

# Council

**Date: Thursday 19th March 2026**

**Time: 6.30 pm**

**Venue: Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath**

**To: All Members of the Council**

Dear Member

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **Council** on **Thursday 19th March 2026** in **Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath**.

The agenda is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely



Jo Morrison  
Democratic Services Manager  
for Chief Executive

**Jo Morrison**

**Democratic Services**

Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG

Telephone: 01225 39 4435

Web-site - <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk>

E-mail: [Democratic\\_Services@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic_Services@bathnes.gov.uk)

## NOTES:

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

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

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

### 3. **Recording at Meetings:-**

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control. Some of our meetings are webcast. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. If you would prefer not to be filmed for the webcast, please make yourself known to the camera operators. We request that those filming/recording meetings avoid filming public seating areas, children, vulnerable people etc; however, the Council cannot guarantee this will happen.

The Council will broadcast the images and sounds live via the internet [www.bathnes.gov.uk/webcast](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/webcast). The Council may also use the images/sound recordings on its social media site or share with other organisations, such as broadcasters.

### 4. **Public Speaking at Meetings**

The Council has a scheme to encourage the public to make their views known at meetings. They may make a statement relevant to what the meeting has power to do. They may also present a petition or a deputation on behalf of a group.

**Advance notice is required not less than two full working days before the meeting. This means that for meetings held on Thursdays notice must be received in Democratic Services by 5.00pm the previous Monday.**

The Council now has a maximum time limit for this, so any requests to speak cannot be guaranteed if the list is full.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

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

### 5. **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

When the continuous alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building by one of the designated exits and proceed to the named assembly point. The designated exits are signposted. Arrangements are in place for the safe evacuation of disabled people.

### 6. **Supplementary information for meetings**

Additional information and Protocols and procedures relating to meetings

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

**Council - Thursday 19th March 2026**

**at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath**

**A G E N D A**

1. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 5.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting. Members are asked to complete the green interest forms circulated to groups in their pre-meetings (which will be announced at the Council Meeting) 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.

4. MINUTES - 24TH FEBRUARY 2026 (Pages 5 - 10)

To be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

These are matters of information for Members of the Council. No decisions will be required arising from the announcements.

6. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

If there is any urgent business arising since the formal agenda was published, the Chair will announce this and give reasons why it has been agreed for consideration at this meeting. In making this decision, the Chair will, where practicable, have consulted with the Leaders of the Political Groups. Any documentation on urgent business will be circulated at the meeting, if not made available previously.

7. QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Democratic Services Manager will announce any submissions received. The Council will be invited to decide what action it wishes to take, if any, on the matters raised in these submissions. As the questions received and the answers given will be circulated in written form there is no requirement for them to be read out at the meeting. The questions and answers will be published with the draft minutes.

8. AVON PENSION FUND - LGPS POOLING OF INVESTMENTS (Pages 11 - 18)
9. CHARITABLE TRUST BOARD ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 19 - 36)
10. DESIGNATION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR DESIGNATE (Pages 37 - 38)
11. MOTION FROM THE GREEN GROUP - ENABLING OUTDOOR PLAY AND COMMUNITY BELONGING (Pages 39 - 40)
12. MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP - EVOLVING DISCOVERY CARDS - MODERNISATION AND EFFICIENCY FOR RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS (Pages 41 - 44)
13. MOTION FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP - NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (Pages 45 - 46)
14. MOTION FROM THE INDEPENDENT & CONSERVATIVE GROUPS - ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE CAMPAIGN PRACTICES (Pages 47 - 48)
15. QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The Democratic Services Manager will announce any submissions received. The Council will be invited to decide what action it wishes to take, if any, on the matters raised in these submissions. As the questions received and the answers given will be circulated in written form there is no requirement for them to be read out at the meeting. The questions and answers will be published with the draft minutes.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Jo Morrison who can be contacted on 01225 394358.

**BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday 24th February 2026

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

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Alex Beaumont and Paul Roper

**53 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

**54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Monitoring Officer issued a general dispensation for all Councillors who pay Council Tax, are Parish Councillors or School Governors and therefore had an interest in these items, to enable them to take part in the debate and vote on agenda item 8 - Budget & Council Tax 2026/27.

In addition, specific dispensations were granted for the below Councillors who have a family member in receipt of Council SEND support, social care support or are working for B&NES;

Sarah Warren  
Saskia Heijltjes  
Sarah Moore  
Steve Hedges

**55 MINUTES - 20TH NOVEMBER 2025**

On a motion from Councillor Sarah Moore, seconded by Councillor Tim Ball, it was

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 are confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**56 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chair made the usual announcements regarding phones, mic units and webcasting. She reminded Councillors that Annex 13 of the Budget report was circulated and is available on the website, as are the amendments received.

She then invited the new Chief Executive, Sophie Broadfield, to address the meeting following her recent appointment.

## **57 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

There were no items of urgent business.

## **58 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The Chair made reference to the Public Q&A document that had been circulated.

Statements were made by the following members of the public;

Dominic Taylor made a statement calling into question the Council's support to Ukraine, a copy of which has been added to the online record and the Minute book.

Jem Hovil made a statement calling for a Residents' Parking Zone (RPZ) for the Firs, Combe Down, a copy of which has been added to the online record and the Minute book. In response to a question from Councillor Kevin Guy about whether Jem and fellow residents would like to meet with the Cabinet Member to discuss this, Jem confirmed that he would.

Mark Shelford presented a petition of 113 signatures from residents of Milton Avenue and Chaucer Road requesting that the recently installed cycle hangar on Chaucer Road be relocated to a safer location away from the uphill crossroads junction with Milton Avenue. A copy of Mark's statement has been added to the online record and the Minute book. Councillor Eleanor Jackson asked Mark if he considered the same principles he'd raised in his request applied to the one outside the library in Radstock, to which Mark replied that he couldn't comment on that. In response to a question from Councillor June Player about whether the residents had been told that the hangar can be moved, Mark replied that it had been agreed and so he was requesting the process could be expedited. Councillor Tim Warren asked Mark what consultation had taken place, to which he replied that no direct consultation, in terms of letters or email to residents had been sent, nor had the Bear Flats Residents Association been contacted about the location. Councillor Joanna Wright asked if Mark was aware that a Traffic Regulation Order was needed for the location of hangars, to which Mark confirmed that he was.

Ed Browning made a statement about funding for public toilets following the motion unanimously agreed at Council in July 2025. Ed was disappointed to see a potential funding cut in the budget and called for proactive steps to put into place those measures outlined in the motion. Councillor Robin Moss asked if anyone had contacted Ed to identify the gaps on provision since he had raised issues in his statement to Council in July, to which Ed replied they had not.

The Chair thanked the speakers for their statements, which will be forwarded to the relevant Cabinet Member.

## 59 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2026/27 AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The Council considered a report presenting the revenue and capital budgets together with proposals for increases in Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept for 2026/2.

An amendment was moved by the Labour Group (attached to the online record) calling for an exemption for public conveniences contracts, and all charity and voluntary sector contractors, from the list of “top 25 contracts” targeted for savings and a business case for a Discovery card. This was lost on a vote.

An amendment was moved by the Green Group (attached to the online record) calling for additional software to accurately model changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme. This was lost on a vote.

On a motion from Councillor Kevin Guy, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss and **RESOLVED** that, in accordance with rule 3.1.15 (Suspension of rules), rule 3.1.34 be suspended to allow the length of speeches for the Budget debate to be varied (NB: unless otherwise stated, all mover speeches 5 minutes, all others 3 minutes).

On a motion from Councillor Mark Elliott, seconded by Councillor Kevin Guy, it was

**RESOLVED** that

1. The Council approves:

- The General Fund net revenue budget for 2026/27 of **£193.17m** and the individual service cash limits for 2026/27 as outlined in Annex 1.
- The savings and income plans outlined in Annex 2(i), funding requirements 2(ii), in conjunction with the Equalities Impact Assessment Report in Annex 3.
- An increase in general Council Tax of 2.99% in 2026/27 (an increase of £54.51 per Band D property or £1.05 per week).
- An increase of 2.00% to Council Tax for the Adult Social Care Precept in recognition of the current demands and financial pressures on this service. This is equivalent to an increase of £36.46 on a Band D property or £0.70 per week.
- The movement in reserves outlined in Section 5.6 and the adequacy of Un-earmarked Reserves at £12.58m within a risk assessed range requirement of £12.00m - £13.20m.
- To note the Children’s Services management plan update set out in paragraphs 5.2.65 to 5.2.66 of the report.
- The Efficiency Strategy attached at Annex 4.

- The Capital Programme for 2026/27 of £110.219m including new and emerging capital bids outlined in Annex 5(i), planned sources of funding in 5.8.10, and notes the programme for 2027/28 to 2030/31 and that any wholly funded projects coming forward during the year will be added to the Capital Programme in line with the Budget Management Scheme.
  - The delegation of implementation, subject to consultation where appropriate, of the capital programmes set out in Annex 5(i) to Annex 5(vi) to the relevant Director in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder.
  - The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocations and amendments outlined in Annex 5(vii).
  - The Capital & Investment Strategy attached at Annex 6.
  - The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy attached at Annex 7.
  - The Capital Prudential Indicators outlined in 5.8.17.
  - The Annual Pay Policy Statement at Annex 8.
  - The Community Contribution Fund extension outlined Section 5.5.
  - The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2026/27 shown in the following link, and referred to in 5.3.10:  
  
[https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-01/Council\\_Tax\\_reduction\\_scheme\\_April\\_1\\_2026\\_to\\_March\\_31\\_2027.pdf](https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-01/Council_Tax_reduction_scheme_April_1_2026_to_March_31_2027.pdf)
  - The Fees and Charges schedule for 2026/27 at Annex 11 and support its publication following approval of the budget, with delegation to amend individual costs within the schedule in line with market needs, to the Director of Place Management, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Portfolio Holder.
2. The Council approves the technical resolutions that are derived from the budget report, and all the figures in that report, including the precepts for towns, parishes and other precepting bodies as set out in Annex 13.
  3. The Council notes the S151 Officer's report on the robustness of the proposed budget and the adequacy of the Council's reserves outlined in Section 5.7; and
  4. The Council notes the budget consultation responses in Annex 10, and the Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Panel feedback in Annex 12.

*[Notes;*

1. *An amendment from the Labour Group was moved by Councillor Robin Moss and seconded by Councillor Lesley Mansell, as set out above. This was lost on a named vote;*

*Councillors in favour (7): - Councillors David Biddleston, Shaun Hughes, Eleanor Jackson, Lesley Mansell, Ann Morgan, Robin Moss, June Player.*

*Councillors against (37) - Councillors Michael Auton, Tim Ball, Colin Blackburn, Alison Born, Anna Box, Stuart Bridge, Mark Elliott, Fiona Gourley, Kevin Guy, Ian Halsall, Dave Harding, Steve Hedges, Saskia Heijltjes, Oli Henman, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Samantha Kelly, George Leach, John Leach, Hal MacFie, Ruth Malloy, Paul May, Matt McCabe, Simon McCombe, Sarah Moore, Michelle O'Doherty, Bharat Pankhania, Manda Rigby, Sam Ross, Onkar Saini, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, George Tomlin, Malcolm Treby, Andy Wait, Sarah Warren, Joanna Wright*

*Councillors abstaining (7): - Councillors Sarah Evans, Alan Hale, Gavin Heathcote, Grant Johnson, Karen Walker, Chris Warren, Tim Warren*

2. *An amendment from the Green Group was moved by Councillor Saskia Heijltjes and seconded by Councillor Joanna Wright, as set out above. This was lost on a named vote;*

*Councillors in favour (5): - Councillors Colin Blackburn, Saskia Heijltjes, Shaun Hughes, Sam Ross and Joanna Wright*

*Councillors against (46) - Councillors Michael Auton, Tim Ball, Alison Born, Anna Box, Stuart Bridge, Paul Crossley, Jess David, Mark Elliott, Sarah Evans, Fiona Gourley, Kevin Guy, Alan Hale, Ian Halsall, Dave Harding, Gavin Heathcote, Steve Hedges, Oli Henman, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Grant Johnson, Samantha Kelly, George Leach, John Leach, Hal MacFie, Ruth Malloy, Paul May, Matt McCabe, Simon McCombe, Sarah Moore, Ann Morgan, Michelle O'Doherty, Bharat Pankhania; June Player, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Onkar Saini, Toby Simon, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, George Tomlin, Malcolm Treby, Andy Wait, Karen Walker, Chris Warren, Sarah Warren, Tim Warren.*

*Councillors abstaining (4): - Councillors David Biddleston, Eleanor Jackson, Lesley Mansell, Robin Moss.*

3. *The above successful resolution was carried on a named vote;*

*Councillors in favour (46): - Councillors Michael Auton, Tim Ball, Colin Blackburn, Alison Born, Anna Box, Stuart Bridge, Paul Crossley, Jess David, Mark Elliott, Fiona Gourley, Kevin Guy, Alan Hale, Ian Halsall, Dave Harding, Gavin Heathcote, Steve Hedges, Oli Henman, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Grant Johnson, Samantha Kelly, George Leach, John Leach, Hal MacFie, Ruth Malloy, Paul May, Matt McCabe, Simon McCombe, Sarah Moore, Michelle O'Doherty, Bharat Pankhania; June Player, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Onkar Saini, Toby Simon, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, George Tomlin, Malcolm Treby, Andy Wait, Karen Walker, Chris Warren, Sarah Warren, Tim Warren.*

*Councillors against (6): - Councillors David Biddleston, Sarah Evans, Eleanor Jackson, Lesley Mansell, Robin Moss, Tim Warren.*

*Councillors abstaining (3): - Councillors Saskia Heijltjes, Sam Ross, Joanna Wright]*

## **60 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2026/27**

The Council considered its Treasury Management Strategy statement for 2026/27, fulfilling its legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code which requires this.

On a motion from Councillor Mark Elliot, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** to

- 1. Approve the actions proposed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2026/27 (**Appendix 1**); and
- 2. Note the Treasury Management Indicators detailed in **Appendix 1**.

**61 PROPORTIONALITY REVIEW**

The Council considered a report regarding proportionality, following a change in political group membership.

On a motion from Councillor Kevin Guy, seconded by Councillor Karen Walker, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** to

- 1. note the required revised totals in the proportionality table; and
- 2. note that actual place changes to achieve the new totals will be considered by the political groups concerned and notified in due course.

**62 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

The Chair made reference to the Councillor Q&A document that had been circulated.

The meeting ended at 8.52 pm

Chair .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>	
MEETING:	<b>Council</b>
MEETING DATE:	<b>19 March 2026</b>
TITLE:	<b>Avon Pension Fund – LGPS pooling of investments</b>
WARD:	All
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>	
Letter from the Minister for Local Government, Jim McMahon MP	

## 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Avon Pension Fund Committee discharges the responsibilities of the Council in its role as Administering Authority of the Avon Pension Fund (APF) in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013.
- 1.2 The 2016 Local Government Pension Fund (Investments) Regulations required all LGPS funds to join an investments pool. To meet this requirement APF, with nine other funds<sup>1</sup>, established Brunel Pension Partnership (Brunel) and moved its £6.3 billion assets into Brunel during 2018-24<sup>2</sup>. Brunel became one of 8 such pools managing assets on behalf of the 86 LGPS funds in England & Wales.
- 1.3 On 14 November 2024 the UK government published its ‘Fit for the Future’ proposals for the LGPS in England & Wales, recommending pool mergers to drive further efficiencies. This was followed on 9 April 2025 by a letter from the Minister for Local Government, Jim McMahon MP, confirming that Brunel had to close down. Brunel’s 10 funds, including APF, were then forced to choose one of the 6 investment pools permitted to continue, within a 3-month window.
- 1.4 After assessing the 6 pool options, APF decided to move its assets from Brunel to the Local Pension Partnership Investments (LPPI); the Avon Pension Fund Committee approved this at its meeting of 12 December 2025.
- 1.5 LPPI currently manages £25 billion on behalf of three LGPS funds – Berkshire, Lancashire, and London Pension Fund Authority (LPFA)<sup>3</sup>. Six of Brunel’s ten LGPS funds including APF are now joining LPPI, which will serve nine funds and manage about £55 billion.

<sup>1</sup> Buckinghamshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Environment Agency, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Wiltshire

<sup>2</sup> With the exception of <5% of assets which were “hard to shift” and remain under B&NES title, with Brunel having oversight & management responsibility

<sup>3</sup> LPFA manages pensions for the Greater London Authority and other London-wide employers except the boroughs.

- 1.6 The government has instructed that LGPS funds need to join their new pool and move all assets by 1 April 2026.
- 1.7 Planning is well advanced. APF's assets will be moved by the deadline, subject to completion of three key actions:
- (1) APF becoming a shareholder of LPPI Holdings Ltd and a client of the LPPI Ltd, an FCA regulated investment company. APF's participation in LPPI will be underpinned by core contracts, comprising a Shareholder Agreement, Articles of Association and an Advisory & Management Agreement. These agreements need to be signed before the end of March.
  - (2) Provision of regulatory capital to LPPI Ltd of £2.8m from APF on 1 April.
  - (3) Movement of APF assets from Brunel to LPPI Ltd on 1 April. This is to be achieved safely and at minimum frictional costs, by using in-specie transfer of assets and other mechanisms which avoid the need to "sell & buy back" assets which would be risky and costly.
- 1.8 Following this, Brunel itself will be wound down during the remainder of 2026, after which APF will receive residual capital from Brunel, in an amount to be determined. This wind-down itself requires new legal agreements, such as the Wind Down Agreement, which APF needs to sign before the end of March 2026.
- 1.9 The 9 LGPS funds participating in LPPI including APF will exert influence over LPPI's management through equal shareholdings and each LGPS fund nominating a director to serve on the board of LPPI Holdings.
- 1.10 Formal authority for APF to take decisions required to execute the above actions currently resides with the Council, in line with its constitution, as Administering Authority of the APF.
- 1.11 While the Pension Committee plans to seek Council approval to change the Council's constitution and the Pension Committee's terms of reference at Council as soon as practical, we now seek a time-limited set of delegations so that APF can wind down Brunel, join LPPI as its new pool and move its assets as required by government within the deadline of 1 April.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

**In its capacity as Administering Authority for APF, the Council hereby resolves to:**

- 2.1 Implement required changes to investment pooling through the following arrangements:**
- 2.1.1 APF becoming a shareholder in the new LPPI Holdings Ltd**
  - 2.1.2 APF's assets will be transferred to LPPI Holdings' subsidiary, LPPI Ltd, an FCA regulated investment company which will be operated in accordance with the shareholder agreement.**
- 2.2 Delegate to the Director of Assurance, Risk and Pensions, in consultation with the Chair of the Avon Pension Fund Committee, the powers to undertake tasks to progress these required changes to investment pooling, and to take such decisions deemed necessary to promote the interests of the Council and the Avon Pension Fund with respect to pooling. This will, without limitation, include agreeing and authorising financial expenditure or investment that may be required consequential upon the Council's participation in LPPI and agreeing, authorising, and signing documentation**

and contracts on behalf of the Council in its role as Administering Authority of the Avon Pension Fund. This delegation is valid for 6 months and remains in force until 19 September 2026.

- 2.3 That subject to the above, all such matters shall be carried out with the aim of achieving the target date for APF joining LPPI and moving its assets of 1 April 2026, and subject to such intermediate steps and timescales as may be considered appropriate and necessary by the Director of Assurance, Risk & Pensions, in consultation with the Chair of the Avon Pension Fund Committee.

### **3 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

Draft regulations entitled 'Local Government Pension Scheme (Pooling, Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations' are expected to come into force on 1 April 2026. Pursuant to regulation 7, the Council must participate (a) in an asset pool company and (b) with a view to that company managing the funds or other assets of the Scheme for which that authority is responsible.

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

- 4.1 The costs of administering the Avon Pension Fund are recharged to the employing bodies through the employer contribution rates, which are set by the actuary every three years as part of the valuation.
- 4.2 APF's move to LPPI will have no impact on new employer contribution rates which will take effect from 1 April 2026.

### **5 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 As set out in the Fund's annual report, there are regular reviews of the Fund's risk register.

### **6 EQUALITIES**

- 6.1 A proportionate equalities impact assessment has been carried out using corporate guidelines and no significant issues have been identified.

### **7 CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 7.1 The Fund is implementing a digital strategy across all its operations and communications with stakeholders to reduce its internal carbon footprint in line with the Council's Climate Strategy. The Fund acknowledges the financial risk to its assets from climate change and is addressing this through its strategic asset allocation to Paris Aligned Global Equities, Sustainable Equities and renewable energy opportunities. The strategy is monitored and reviewed by the Committee.

### **8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 None

### **9 CONSULTATION**

9.1 This report reflects prior consultation with Director of Assurance, Risk and Pensions, and the Chief Legal Officer.

<b>Contact person</b>	Nick Dixon, Head of Pensions, <a href="mailto:nick_dixon@bathnes.gov.uk">nick_dixon@bathnes.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers</b>	Letter from the Minister for Local Government, Jim McMahon MP
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	



Administering Authorities  
Brunel Pension Partnership

9 April 2025

Dear Administering Authority,

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (ENGLAND & WALES)**

We are writing with regard to the Government's proposed reforms to the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales (LGPS) and its approach to asset pooling as part of the Pensions Review. This letter is addressed to all Administering Authorities in the Brunel Pensions Partnership.

In November, Government set out its proposed reforms in our *Fit for the Future* consultation with the aim of establishing a world-class LGPS made up of large pools of professionally managed capital, held to account by Authorities who have confidence in robust and transparent governance structures and who are delivering the best value to members and their communities. We want to see strong and resilient foundations for the Scheme, which is projected to reach £1tn by 2040 and have been clear that this is the moment for creative and collaborative proposals to that end.

Government wrote to each pool, asking for transition proposals setting out how they would seek to achieve the minimum standards proposed in the consultation by March 2026, focusing on the benefits of scale, long-term resilience, value for money and viability against the deadline, with consideration given to the opportunity for closer collaboration across the scheme and the merger of pools. We recognise how significant an undertaking this has been for each pool in a short space of time and are grateful for the spirit in which Brunel has participated in this process. Your submission and engagement have formed a critical part of our assessment of the viability and strength of the proposals set out in the consultation. Government has considered the responses to the consultation and is currently preparing next steps, including our consultation response and the implementation of the reforms via legislation.

We have carefully reviewed the proposal submitted by the Brunel pool and further considered the points made in our meeting with pool representatives. As we have made clear, we collectively have a duty to ensure every penny of members' hard-earned money is well invested, and that the full scope of benefits that can be derived from the LGPS's extraordinary scale are being harnessed and maximised. We are impressed by many aspects of the Brunel pool, including your focus on responsible investment.

While Brunel's proposal acknowledges that the pool may benefit from further scale, the proposal does not undertake a consideration of merger with other pools, but instead it states that merger could be revisited in the future. Proposing that the immediate focus should be on completing the transition of partner Authorities' assets to pool management. We recognise that capacity and budget for developing a business case have not been agreed by the partner Authorities and that merger discussions would be disruptive for Brunel staff. However, in our view this difficulty would only be amplified by waiting longer, and Government's letter of 2 December explicitly asked for proposals to consider merger as a means to meet the requirements in the consultation.

We also observe that the proposed operating model is different in its outsourced focus and higher cost than some of the other pools. While Brunel is an FCA-regulated company, it is not an Alternative Investment Fund Manager, and Brunel does not have internal investment management capacity. Brunel has explained the rationale for using an outsourced model, including retaining agility to meet Government requirements, and have shared their view that internal management would not deliver value for money at the pool's current scale. While this may be valid for Brunel's current position, looking forwards there is clear evidence that internal management, especially at Brunel's scale, will bring greater benefits of scale and drive greater value for money.

We understand Brunel's leadership and Board are of the view that greater scale through merger would be in the long-term best interests of the pool and Administering Authorities but that at present there is a challenge of prioritisation with regard to merger, transition of assets to pool management, and local investment. Government recognises this challenge – it is part of the driver for proposing such an ambitious timeline for reform, as it is critical these structural changes do not detract from the longer-term investment focus for any longer than is necessary. Brunel leadership have asked for a clear steer from Government on priorities – Government are of the view that the interests of the LGPS, its members, employers and local taxpayers are best served by merger being prioritised in the immediate term. This will prevent any duplication of transition and operating costs as well as minimise the period of disruption for the scheme as a whole.

**For these reasons, we have concluded that Brunel's proposal does not meet the Government's vision for the future of the LGPS.** Government is of the view that the interests of the scheme are best met by Brunel Authorities working with another LGPS pool to form a new partnership. We therefore invite you to consider and identify which pool you wish to partner with going forward, taking into account the capabilities and capacity of each to take on additional partner Authorities. This is a decision for each Administering Authority to make – Government recognises that Brunel Authorities may choose to partner with the same pool, or different pools and this is a decision each Authority will wish to take individually. We recognise Brunel may have a preference for a pool merger involving all Brunel's Administering Authorities and while Government recognise that this may be a more straightforward process and minimise transition and operating costs, it is ultimately a decision for each Administering Authority to take.

We would be grateful if you could please respond with an in-principle decision between yourselves and the pool you wish to work with by 30 September 2025. We recognise you and your new pool will require further time to work through the detail of the transition towards a new partnership. Our officials stand ready to convene and support discussions wherever

helpful until new arrangements are in place. As you know, the government has formally invited unitary proposals from all councils in two-tier areas and their neighbouring authorities to take part in local government reorganisation. You will wish to consider your decision on pooling alongside reorganisation as councils develop plans and decisions are made next year. You will be invited to a check-in discussion on your progress in June. We recognise that the March 2026 deadline may be more difficult for Authorities which move pools, and we will remain in discussion with affected Authorities and their new pool partners throughout this process.

This is not a decision we have taken lightly, and we appreciate that this assessment of the proposal may be different from your own and may not be the outcome you wanted. We are particularly mindful of the immediate impact this will have on yourself and your team - it is our strong desire to see the LGPS continue to benefit from the expertise and knowledge in your team going forward and expect other pools to be of a similar mind. The creation of one or more new partnerships may bring some short-term challenges, but we hope you will agree also brings great opportunity, not least establishing world-class investment management across the LGPS, protecting its long-term sustainability, and acting in the interests of members, employers and local taxpayers.



**TORSTEN BELL MP**

Minister for Pensions



**JIM MCMAHON OBE MP**

Minister for Local Government

This page is intentionally left blank

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>	
MEETING:	<b>Council</b>
MEETING DATE:	<b>19 March 2026</b>
TITLE:	<b>Annual Report of the Charitable Trust Board</b>
WARD:	<b>All</b>
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report: None</b>	

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the work of the Charitable Trust Board in 2024/25.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the Annual Report of the Charitable Trust Board for 2024/25.

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

- 3.1 The purpose of the Charitable Trust Board is to facilitate the management of the charitable trusts for which the Council is the sole trustee; independently, in accordance with their governing documents and in the best interests of the charity. Currently the only charitable trust which the Board oversees is the Alice Park Trust. This is managed by a Sub-Committee consisting of voting members (elected members of the Council) and independent non-voting members.
- 3.2 The Charitable Trust Board is satisfied that the finances of the charity are being managed adequately with the support of the Council's finance team. The Alice Park Trust annual report and accounts for 2024/25 have been submitted to the Charity Commission.

## **4 THE REPORT**

- 4.1 The Charitable Trust Board received the Annual Report of the Alice Park Trust and is satisfied that the Alice Park Trust is:

- Being managed in pursuit of its charitable purposes.
- Maintaining a balanced account.
- Acting within the requirements of its governing documents.
- Dealing with its regulatory and public accountability obligations.

- 4.2 Operating expenditure incurred for Alice Park Trust in 2024/25 was £45,751; this was offset by operating income of £24,575.
- 4.3 The operating deficit of £21,176 has been subsidised from the Bath & North East Somerset Council Park's revenue budget, to ensure the Trust operates on a going concern basis. This is the same process that has been undertaken in previous years.
- 4.4 The Trust has received a total donation for £52,692 at year-end for its Play Project. This donation is being held in a ringfenced reserve until it is required to fund the project. This is excluded from the operating income referenced in paragraph 3.1 but is visible in the Trust's Accounts. This brings the total donations received by the Trust to £53,769 as at 31st March 2025.
- 4.5 Net Assets of the Trust are valued at a cost of £189,809. Net assets include investments held, land at Alice Park, car park, cottage number one, tea chalet and storage shed, public conveniences, tennis courts, garden shelter and play equipment.
- 4.6 The accounts for 2024/25 have been prepared by the Council's Finance team and have been independently examined by One West.
- 4.7 The accounts for the Trust are prepared on a cash basis, in line with reporting requirements and guidelines issued by the Charity Commission
- 4.8 An annual report for the Trust has also been prepared for submission to the Charity Commission.
- 4.9 The park was open for public access throughout the year, including use of the tennis courts and tea chalet, and has been suitably maintained. The cottage property was let and the income used in the upkeep of the park.

## **5 RATIONALE**

- 5.1 Under its terms of reference, the Charitable Trust Board is required to submit an annual report to the Council.

## **6 EQUALITIES**

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been carried out as this report is for information only.

## **7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 7.1 None

## **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 8.1 This is an internal matter, so climate change considerations are not relevant.

## **9 CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 The Section 151 and Monitoring Officer have had opportunity to review and input into this report.

## 10 RISK MANAGEMENT

10.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

<b>Contact person</b>	Chris Major, Director of Place Management
<b>Background papers</b>	None
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	

This page is intentionally left blank

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Alice Park Trust Sub-Committee</b>
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>
TITLE:	<b>Alice Park Trust Sub-Committee – Accounts and Annual Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025</b>
WARD:	<b>Lambridge</b>
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Statement of Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (Receipts and Payments account)</li><li>2. Trustees' Annual Report to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025</li><li>3. Draft Independent Examiners Review</li><li>4. Charity Commission Reporting – Extract of Accounting Requirements</li></ol>	

### **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 To agree the Statement of Accounts for Alice Park Trust for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. (Appendix 1)
- 1.2 To agree the Annual Report for Alice Park Trust for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. (Appendix 2)

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Agree and sign the financial statements of Alice Park Trust for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and their submission to the Charity Commission.
- 2.2 Agree and sign the annual report for Alice Park Trust year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and submission to the Charity Commission.

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

- 3.1 Operating expenditure incurred for Alice Park Trust in 2024/25 was £45,751; this was offset by operating income of £24,575.
- 3.2 The operating deficit of £21,176 has been subsidised from the Bath & North East Somerset Council Park's revenue budget, to ensure the Trust operates on a

going concern basis. This is the same process that has been undertaken in previous years.

- 3.3 The Trust has received a total donation for £52,692 at year-end for its Play Project. This donation is being held in a ringfenced reserve until it is required to fund the project. This is excluded from the operating income referenced in paragraph 3.1 but is visible in the Trust's Accounts. This brings the total donations received by the Trust to £53,769 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.
- 3.4 Net Assets of the Trust are valued at a cost of £189,809. Net assets include investments held, land at Alice Park, car park, cottage number one, tea chalet and storage shed, public conveniences, tennis courts, garden shelter and play equipment.
- 3.5 The accounts for 2024/25 have been prepared by the Council's Finance team and have been independently examined by One West (appendix 3). The Independent Examination has concluded, and the Independent Examination Report will be signed once the Sub-Committee have approved the accounts.
- 3.6 The accounts (appendix 1) for the Trust are prepared on a cash basis, in line with reporting requirements and guidelines issued by the Charity Commission (appendix 4)
- 3.7 An annual report for the Trust has also been prepared for submission to the Charity Commission (appendix 2).
- 3.8 The park was open for public access throughout the year, including use of the tennis courts and tea chalet, and has been suitably maintained. The cottage property was let and the income used in the upkeep of the park.
- 3.9 All members of the Alice Park Trust Sub-Committee during the period April 1st 2024 to 31st March 2025 are listed in the Annual Return.

#### **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 The terms of reference of the Charitable Trust Board require it to receive an annual report from the Trust Sub-Committee after submitting any annual report to the Charity Commissioners.
- 4.2 The trustees, in making decisions surrounding the objectives and activities of the charity, have regard to the Charities Commission public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

#### **5 RATIONALE**

- 5.1 The Trust is required to sign off accounts and an annual report prior to submission to the Charities Commission every year.

#### **6 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 None.

#### **7 CONSULTATION**

7.1 Delegates of the Council's Section 151 and Monitoring Officer have had opportunity to review and input into this report.

## 8 RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

<b>Contact person</b>	Paul Webb, Senior Finance Manager paul_webb@bathnes.gov.uk
<b>Background papers</b>	None
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Alice Park Trust	No (if any) 304650
----------------------------------	-----------------------

CC16a

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2024	To	Period end date 31/03/2025
------------------------	---------------------------------	----	-------------------------------

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Rental Incomes	20,180	-	-	20,180	20,827
Tennis Court Income	-	-	-	-	232
Events Income	2,997	-	-	2,997	1,641
Investment Income	-	833	-	833	816
Other Income	565 #	-	-	565	470
Income - deficit subsidised by B&NES	21,176	-	-	21,176	17,658
B&NES Cllr Ward Empowerment Fund	-	-	-	-	1,660
Donations Received for Play Project	-	52,692	-	52,692	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>44,918</b>	<b>53,525</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98,442</b>	<b>43,304</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>44,918</b>	<b>53,525</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98,442</b>	<b>43,304</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Grounds Maintenance SLA	18,369	-	-	18,369	12,002
Play Equipment SLA	2,591	-	-	2,591	9,098
Tree Management SLA	2,469	-	-	2,469	2,536
Public Convenience Maintenance	17,433	-	-	17,433	17,068
Other Property/Parks Maintenance	4,199	-	-	4,199	440
Other - Audit Fees	500	-	-	500	500
Other - Legal Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Tree Planting	-	-	-	-	1,660
Other - Events Admin Fees	190	-	-	190	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>45,751</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,751</b>	<b>43,304</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>45,751</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,751</b>	<b>43,304</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 833</b>	<b>53,525</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>52,692</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>- 833</b>	<b>54,602</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53,769</b>	<b>-</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Play Projection Donation	-	53,769	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53,769</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	<b>Details</b>	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	<b>Details</b>	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Majedie Investments plc ordinary 10p shares	Restricted	-	687
	COIF charities deposit account 951170001C - 32911/05	Restricted	-	1,005
	COIF charities special range 965060001C - 32911/04	Restricted	-	4,880
	COIF charities special range 115410001C	Restricted	-	11,843
		-	-	
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	<b>Details</b>	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Land at Alice Park	Unrestricted	54,000	-
	Property - cottage one	Unrestricted	33,000	-
	Tea Chalet & Storage	Unrestricted	4,000	-
	Car Park	Unrestricted	2,500	-
	Toilets - Land & Buildings	Unrestricted	27,000	-
	Tennis Courts	Unrestricted	18,750	-
	Garden Shelter	Unrestricted	14,250	-
	Play Equipment	Unrestricted	17,893	-
		-	-	
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	<b>Details</b>	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
<b>From</b>	01	04	2024	<b>To</b>	31	03	2025

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** Alice Park Trust

**Other names charity is known by** Alice Park

**Registered charity number (if any)** 304650

**Charity's principal address** Bath and North East Somerset Council

Guildhall

High Street

Bath

**Postcode**

**BA1 5AW**

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Bath & North East Somerset Council is the sole corporate trustee. This is administered through the Alice Park Trust sub-committee.

	Alice Park Trust sub-committee members	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Cllr Joanna Wright	Chair		
2	Cllr Saskia Heijltjes			
3	Cllr Alex Beaumont		Until 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	
4	Cllr Deborah Collins			
5	Cllr Oli Henman			
6	Cllr Samantha Kelly		From 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	
7	Bryan Johnson	Independent Member		
8	Mary LaTrobe Bateman	Independent Member		
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Bath & North East Somerset Council	

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

--

**Section B Structure, governance and management**

**Description of the charity's trusts**

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Trust Conveyance & Charity Commission Scheme dated 17 December 1973
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	The Council is the sole corporate Trustee. This is administered by the Alice Park Trust Sub-Committee. Members of the Sub-Committee are appointed by the Charitable Trust Board and Independent Members are appointed following an approved selection process consisting of a public advertisement and formal interview.

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

<p>You <b>may choose</b> to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;</li> <li>• the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;</li> <li>• relationship with any related parties;</li> <li>• trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.</li> </ul>	<p>Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee is available on the Council's public website.</p>
--	---

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

The key object of the charity is that the Alice Park is to be used as a public park as a memorial to the wife of Herbert Montgomerie MacVicar of Batheaston.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The trustees, in making decisions surrounding the objectives and activities of the charity, have regard to the Charities Commission public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

The park was open for public access throughout the year, including use of the tea chalet, and has been suitably maintained. The cottage property was let and the income used in the upkeep of the Park.

The 6 tennis courts within the park are in use and run by Wesport, an organisation working in partnership with Bath and North East Somerset Council.

Alice Park Community Garden is actively supported by a group of volunteers ensuring a space for the benefit of the health and wellbeing of all the community, creating a rich addition to the park.

The Sub-Committee begun actively encouraging donations for a Play Project, primarily focussed on improving the play equipment in the park. Donations have been received to date, with more fundraising anticipated for the following year.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

The Sub-Committee for Alice Park Trust continues to work hard to maintain and improve the park for all users through the donation of time from its 7 committee members. The role of liaising with members of the public who want to use the park for both public and private events is ongoing work with which the Alice Park Trust sub-committee ensures is dealt with in a fair and equitable way. The committee continues to source and plant more new trees to ensure that the long-term tree canopy is in place for generations to come.

Ward Cllrs Joanna Wright and Saskia Heijltjes have installed four new benches to the play area through their B&NES Ward Empowerment fund.

The Alice Park Community Garden continues to support growing fruit, vegetables and flowers, encouraging all sections of the community to help and prosper from local environmental action. Helping both bodies and souls to be nurtured by outdoor space.

The Committee has liaised with Bath Area Play Project (BAPP) to hold free childrens play dates in the park

The committee has worked with Bath Urban Treescape to create 2 new tree walks for Alice Park

<https://www.bathurbantreescape.com/map?trail=f> and

<https://www.bathurbantreescape.com/map?trail=f2>

The Committee has supported the local Larkhall Festival in May with access to park as one of festival days for the whole community to use for activities and picnics.

The Committee has worked with Alice Park cafe to create the Youth Music Fest, showcasing local young musical talent in the park with performances and child friendly activities.

The committee has worked with the Mayor's team to create a link in Alice Park to Beppu, one of Bath's twin city's in Japan. The park now has a English and Japanese plaque explaining the twin city's link in the Cherry Tree Avenue in Alice Park.

The Committee has worked with Volker Highways to have free installed improvements to the children's cycle track, including new signs and a bench.

The committee have created new signs in the park so that all who enter the park, now know to "Share and Care" pathways.

The committee have encouraged a wide use of sports, from petanque, to football, to skateboarding. And continue to work with Westport to have tennis in the park.

Supported Alice Park Cafe with events in the park.

The committee has continued to fundraise and look to ways to improve the play facilities in Alice Park

## Section E Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

The Trust has continued with their fund-raising initiative to generate donations to improve play equipment in the park. These donations are specific to the project and as such are held in a ringfenced reserve.

At the point of requiring reserves, decisions on how they would be used would be taken by the sub-committee and as referenced in its Terms of Reference which can be found on the public B&NES website.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

N/A

**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The Alice Park Trust was funded through incomes raised through the activities of the charity and from contribution made by Bath & North East Somerset Council.

## Section F Other optional information

--

## Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>		
<b>Full name(s)</b>		
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>		
<b>Date</b>		

## **The Alice Park Trust 2024/25 Accounts – Independent Examiner’s Report**

### **To confirm, I have:**

- examined the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Charities Act.
- followed the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.
- stated whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of my examiner’s report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept for Alice Park and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations concerning any such matters.

The objective of the review was to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were accurate and free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it does not guarantee detection of a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually, or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

### **Independent examiner’s statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements have not been met. Those such requirements were as follows:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Charities Act, and;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Charities Act.

From my examination of the records, it is my opinion that I can provide reasonable assurance that the Alice Park Trust financial statements are free from material misstatement.

NOTE: During my examination and through my liaison with those responsible for the maintaining the accounts of the Alice Park Trust I concluded the following:

1. Alice Park Trust has a gross income of less than £250,000 and is therefore entitled to prepare the accounts on a "Receipts and Payments" basis. Correspondence with the Charity Commission received in January 2021 provided confirmation for the basis of preparation.
2. Any deficit at year end is funded from the Council's general fund, which is reflected as income in the Trust's accounts.

Independent Examiner: Tariq Rahman (Audit Manager, IT and Finance)

Address of Independent Examiner:

Audit West, Bath & North East Somerset Council, Guildhall, Bath, BA1 5AW

Date accounts examined: 27/11/2025

## **Appendix four – Extract of accounting requirements per Charities Commission website.**

### **4.1.2 Charities with a gross income of over £25,000 but not exceeding £250,000 in the relevant financial year (legal requirement)**

Basis of preparation: accounts must be prepared either on the receipts and payments or the accruals basis; if on an accruals basis, they must be prepared in accordance with the 2008 Regulations and the applicable SORP. The commission provides packs for [receipts and payments](#) or [accrual accounting by non-company charities](#) which are available through GOV.UK. These provide a template to produce accounts in the required form.

External scrutiny: accounts must be subject to outside scrutiny but trustees may choose either independent examination or audit by a registered auditor, unless the charity's governing document stipulates one or the other. In exceptional circumstances, the commission has the power to require an audit.

Type of trustees' annual report: a trustees' annual report must be prepared but it may be simplified (see [section 7](#)).

Information to be sent to the commission: these charities must complete an annual return. The named charity contact on the commission's records will receive an annual return notification. Submission of the annual return is online.

The annual return, trustees' annual report and accounts must be filed with the commission, within 10 months of the end of the charity's financial year.

**Full document details can be found here:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charity-reporting-and-accounting-the-essentials-november-2016-cc15d/charity-reporting-and-accounting-the-essentials-november-2016-cc15d--2>

This page is intentionally left blank

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>	
MEETING:	COUNCIL
MEETING DATE:	19th MARCH 2026
TITLE:	ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR DESIGNATE FOR 2026/27
WARD:	ALL
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> None	

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite the Council to indicate a Councillor as Chair of the Council (Designate) and Vice-Chair (Designate) for the next Council Year beginning in May 2026.
- 1.2 The Council, at its Annual Meeting in May 2026, will still be required formally to elect Councillors to these roles for the forthcoming Council Year.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Council names Councillors to be treated for forward planning purposes as Chair of the Council (Designate) and Vice Chair of the Council (Designate) for the 2026/27 Council Year.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 4.1 Because of the pivotal role of the Chair of the Council in the community, the nomination of the Councillor who will hold the office from May 2026 will contribute towards the achievement of the Council's overriding purpose to improve people's lives.

## **5 THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The Chair represents the Council at a number of civic engagements, whilst also supporting various awards and functions which require advance planning.
- 5.2 It is extremely helpful to community groups, and to the internal administration and scheduling of the Chair's functions, to have advanced confirmation of the Councillor who will hold the office from May 2026 and their preferred style of working and availability, although there is no requirement on the Council do so in advance of the Council's Annual Meeting. The Council may prefer to leave the

matter until then, when the election of Chair for the year will by law be the first item of business on the agenda.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 No risk assessment related to this issue is required because the decision as to whether to make a nomination at this stage in the Council Year rests solely with the Council and does not affect the legal requirement for the Chair to be elected at the Annual General Meeting in May.

## **7 EQUALITIES**

7.1 The wide range of community groups who seek civic involvement in their activities through inviting the Chair to their events will be helped in their diary planning by having a Councillor named as Chair Designate at this stage. It will also assist the Councillor with his or her preparations for their year as Chair.

## **8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION**

8.1 The Council's civic and corporate community interests.

## **9 ADVICE SOUGHT**

9.1 The Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer have had the opportunity to provide input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

<b>Contact person</b>	Jo Morrison, Democratic Services Manager, telephone 01225 394358
<b>Background papers</b>	None
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	

**Bath and North East Somerset Council**

**Full Council meeting (19 March 2026)**

**Green Party Motion on Enabling outdoor play and community belonging**

**To be proposed by Cllr Saskia Heijltjes**

Council:

1. Recognises the vital role that physical activity and outdoor play have in supporting the health, wellbeing, and development of children and young people across Bath and North East Somerset.<sup>1</sup>
2. Notes the work undertaken by the charity Playing Out. Play streets (or ‘playing out’ sessions) are neighbour-led temporary road closures on quiet, residential streets, creating a safe space for children to play freely together on their doorstep. Playing Out also champions School Streets, to provide children with more opportunities for outdoor play at the beginning and end of school days.<sup>2</sup>
3. Notes research published in the British Medical Journal identified a mental health crisis in young people before COVID19, with the pandemic exacerbating these issues and widening inequalities. Playing out can help children and young people build emotional resilience by creating strong ties to their local community and developing both social skills and a sense of belonging.<sup>3</sup>
4. Is concerned that 2022/2023 data from Sport England reveals that 39% of BANES’ children are failing to meet the Chief Medical Officers’ recommended 60 minutes of daily exercise. Council notes that outdoor play in England has declined by 50% in a generation, with traffic, fear of crime, and unwelcoming public spaces contributing to this drop.<sup>4</sup>
5. Acknowledges that the BANES Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2023-2030) aims to put in place the best conditions for people of all ages to live

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pediatricnursing.org/article/S0882-5963%2817%2930185-9/abstract>

<sup>2</sup> <https://playingout.net/play-streets/impact-overview/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://acamh.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jcv2.12008>

<sup>4</sup> [https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2025-12/Active%20Lives%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Survey%20-%20Academic%20year%202024-25%20report-.pdf?VersionId=02ctNYq5CXJAG4naDr4BlmM\\_a406a.5y](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2025-12/Active%20Lives%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Survey%20-%20Academic%20year%202024-25%20report-.pdf?VersionId=02ctNYq5CXJAG4naDr4BlmM_a406a.5y)

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

healthy and fulfilling lives including enabling and encouraging proactive engagement in health promoting activity at all ages for good quality of life.<sup>5</sup>

6. Believes play sufficiency is an important part of supporting Bath and North East Somerset's children, leading to better outcomes for their health, wellbeing and education.
7. Play provision within Bath and North East Somerset sits across departments and there is no one or team responsible for play provision.

Council resolves to:

1. Set up a Play Scrutiny Task Group to consider play provision, any gaps and future needs.

Its purpose is to review existing plans and strategies, identify any gaps, and ensure more children in Bath and North East Somerset are playing more of the time.

The Scrutiny Task Group would be across both the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing and Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny panels because it covers several priorities including public health, green spaces and housing.

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy>

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

## Bath and North East Somerset Council - Full Council 19 March 2026

### Labour Motion: Evolving Discovery Cards - Modernisation and Efficiency for residents and tourists

To be proposed by Cllr Robin Moss

#### Council notes that:

1. B&NES residents have higher than average living costs yet lower than average pay. They rely on essential council services in a challenging financial climate.
2. Officers and councillors have previously identified the need for tools that improve access to reliable information on council services, transport, waste, democratic participation, and community updates.
3. Many local authorities use smart, digital-first systems to provide residents with more efficient, yet personalised services – such as the ‘South Glos Residents’ app which combines bins, democracy, advice and a host of other information.
4. Many UK councils have apps and digital passes for visitors, too – which improve visitor experiences while driving the local economy and generating income through sponsorships, partnerships and a wide range of commercial activities

#### Council acknowledges:

5. The Discovery Card is now, given the passing of time, limited in scope by comparison with the digital opportunities now available to local authorities.
6. As a result, we are falling behind modern residents’ and visitors’ expectations, being less efficient in **what** we offer both groups – and in the **way** we do that.
7. With six million annual visitors, B&NES has a great opportunity if it chooses to enhance the residents’ Discovery Card beyond a resident-only, hard-copy, heritage-led offer.
8. Investigating the Labour Group’s budget proposal for an evolution of the Discovery Card could be a cost-neutral way for the Council to improve resident services, enhance the cross-district visitor offer and raise income.
9. As noted by the Cabinet member for resources during February’s budget debate, the proposal contains “a few perfectly sensible suggestions” and is therefore worth pursuing in the spirit of genuine cross-party, and cross-community collaboration.

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

**Therefore this Council resolves to request that the administration:**

10. Invest existing officer time to scope a full business case for “B&NES Priority”, a two-part evolution of the existing Discovery Card which comprises:

*(i) a tier for residents – B&NES Residents Priority - providing a modern, largely digital service that will:*

- Provide residents-only rates across a range of council services, helping to shield residents from rising costs in one of Britain’s most expensive places to live
- Build upon the models of South Gloucestershire and others’ apps
- Offer residents accurate, up to date information on:
  - waste, roads, and transport
  - council services and democratic updates
  - local infrastructure news

*(ii) a ‘city pass’ style, paid, tier for visitors - B&NES Visitors Priority; a modern visitor product that will:*

- Generate significant revenue through digital marketing and personalisation that enables:
  - commercial partnerships
  - ticket bundles
  - promotions
  - sponsorship and advertising
- Offer discounted rates compared with standard visitor prices
- Operate like city passes used successfully in major visitor destinations
- Improve visitor experience by providing real time travel and service information.

11. Ensure that the business case fully explores the concept’s commercial and civic potential, including:

- Increasing yield through pre- and post-visit communication
- Encouraging repeat visits and longer stays
- Supporting local businesses across all of B&NES
- Promoting green and sustainable travel into and around the district.

12. Conduct the work as a cross-cutting project, drawing on:

- relevant expertise across council departments
- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

- comparable national and international models
- external specialists where appropriate
- engagement with residents, visitors, and stakeholders.

10. Report initial findings to the Corporate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel within six months, with clear options on delivery and outcomes for:

- revenue generation including costs and return on investment.
  - resident benefit
  - business impact
  - stakeholder engagement for co-design
  - implementation design
- as well as a plan for next steps with Panel / council updates built in.

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

This page is intentionally left blank

## **Bath and North East Somerset Council**

### **Full Council meeting 19 March 2026**

#### **Liberal Democrat Motion on the National Planning Policy Framework**

**To be proposed by Councillor Sarah Warren**

Council notes:

1. The recent Government consultation on proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which are intended to support the Government's growth and house building targets.
2. These reforms will limit local planning authorities' ability to set high environmental standards for new homes, banning councils from setting policies that go further than national building regulations, particularly in the areas of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Net Zero Construction policy.
3. B&NES Council has been an ambitious early adopter of BNG and Net Zero Construction policies via the Local Plan Partial Update of 2023 and is already achieving 'Net Zero in operation' and 10% BNG standards for new build.
4. B&NES has recently consulted on increasing our ambition for climate and nature through updated local development management policies as part of the Local Plan Options consultation.

Council believes:

5. The proposed NPPF changes will be a step backwards and will downgrade recently established standards to support nature recovery and tackle climate change.
  6. Government should not prevent councils from going further and faster in response to the Climate and Nature Emergency.
  7. Building to higher standards has been shown to be technically, legally and financially viable.
  8. New homes must be fit for the future. If 1.5m homes are to be built in England, these must be energy-efficient homes, which deliver lower energy bills for residents and which contribute to statutory, national Net Zero targets.
  9. Sustainable, climate resilient homes are good for public health by addressing air quality, over-heating, damp and cold, energy efficiency (tackling fuel poverty), and supporting active lifestyles.
  10. Measures to embed nature-friendly design features, such as 'swift bricks' and sustainable drainage systems, stronger protections for habitats of high
- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
  - *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

environmental value and integration of Local Nature Recovery Strategies into planning decisions, are welcome.

11. Local knowledge, local policy-making and local decision-making are essential to a robust and fair planning system.

Council therefore:

12. Objects to the proposed NPPF changes regarding BNG and Net Zero Construction.
13. Calls on the Government to empower councils to protect and restore nature and to set ambitious energy and sustainability standards for new developments, through local plans processes.
14. Endorses the letter, coordinated by the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) and signed by over 60 local authorities, businesses and NGOs including B&NES, on this issue.
15. Requests that the Leader write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on this matter.

References:

- Letter from the Secretary of State to local authority leaders and metro mayors: Next phase of reforms to accelerate growth and housebuilding (16.12.25): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-from-the-secretary-of-state-to-local-authority-leaders-and-metro-mayors-next-phase-of-reforms-to-accelerate-growth-and-housebuilding>
- Consultation (16.12.25): <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>
- Press Release (16.12.25): <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/housing-sec-pledges-to-go-further-than-ever-before-to-hit-15-million-homes>
- TCPA Letter (23.02.26): [https://www.tcpa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Zero-Carbon-Homes-and-NPPF\\_Letter-to-MHCLG-ministers-1.pdf](https://www.tcpa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Zero-Carbon-Homes-and-NPPF_Letter-to-MHCLG-ministers-1.pdf)

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

**Bath and North East Somerset Council**

**Full Council meeting (19<sup>th</sup> March 2026)**

***Motion from the Independents and Conservative Group:  
Environmentally Responsible Campaigning Practices***

**To be proposed by Councillor Shaun Hughes**

Council believes:

- Bath & North East Somerset has declared a Climate Emergency and adopted a Climate Emergency Strategy, committing the Local Authority to reducing avoidable paper consumption and minimising environmental impact.
- During the run-up to Local Elections, there is significant investment in printed campaign materials. This can lead to the production of large quantities of leaflets, contributing to substantial paper use and associated environmental impacts.
- Traditional campaign models are reliant on large-scale paper distribution and do not align with the Council's agreed environmental priorities or the commitments outlined in the Climate Emergency Strategy.
- Although hybrid communication approaches have been adopted, the use of printed leaflets remains high within current campaigning practices.
- The distribution of large volumes of printed leaflets also generates additional recycling waste, increases the workload for waste collection crews, and contributes to avoidable litter-picking pressures across the area.
- Reducing unnecessary printed material is consistent with the Council's wider objective of supporting and creating sustainable communities.

Council notes that:

- Digital communication is an essential and effective tool for modern political campaigning, offering targeted, cost-efficient, and rapid engagement with residents.
  - Printed materials may still play a role in reaching residents who are digitally excluded or for whom physical communication is more accessible.
  - Recycled paper still requires substantial energy and processing resources to produce printed leaflets.
  - Environmental guidance consistently identifies reduction as the most important stage in the reduce–reuse–recycle hierarchy, as preventing waste is more effective than managing it after production.
- 
- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
  - *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*

- Campaigning strategies that rely heavily on paper leafleting are outdated and inconsistent with the Council's climate objectives.

Council therefore:

1. Reaffirms its commitment to the Bath & North East Somerset Climate Emergency Policy by actively encouraging reductions in unnecessary paper consumption.
2. Agrees that all political Group Leaders should write to their Local Party requesting that it minimise paper use in party-political campaigning and limit the total number of physical leaflets they distribute to no more than two per year.

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*