetermination, lack transparency and governance and asked why these things were important in this case. Councillor Blackburn stated that Winifreds Lane was introduced late and was not included in earlier community workshops. There was a lack of consultation around Winifreds Lane.

Councillor Wright asked why residents in lower-income areas such as Julian Road had not spoken today and asked if Councillor Blackburn had information on this. Councillor Blackburn stated he could not explain the absence of those voices but noted that areas affected include dense social housing and schools.

Councillor Wright asked if there was any representation from the school. Councillor Blackburn stated that he could not find any.

Councillor Hounsell asked if there is any evidence that Cabinet predetermined the outcome. Councillor Blackburn stated that there are a number of factors such as the community workshops did not include Winifreds Lane and restrictions on public speaking at Cabinet.

Councillor Simon stated that there is reference in the pack that there had been engagement with St Andrew's School and Kingswood School.

Councillor Jackson asked about financing of the scheme. Councillor Blackburn stated that she would need to ask the Cabinet Members.

Councillor Treby asked if Councillor Blackburn is against the Winifreds Lane aspect alone. Councillor Blackburn stated that he was not against closure per se but it is about finding a solution as he believes the current design is unsafe and does not meet intended objectives.

Councillor Wait asked why Councillor Blackburn believes George Street is more polluted despite reports of reduced congestion. Councillor Blackburn stated that congestion reduction does not equate to reduced emissions.

Councillor Wright asked what changes/mitigations could be made if the decision is referred back. Councillor Blackburn stated that no mitigations were made regarding the last Liveable Neighbourhood scheme.

The Chair invited the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport Strategy – Councillor Joel Hirst and the Cabinet Member for Communications and Community - Councillor Manda Rigby to make their statement.

Panel members asked the following questions:

Councillor Jackson asked how much the scheme has cost taxpayers, for example - the 5,280 first-class letters. Councillor Hirst stated that the costs are set out in the Single-Member Decision report. The programme is funded through WECA and consultation and postage fall within that allocation.

Councillor Wright stated that some residents had been surprised by the ETRO. Councillor Rigby stated that a lot of effort has gone into contact with resident's associations, schools and residents and the website is consistently updated. We have been overwhelmed at the volume of people getting involved and have listened to/read everything.

Councillor Wright stated that there appears to be no active travel data for Sion Road, despite heavy displacement. Is this an omission. Councillor Hirst explained that this scheme has the strongest evidence base of all of the schemes.

Councillor Wright noted the deprivation data for this ward, she asked why the area was selected for a livable neighbourhood. Councillor Rigby stated that the selection followed a rigorous process with WECA, considering potential impact, community requests, willingness to engage, and suitability for active travel improvements.

Councillor Wright stated that some residents describe unsafe conditions outside Kingswood School. She asked what data has been collected. Councillor Hirst stated that all safety issues raised have been reviewed by engineers and officers. Mitigations for the school exit are acknowledged and will be explored, but these sit outside the scope of the Call-In.

Councillor Wright asked if a comprehensive road safety audit been completed. Councillor Hirst stated that it had. We are satisfied that road safety has been assessed in line with standard Council processes.

Councillor Jackson asked why the three schemes were linked. Councillor Hirst stated that the combined package was developed through co-design. The three measures work collectively to limit through-traffic movements from the south towards the A46/M4 corridor.

Councillor Treby asked if the scheme would still be successful without the proposed mitigations. Councillor Rigby stated that, based on the evidence, the scheme meets its objectives without requiring mitigations. Proposed additional measures are enhancements and would be subject to consultation.

Councillors Rigby and Hirst made their closing statements

Councillor Blackburn made his closing statement (attached to the minutes)

Panel debate

Councillor Simon stated his support for dismissing the Call-In on the basis that a lawful and thorough process had been followed.

Councillor Ball supported this and stated that the procedure was followed.

Councillor Hounsell stated that he had heard the balance of arguments, he could not see any evidence of a lack of proper process.

Councillor Wright stated that she was concerned about the schools and pollution. She stated that the reason behind liveable neighbourhood schemes was to support the poorest in our communities. She stated that she was disappointed in the process and the Panel.

Councillor Jackson stated that there were other solutions to Winifred Lane. Tourism is vital and will be affected and taxi fares will rise as a result.

Councillor Treby stated that the Winifreds Lane area is at issue, he knows the area and it is used as a rat run. He stated that 72% is a significant majority and it is a shame that mitigations cannot be looked at.

Panel Decision

Following a motion from Councillor Simon, seconded by Councillor Ball, the Panel dismissed the call in (6 for/1 against/2 abstentions). The decision shall then take effect immediately.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

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BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

MINUTES OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING

Thursday 22nd January 2026

Present:- **Councillors** Andy Wait, Alex Beaumont, Anna Box, Duncan Hounsell, Saskia Heijltjes, Karen Walker, Bharat Pankhania (in place of John Leach) and Dr Eleanor Jackson

Apologies for absence: Councillors: Hal MacFie, John Leach

180 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

181 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

182 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Leach gave his apologies and was substituted by Councillor Pankhania.

Councillor Jackson attended the meeting as the Labour member (current vacancy).

Councillor MacFie gave his apologies.

183 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jackson declared she is a director of the Radstock Cooperative Society, which has a development with some relationship to Aequus. She confirmed this would not influence her contributions. The Chair confirmed she may speak on Aequus-related items.

184 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

185 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

Councillor Born read a statement from Professor Rory Shaw regarding Air Pollution (statement attached to the minutes).

Councillor Warren read a statement from Dr Lucy Anderson regarding Air Pollution (statement attached to the minutes).

Lily Hughes made a statement regarding 'Wood Burning and Air Pollution' (statement attached to the minutes).

Councillor Walker asked how B&NES could educate residents. Lily Hughes replied that the council should use all available channels — including social media and local media — to inform residents, as many people are unaware of the health risks.

Councillor Jackson asked whether a supplementary planning document banning bonfires would help. Lily referenced Birmingham's example but could not confirm applicability.

The Chair thanked Lily Hughes for attending.

186 MINUTES

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chair.

187 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

Councillor Sarah Warren, Cabinet Member for Sustainable Bath and North East Somerset, gave an update which covered the following:

Climate & Nature Strategy - Proposed Timeline

- 26 March: Panel meeting dedicated to policy development for the updated Climate & Nature Strategy.
- 9 July: Focus on climate resilience and adaptation, following risk assessment.
- 24 September: Draft strategy and updated action plan presented to the Panel ahead of Cabinet and Council in November.

(No separate annual progress report this year; progress will be incorporated into the strategy discussion).

Additional Updates

- Successful bid for EV (Electric Vehicle) charging infrastructure at Keynsham Recycling Hub.
- Funding secured with Wessex Water and Southwest Water for catchment-based nature recovery work. Recruitment underway for three new staff to support projects.

Bath Riverline:

- Phase 1A substantially complete.
- Phase 1B construction begins February, completion expected in summer.

- Further funding sought for Windsor Bridge area.

Panel member questions:

Councillor Hounsell asked for an update on the Better Moorings Project. The Cabinet Member agreed to follow this up.

The Chair asked how the Climate & Nature Strategy timeline would fit with the Local Plan timeline. It was suggested that options be looked at regarding dates/ extending meetings/additional meeting.

188 AEQUUS BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

Councillor Matt McCabe, Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development, introduced the item. There was a presentation which covered the following:

- Aequus Group Business Plan Refresh
- Business Plan Opportunities and Challenges
- Aequus Social Value Outcomes
- Aequus Governance Update
- Updated Financial Forecast and Pipeline
- Summary of Key Pipeline Changes
- Updated Pipeline Analysis
- Updated Pipeline Analysis – Key Dependencies
- Updated Financial Overview – Revenue Forecast 2025/26 to 2029/30
- Updated Financial Overview – Profit Forecast 2025/26 to 2029/30
- Shareholder Returns
- Updated Key Risks

Panel members raised the following points and asked the following questions:

Councillor Beaumont asked how Aequus would engage communities in future developments. The Aequus representative responded that engagement would take place through public sector partner discussions, engagement with landowners and new community engagement partners.

Councillor Heijltjes asked whether Bath Quays would include affordable housing and if so, how many of the 96 units would be affordable/social housing. The Cabinet Member confirmed that the LLP structure allows subsidy to deliver policy-compliant affordable housing. He stated that he could not say now exactly how much affordable housing will be delivered.

Councillor Pankhania asked whether new homes would include solar generation and battery storage. The Aequus representative explained that EPCA homes already include air-source heat pumps, MVHR, triple glazing, and solar PV. Battery storage is under review.

Councillor Heijltjes asked if money from revenue returns would go to frontline services. The Aequus representative explained that it was based on the delivery timeline, some of which is out of our control. The Action Plan has helped. The Cabinet Member added that it can be more complex when dealing with other Councils.

Councillor Jackson stated that she had voted against the North Quays project as there was no social housing planned. She asked why there were no Aequus projects in North East Somerset. The Aequus representative explained that early-stage discussions were underway but details were commercially confidential.

Counsellor Hounsell asked whether financial projections could be shown in today's money. Officers confirmed that net present value modelling could be provided.

The Chair thanked the officers and Cabinet Member.

189 BUDGET DRAFT PROPOSALS

Councillor Mark Elliott, Cabinet Member for Resources, introduced the item. He stated that he was happy to hear from the Panel regarding the proposals and where they think the risks might sit.

Panel members raised the following points and asked the following questions:

Councillor Hounsell asked whether closing recycling centres would increase cross-district travel. The Cabinet Member stated that this was under consideration and no final decision had been made. He stated that we are well provided for in terms of recycling centres.

Councillor Wait asked whether Keynsham would ever be the only site open. The Cabinet Member confirmed it would not.

Councillor Walker asked if recycling vehicles would be able to take more items. The Cabinet Member explained that kerbside recycling vehicles already take a range of items including small electrical items.

Councillor Heijltjes asked whether changes to waste rounds would reduce resilience. The Cabinet Member confirmed that there would be no reduction in service.

Councillor Walker asked about the removal of one off growth funding – the officer explained that this referred to enforcement cameras which are in place; a time limited piece of work regarding the car club and extra support for supported bus routes. Also School Streets go live after Easter so the funding for the set up is no longer needed.

Councillor Wait asked about the number of School Streets, the officer confirmed that Lime Gardens/Charmouth Road is included.

Councillor Heijltjes asked whether enforcement officers could use e-bikes. Officers explained that current ANPR technology is not compatible with e-bike deployment.

Councillor Heijltjes asked how Park & Ride charges would be enforced. The officer said improved ticketing and monitoring systems were being explored.

Councillor Jackson stated that there is an ambition to have a hospital flyer from Odddown to the RUH, the bus service (number 4) is extremely erratic. She asked if the budget provides for more information to be publicised about bus services which may encourage more people to use them. She stated that buses used to get fined for cancelling services. It was explained that many bus services are run by WECA and that advertising services is being discussed at the next WECA meeting.

Councillor Jackson asked if there had been any investigation into the effect of parking charges in North East Somerset on small businesses. The officer stated that it is nationally recognised that well managed parking facilities encourage turn over. There has been no dedicated work on the impact on small businesses, but we will continue to monitor.

Councillor Walker asked if there is a quicker system for reporting parking enforcement issues. The officer explained that the direct email should be timely. It is then put on a patrol list and the area will be visited.

Councillor Heijltjes asked about the CAZ (Clean Air Zone) deficit. The officer explained that the number of contravening vehicles is declining. The Cabinet Member confirmed that this will become less profitable as it becomes more successful.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and officers.

190 AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH: EVIDENCE AND TARGETS

Councillor Sarah Warren, Cabinet Member for Sustainable Bath and North East Somerset, introduced the policy and development item. She read a statement from the Director of Public Health. There was a presentation which covered the following:

- Pollutants in BANES
- Health Impacts
- Particulate Matter and Health Impacts
- Vulnerable Community Members
- Air Quality Standards and Targets
- Examples of LA's with Local Targets
- NO2 Forecasting
- Particulate Matter Forecasting across B&NES
- Suggested Local Annual Targets and Supporting Strategy

Panel members had the following discussion:

Councillor Pankhania asked whether new sources of PM2.5 were being monitored. He stated that it may be smarter to look a new engineering processes to see if they

generate eg. Cosmetics. The officer explained that the strategy would include source-apportionment and that monitoring was needed to identify hot spots.

Councillor Hounsell asked whether modelling included new housing growth. The officer explained that modelling does not consider new local interventions but does consider traffic changes.

Councillor Hounsell asked if there is a policy regarding wood burning stoves in terms of people using treated wood. The Cabinet Member stated that all suggestions can be incorporated into the policy and in the meantime, the Environment Protection Team can investigate.

Councillor Wait asked whether wood-burning impacts on individual homes could be monitored. The officer explained that particulate matter is harder to monitor and the equipment is more complex. She confirmed that mobile PM monitors exist and limited monitoring is possible.

Councillor Box noted monitoring in Bath and suggested that it would be great to widen this out. She underlined the importance of enforcement. She also stated a nervousness of hot spots being identified which could cause traffic diversions. She explained her job with patients with COPD (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and asked that the link to poverty be considered as a theme. Officers agreed.

Councillor Heijltjes stated that she supports setting local targets. She asked if 2030 timing is realistic. She also asked whether school streets could be monitored before and after implementation. The officer stated that targets are realistic, WHO guidelines are extremely ambitious.

Councillor Jackson asked if farm vehicles are monitored. Officers explained that they are not specifically monitored. It was explained that monitoring has been done in Westfield and if they have been taken away it will be due to levels being lower.

Councillor Walker asked if people could be supported if they wish to swap from solid fuel use. She also asked whether bonfire restrictions could be enforced. Officers confirmed they can be enforced through statutory nuisance powers, alongside public education. The Cabinet Member stated that there are initiatives for those on low incomes (Warm Homes).

Councillor Hounsell stressed the importance of education and communication as changes can take a long time (eg. Recycling).

Councillor Box stated that a strategy is a good idea and that there is a crossover with the NHS.

The Panel unanimously agreed to recommend to the Cabinet Member that:

- the Council should identify and adopt local targets for nitrogen dioxide and particulate pollution.
- the Council should prepare a Clean Air Strategy that sets out what the local target should be, and what regulatory powers there are to help protect people's lives.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and officers.

191 PANEL WORKPLAN

Panel members noted the workplan and that the items and meeting dates (re. Climate item and Local Plan item) would be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 12.13 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

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Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING DATE:	26th March 2026	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Climate and Nature Strategy Policy Development Session	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
None		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 At the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel of 23rd October 2025, it was agreed that the Panel would have the opportunity to review and input into the development of the updated Climate and Nature Strategy during 2026.

1.2 At the meeting on 22nd January 2026, it was confirmed that the meeting of 26th March would be an opportunity to contribute recommendations to the strategy's development.

1.3 This paper sets out the contents that will be used in the meeting on 26th March.

1.4 The strategy development timeline includes:

- March: Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel
- May/June: wider engagement to prioritise contents, action and funding feasibility
- July/August: Climate Resilient Council (adaptation) update is an agenda item at July Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel. Draft collated and finalised.
- September: Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel before October document design
- November: Cabinet, Council and publication

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to:

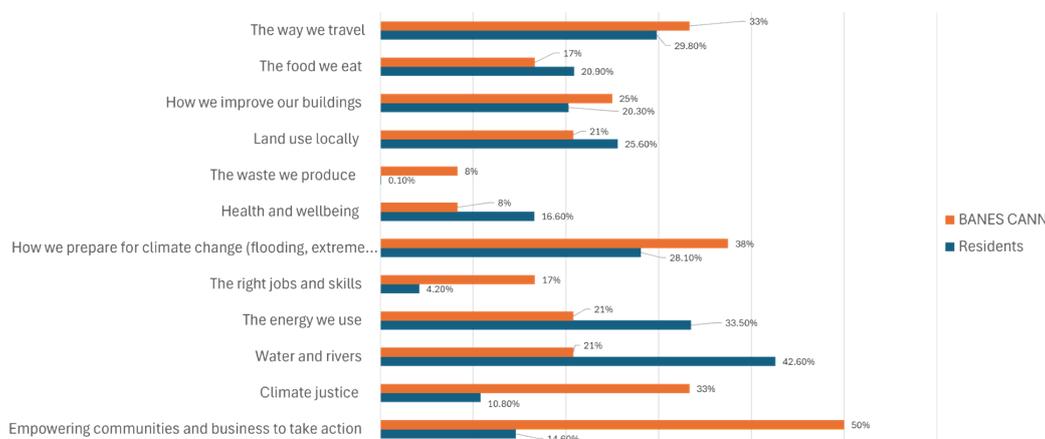
- 2.1 Read this paper in advance of the meeting and consider the questions posed to prepare for the working session.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 In its 2024 Climate and Nature Progress Report, B&NES Council set out that it would bring together its current 2019 Climate Strategy & Action Plan and 2020 Ecological Emergency Action Plan into one updated Strategy and Action Plan.
- 3.2 This update would recognise the interconnectedness of both emergencies and result in a single document that updates how the corporate Core Policy of Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies would be delivered at the mid-point to 2030.
- 3.3 To establish the framework for the combined strategy, Officers have conducted analysis of good practice. This includes:
 - a) Lewes Council Climate and Nature Strategy – as highlighted by the LGA and Friends of the Earth as an example of a combined strategy
 - b) Newham Council Climate Transition Plan – as highlighted by the LGA and UK100
 - c) The Climate Action Scorecard framework – external benchmarking of Local Authorities every 18 months. B&NES currently 17th of Single Teir authorities – the first non-major city or London borough
 - d) Bristol climate transition plan analysis – utilising software ClimateView that B&NES is using from Jan 2026 and Bristol City Council Climate Action Plan 2026-2028.
 - e) The 7th Carbon Budget report and focus
 - f) UK's 3rd independent Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3-IA), Climate Change Committee 2022 (4th assessment due to be published mid-2026)
 - g) Met Office Local Climate Service report for Bath and North East Somerset
 - h) West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy
 - i) West of England Climate Adaptation Report (ARP4) 2025
 - j) Doughnut Economics Action Lab
 - k) City of Bristol Just Transition declaration
 - l) The Well-being of Future Generations Act, Wales 2015
 - m) 'Climate change and social justice: an evidence review', Joseph Rowntree Foundation
 - n) B&NES existing strategies and plans including the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the Economic Strategy
 - o) West of England Combined Authority strategies and plans including the Growth Strategy

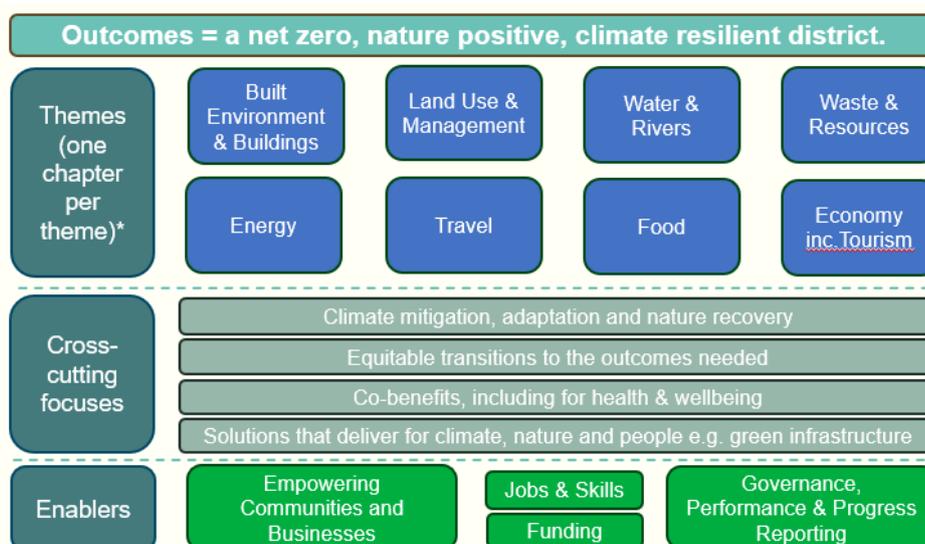
3.4 This review was combined with the views of residents, community groups & businesses, collected in 2025, to provide a draft outline for the strategy

2025 BANES Climate and Nature Network (CANN) Forum vs Residents priorities, sorted by smallest difference. This shows areas where the Forum attendees and Residents are most aligned



3.5 The strategy will be drafted against the environmental context set out in the Annual Climate and Nature Progress Report 2025, i.e. of nature depletion, reduced greenhouse gas emissions tracking ahead of the national picture, but not sufficiently quickly, and of the need to adapt to an already changing climate. This latter is complex to forecast as global climate enters new levels of warming. The Met Office forecasts warmer, wetter winters and hotter drier summers with increased intensity of summer rain for the UK and Bath and North East Somerset. As we edge closer to missing internationally agreed targets to limit global warming to 1.5C, avoiding the worst impacts of climate change, climate scientists are increasingly calling for more attention to be paid to High Impact-Low Likelihood (HILL) scenarios, which could result in e.g. a shift to extremely cold winters in the UK. Amidst the uncertainty, the need to be agile and resilient to more extreme climate conditions will be of importance.

Draft Climate and Nature strategy outline



* Council Operations to be incorporated within each theme, splitting the content and actions by what the council should deliver for its own operations, and where it can enable and influence the district e.g. via policy, place-based work, convening, funded projects or information sharing

Questions:

1. Are there any further sources that Officers should consider to cross reference against the draft strategy outline?
2. Are there any recommendations as to how to improve the draft strategy outline?

3.6 Within the strategy outline, a further level of draft content has been developed, including:

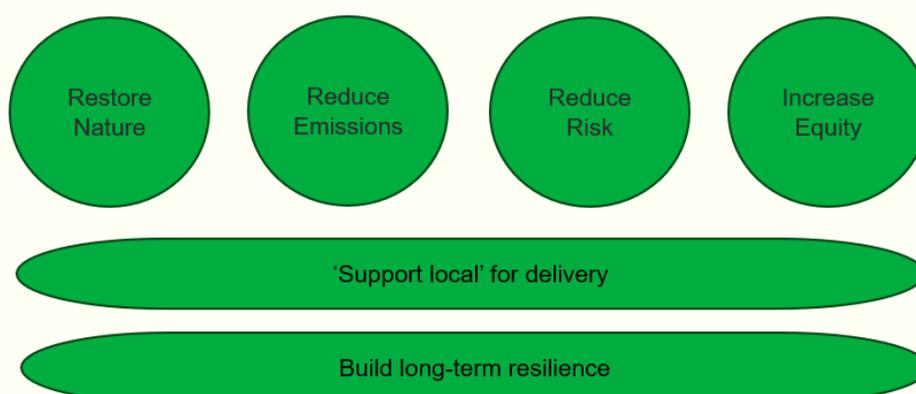
- a) Overall principles that underpin the strategy
- b) 'Futures' - statements about the resilient district we are working to create against each theme
- c) 'Big Shifts' needed to deliver these Futures from a Climate and Nature perspective e.g. electrify energy
- d) Enablers that will help ensure robust delivery

These would consider key characteristics of Bath and North East Somerset as a district:

- The inequalities that exist between our communities
- The special protections that cover large areas of both our rural and urban environments
- The fact that our communities live across rural, semi-rural and urban environments

Draft Strategy Principles.

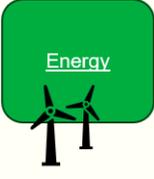
The Strategy will work to:



What are the 'Futures' we want to see?

-  1. Our homes, workplaces and schools are comfortable, healthy and energy efficient
-  2. The electricity we use is renewable, reliable and affordable
-  3. We prefer to walk, cycle, or use public transport and goods are safely moved without polluting our streets
-  4. Sharing, buying & wasting less is our normal
-  5. We eat well and sustainably
-  6. Our neighbourhoods and local economy is resilient, connected and green
-  7. Wildlife is thriving
-  8. Our rivers and streams are clean and full of life
-  9. We are resilient to the impacts of a changing climate, including increased flooding, extreme heat and drought
-  10. How we live and work reduces the impacts we have beyond our borders

What are the 'big shifts' needed to deliver these 'Futures'?

 <p>Energy</p>	 <p>Built Environment & Buildings</p>	 <p>Travel</p>	 <p>Water & Rivers</p>	 <p>Land Use & Management</p>	 <p>Waste & Resources</p>	 <p>Food</p>
<p>We need to electrify Energy</p> <p>We need to become renewable energy powered and increasingly efficient, with local & regional sources supporting our needs to contribute to national energy security</p>	<p>Our built environment must become future-proofed and fossil-fuel free, while supporting nature recovery.</p>	<p>We need to electrify Travel</p> <p>New infrastructure needs to be climate resilient and support better public transport, more active travel and nature recovery.</p> <p>Our vehicles are replaced with electric ones and are charged with renewable energy.</p>	<p>We need to significantly reduce pollution into our rivers and streams</p> <p>We need to slow the flow of water throughout the landscape using natural solutions and reduce water consumption to increase our resilience</p>	<p>We need to use our land more smartly and efficiently to create more space for nature and adapt to climate change, while providing sustainable food security.</p> <p>How we adapt and use our land is key for building local resilience</p>	<p>We need to lower our consumption and get used to re-using, sharing and mending, wasting less.</p> <p>Our local economy will become more resilient and shift towards lower impact supply chains & activities.</p>	<p>What we eat can significantly reduce impacts on nature and lowers emissions. We know and act on this.</p>

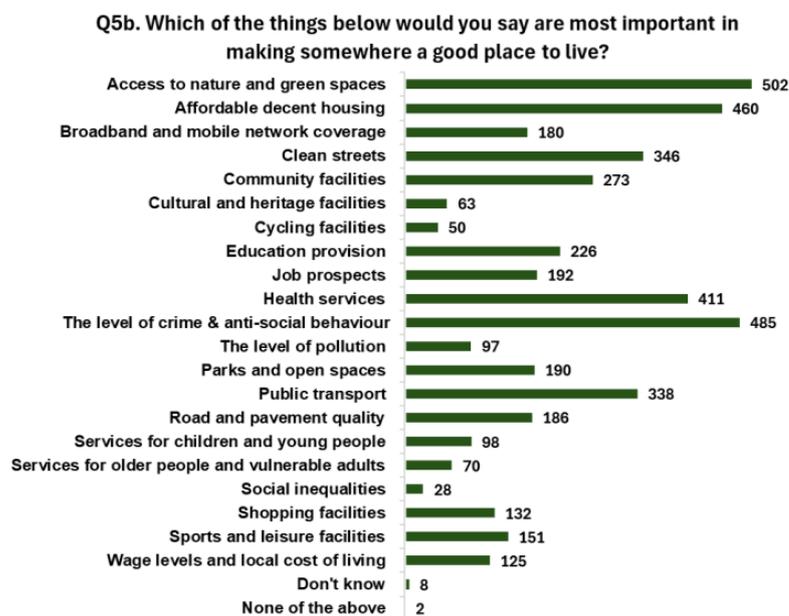
What are our enablers

1. Targeting and increasing investment, including through innovative partnerships and national support*
2. Partnering with our Anchor Institutions
3. Enabling individual, community, civic and place-based action - through and throughout our communities
4. Collaborating beyond B&NES' borders, whilst retaining our principle of support for local delivery
5. Growing our district's climate and nature action capacity and effectiveness
6. Focusing on nature-based solutions that deliver for both climate and nature
7. Focusing on enabling the right skills and jobs

* Climate and nature action remains a non-statutory area for Local Authorities, limiting investment from current budgets

3.7 The Climate and Nature strategy presents the positive opportunity to address the climate & ecological emergencies in a way that improves equity and, together with focus from teams such as Public Health, delivers outcomes such as warmer, safer homes that cost less to heat, as well as improve access to green spaces, considered top priorities by residents.

Bath & North East Somerset Council – Voicebox 33



Number of responses per option. Respondents could select up to five options. The level of crime and anti-social behaviour and affordable decent housing had the two highest number of responses in 2023.

3.8 The strategy would seek to prioritise solutions that support nature recovery and lower climate impacts, for example through Green Infrastructure, nature-based solutions and increased tree and woodland cover.

3.9 The decisions made within the strategy must not lock in future risk and cost.

3.10 KPI development: a key consideration has been to understand how digital tools can inform the conversion of existing plans and targets into an overall climate (mitigation) transition plan for Bath and North East Somerset to update current KPIs. From this assessment and as mentioned in the October 2025 PDS Panel, Officers are using the ClimateView transition planning method, as used by Bristol City Council, Glasgow City Council and more recently Manchester City Council to establish this plan. The results of this work are still being analysed, and the panel will be asked to scrutinise the outputs in a later session.

Questions:

1. Does the above framework capture the feedback that the Panel receives in its role as Elected Members as to what is needed to deliver a long-term resilient Bath and North East Somerset in which everyone thrives?
2. Are there any recommendations from the Panel as to how to improve this framework?

Questions:

The panel is invited to provide recommendations as to how to ensure the combined Climate and Nature Strategy focuses on the most impactful ways to deliver community and resident-focused aspects of the draft outline:

- a) Empowering communities and businesses
- b) Enabling the right jobs and skills
- c) Supporting the most vulnerable, during and beyond the current transitions

- 3.11 Bath and North East Somerset already has highly motivated communities acting for climate, nature, adaptation and long-term resilience. These include communities acting within the places that they live, as well as businesses and business communities, schools, colleges and universities, and groups who share common interests.
- 3.12 Feedback to date for the strategy from resident communities has cited having places and ways to come together locally is key to co-ordinate action for climate and nature, as well as build community. These places should act as warm and cool spaces for the most vulnerable and have cooking facilities to enable the sharing of (local) food.
- 3.13 Bath and North East Somerset has two local communities taking part in the Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership's [Community Climate and Nature Action Project](#). The project enables those within each community to develop their own Climate and Nature Action Plans, and the project is now in its 4th wave of community participants with previous communities based in Bristol. Bath and North East Somerset communities are the Twerton and Whiteway Network and Bath Mind. Learnings from these communities will also be important to inform future rollout of the CCNA Project.
- 3.14 To date, the Council has promoted WECA's free carbon surveys for SMEs and Green Business grants to help businesses invest in improving the energy efficiency of their premises. While Green Business Grants finished in October 2025, Low Carbon Surveys will continue to be available. B&NES Council's Carbon Reduction Accelerator scheme remains live; there will be a continuation of the social enterprise support programme and officers will work with WECA on new green grant schemes for businesses. The Council will continue to work with organisations representing the business community, including via the civic Future Ambition Board that includes Bath BID and Business West.
- 3.15 Enabling the right jobs and skills is a multi-faceted challenge because of the wide range of jobs and skills that are critical to the delivery of mitigation and adaptation in relation to the climate and nature emergencies. These range from growing and food production, to managing land for nature effectively, to inspiring and educating for change, to home upgrade/retrofit skills, the manufacturing skills that will encourage businesses to locate in the district, to the general entrepreneurial skills that will enable local businesses to establish, navigate change and succeed, plus many more. A clear definition of green skills is

needed to make sure that all valuable jobs and skills are visible and supported. It will be important to build capacity in B&NES and regionally to train these skills for which capital and physical space will be key.

3.16 In the Climate and Nature Annual Progress update in November 2025, the action plan committed to wider and more consistent engagement with the West of England Combined Authority Green Skills Lead, including:

- a) Looking at pathways from existing and upcoming construction/green skills projects into retrofit, promoting and supporting the academy.
- b) Utilising learnings from our programmes in the West of England to continue to develop Green Skills Provision over 25/26 including:
- c) Utilising Hubs and Community Outreach, as well as partnerships to build awareness of Green Skills in B&NES including employment pathways
- d) Identifying opportunities to make green skills training and green jobs more accessible to all residents, focusing on entry level opportunities, and addressing barriers such as geography, caring responsibilities, inclusion and system capacity.

3.17 Climate impacts can affect anyone, but certain groups have the potential to be more affected than others. (Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation). Climate risk and potential for impact depends on three key factors:

- a) Exposure - the proximity of a person to the climate hazard. This is largely shaped by where people live and work (e.g. outdoor worker) and the characteristics of that place (e.g. is there shading or a cool space available during extreme heat).
- b) Sensitivity - the personal features of an individual which influence how strongly someone is affected by different climate hazards, such as age, and health.
- c) Adaptive capacity - how well individuals or groups can prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate impacts. This is influenced by environmental factors, such access to green space, and social factors, such as income, inequality and strength of social networks.

3.18 Climate risks intersect with existing health and social inequalities, and people and groups experiencing multiple causes of vulnerability are the most vulnerable.

3.19 Climate injustice also presents itself in several other ways. Disadvantaged groups contribute the least to causing climate change yet are likely to be most affected by its impacts. Lower income and marginalised groups also tend to pay proportionally more towards implementing climate policies while benefiting the least from them. In addition, their voices are often underrepresented in decision making (Joseph Rowntree Foundation).

3.20 Based on those groups either most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, or who have less opportunity to effect needed transitions, for example upgrading and electrifying their homes, the Strategy EqIA has identified the following protected characteristics to support most closely:

- a) Race
- b) Disability
- c) Age, especially the elderly & young children

- d) Sex, especially women
- e) Pregnancy and Maternity
- f) Socio-economically disadvantaged communities*
- g) Rural communities*
- h) Care experienced*

*B&NES Council recognises the Equalities Act protected characteristics, as well as a number of further groups

In Summer 2026, Officers will seek to understand the local views and priorities of these protected groups to support existing understanding from work at regional and national level.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

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

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 The process for updating the Climate & Nature strategy will include funding feasibility assessment at high level. As with the existing strategy/actions plans, business case development would be undertaken on a project-by-project basis as it came forward and opportunities to increase external funding will be sought.
- 5.2 As set out in the Climate and Nature Annual Progress Report 2025, making progress against the Climate and Ecological Emergencies will require significant investment, including from regional and national government. In the past year, there has been the closure of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund and of the West of England Green Recovery Fund without replacements. Support for residents, businesses and organisations in local areas will be critical to enable progress.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 This report and working session is at the formative stage of policy design. As such, a risk assessment has not been conducted in relation to this report. However, more broadly the following risks to delivery of the climate and ecological emergencies in B&NES are noted:
- 6.2 For Climate mitigation: looking at greatest materiality in terms of district territorial emissions, the risk is that our district level progress, in line with the national picture to date, is too slow, due to necessary reliance on rollout of low carbon technologies and reliance on reduced private car use by households (e.g. heat pumps and EVs where the latter switch also has impacts on health, nature, continued congestion etc.). The strategy will seek to mitigate this through both its focus and action planning, as well as calling for what is needed at regional and national level to support fair transitions and unlock greater pace.
- 6.3 For Nature recovery: the risk that the data needed to support our understanding of and acting on the ecological emergency is only recently emerging to support

strategic conversations, including as a council. There is therefore the risk that the step change needed for nature in a short time is challenging to deliver without a different decision-making and resourcing model. For example, how to deliver the national COP target of 30% of our land (as a council and as a district) being managed for nature by 2030. This will be mitigated by the strategy setting out how this needs to happen, building on current internal work to establish how the Council might manage 30% of its own land for nature.

6.4 For long-term resilience: the risk that we do not have the resources to act on the areas and aspects of our district, including our buildings, built environment, natural landscape and services to people that would be required to adapt to the already-changing climate.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 An EIA has been developed to support this strategy and will be published in March 2026.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 This Report provides a direct contribution to the Council’s progress towards tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, built on the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declarations in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None. This is a working session.

10 CONSULTATION

This report has been approved by Cllr Warren.

Contact person	Mark Minkley, Strategic Manager – Climate & Environment Mark_Minkley@bathnes.gov.uk
Background papers	Climate Emergency Strategy – available online - https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/read-our-climate-strategy-and-action-plan Ecological Emergency Action Plan – available online - https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/ecological-emergency-action-plan Corporate Strategy 2023-27
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

This Forward Plan seeks to anticipate all the Cabinet decisions to be made by the Cabinet, or by individual Cabinet members (and occasionally key decisions by officers) over the next four months.

The printed version of the Forward Plan is re-issued on a monthly basis.

Inevitably, some of the published information may change; Government guidance recognises that the plan is a best assessment, at the time of publication, of anticipated decision making. The online “Emerging” Forward Plan is updated regularly and can be seen on the Council’s website at:

<http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=122>

The Forward Plan goes beyond the minimum legal requirement for only key decisions to be published over the coming four month period, and demonstrates the Council’s commitment to openness and participation in decision making. It also assists the Council’s Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels in planning their input to policy formulation and development, and in reviewing the work of the Cabinet.

Should you wish to make representations to the decision taker, please contact the report author or , Democratic Services (). For Cabinet meeting items, a formal agenda will be issued 5 clear working days before the meeting. For individual (Single-Member) Cabinet member decisions, a Weekly List, with the details of the proposed decision, will be published and a decision will not be made until 5 clear working days have expired from the date of publication, to allow for representations.

Cabinet agenda papers and the Weekly List can be inspected on the Council’s website and at the Guildhall (Bath), Hollies (Midsomer Norton), Riverside (Keynsham) and at Bath Central, Keynsham and Midsomer Norton public libraries.

Key to Codes used in the Forward Plan

Decision Types

KEY	This item is a Key decision. It is one which will have significance in terms of budget impact (spending or savings) or its impact on a community that is wider than a single electoral ward. There is no set financial threshold above which a decision is regarded as Key.
PBF	This item is part of the Council's Policy and Budget Framework. This is the list of and contents of plans and strategies agreed by the Council as being those that collectively form the framework and which are determined by the Council. The current list of such plans and strategies can be accessed on the Council's website.
TRO	This item is a Traffic Regulation Order which by statute must be advertised by the Council for public consultation, giving a date by which any objections must be received. If objections are received, then the Order cannot be implemented but a Cabinet decision is required. If no objections are received, then the Order can be implemented without the need for a Cabinet decision.
BRT	Decisions to be made by the Bath Recreation Ground Trust Board
HWB	Issues which have been referred by the (Shadow) Health & Wellbeing Board
RWW	Cabinet Response to Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel Review Recommendations
WoE	Decisions which will be taken by the West of England Joint Transport Committee or the West of England Joint Waste Committee

Access to Information

The majority of the Cabinet's business listed in this Forward Plan will be open to the public to attend. There will inevitably be some business which contains, for example, confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information.

This is formal notice under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that parts of the Cabinet Meetings listed here may be held in private because the reports will contain exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 2A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

Members of the public may make representations about why the meeting should be open to the public. The Cabinet will then make a statement of response to such representations.

The Council's Consultation Policy may be viewed at: www.bathnes.gov.uk/Bathnes/councilinformation/consultation/default.htm

Ref Date	Dec'n Type	Title Precis	Lead Decision Maker/s	Report Author Contact	Background Papers	Strategic Director Lead	Date First Notified
26 MARCH 2026							
26 Mar 2026		Climate & Nature Strategy - policy development	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel Cabinet Member for Sustainable Bath and North East Somerset	Jackie Clayton		Executive Director - Sustainable Communities	
21 MAY 2026							
21 May 2026		Local Plan - TBC	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development	Richard Daone Tel: 01225 477546		Executive Director - Sustainable Communities	

Ref Date	Dec'n Type	Title Precis	Lead Decision Maker/s	Report Author Contact	Background Papers	Strategic Director Lead	Date First Notified
9 JULY 2026							
		Movement Strategy TBC	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport Strategy	Louise Morris		Executive Director - Sustainable Communities	
		Flooding Strategy Update TBC	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel Cabinet Member for Sustainable Bath and North East Somerset			Executive Director - Sustainable Communities	
24 SEPTEMBER 2026							
26 NOVEMBER 2026							
The Forward Plan is administered by DEMOCRATIC SERVICES: Democratic_Services@bathnes.gov.uk							