

# Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

**Date: Thursday 23rd October 2025**

**Time: 10.00 am**

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

**Councillors:** Andy Wait, Grant Johnson, Alex Beaumont, Anna Box, John Leach,  
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:-**

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.

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

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

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

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

**Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel -  
Thursday 23rd October 2025**

**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

At the time of publication no notifications had been received.

7. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 16)

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025  
29<sup>th</sup> July 2025

8. CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

The Cabinet Member will update the Panel on any relevant issues. Panel members may ask questions on the update provided.

9. LOCAL PLAN (Pages 17 - 50)

10. MOVEMENT STRATEGY (Pages 51 - 54)
11. CLIMATE ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 55 - 176)
12. PANEL WORKPLAN (Pages 177 - 180)

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**

**CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND  
SCRUTINY PANEL**

Tuesday 29th July 2025

**Present:-** Councillors Andy Wait (Chair), Shaun Hughes (in place of Grant Johnson), Duncan Hounsell (in place of Alex Beaumont), Anna Box, John Leach, Deborah Collins, Joanna Wright (in place of Saskia Heijltjes), and Hal MacFie

**Cabinet Member for Resources:** Councillor Mark Elliott

**Also in attendance:** Chris Major (Director of Place Management), Ceri Williams (Policy Development & Scrutiny Officer), Simon Porter (Head of Waste and Fleet) and Michael Hewitt (Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer)

**150 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**151 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the Emergency Evacuation Procedure.

**152 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Councillor Alex Beaumont, Councillor Saskia Heijltjes and Councillor Grant Johnson had sent their apologies to the Panel. Councillors Duncan Hounsell, Joanna Wright and Shaun Hughes were their respective substitutes for the duration of the meeting.

Councillor Karen Walker had also sent her apologies to the Panel and Councillor Hal MacFie was sitting on the Panel occupying the current vacant position.

**153 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Colin Blackburn declared an other interest with regard to agenda item 7 (Call-in of decision E3620 – Business waste collection changes in central Bath). He stated that his wife runs a business within the centre of the city and that he is a Director of the business.

**154 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There was none.

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

Councillor June Player addressed the Panel. She expressed concern about the financial and operational impact the proposed decision to change the timings for business waste collection will have on small and independent traders. She questioned the accuracy of the cost estimates and highlighted potential negative environmental and community consequences.

Mr Charlie Dalton-Ball, a local business owner addressed the Panel. He raised practical objections to the proposed waste collection time changes, citing staffing, hygiene, fire safety, and financial burdens. He noted that 93% of consultation respondents opposed the time changes and urged the Council to reconsider the decision.

**156 CALL IN OF DECISION - BUSINESS WASTE COLLECTION CHANGES IN CENTRAL BATH**

Councillor Colin Blackburn addressed the Panel and presented the case for the call-in. He argued that the proposed single-member decision lacked sufficient scrutiny and risked undermining existing improvements in waste management.

He highlighted concerns about the lack of pre-decision scrutiny, the consultation process, cost implications for businesses, and potential negative impacts on staff and the public realm. He advocated for a phased approach, implementing supported elements (e.g. reusable rubbish bags and labelling) while reconsidering the proposed time restrictions.

Councillor John Leach said that overall, there had been a low response to the consultation and asked if it was known why.

Councillor Blackburn replied that many businesses were too busy to respond and unaware of the potential impact until later in the process. He added that he had spoken to many businesses who did not respond but shared the concerns raised.

Councillor Anna Box asked about the operational logistics of waste collections and bollard access to the centre of the city.

Councillor Blackburn replied that service vehicles had access via a known procedure and that businesses were accustomed to the current collection window.

Councillor Joanna Wright asked how the change in timings would affect refuse collectors at the end of the working day and whether they would be able to access public transport to their homes.

Councillor Blackburn replied that they would still need to transfer the collected waste to a transfer station and that this could be a two hour process. He added that similar concerns had been raised by the operators and that they might need to use additional vehicles.

Councillor Shaun Hughes asked if the potential cost burden on businesses and staff was a true reflection.

Councillor Blackburn replied that he felt that the £3,000 estimate was too low and did not account for additional staffing, insurance, and utility costs.

Councillor Wright raised concerns regarding fire safety and internal waste storage.

Councillor Blackburn replied that many businesses were likely to have limited space to store waste and that specific waste handling needs were required for food waste.

Councillor Box asked if residents views had been sought on this decision.

Councillor Blackburn replied that he was not aware of any public concerns being raised as the consultation was aimed at local businesses.

The Chair asked if a reason could be given with regard to the lack of engagement from local businesses and members of the public for this Panel meeting.

Councillor Blackburn replied that people were too busy working and therefore no time to attend.

Councillor Wright asked if the decision had been scrutinised by the Panel prior to it being made.

Councillor Blackburn replied that it had not.

Councillor Wright asked if the waste collection contractors had been consulted as part of the decision-making process.

Councillor Mark Elliott, Cabinet Member for Resources replied that they had.

Councillor Elliott addressed the Panel. He defended his decision, stating that the proposed changes aimed to improve the public realm by reducing visible waste and deterring seagulls and vermin. He emphasised that the decision would be implemented as a 12-month pilot and that the Council had consulted widely over a six-week period, followed by targeted door knocking of businesses within the city centre.

He stated that the morning collection window (7.30am – 10.00am) remained unchanged and that no extra vehicles would be required as a result of the decision.

He explained that businesses could explore alternative collection arrangements as in some cases it would be possible to collect waste directly from a premises.

He said that the low response rate could also be viewed as a lack of concern about the proposed changes.

He stated that the estimated additional £3,000 annual cost per business was a worst-case scenario.

Councillor Duncan Hounsell asked if he could provide further comment on the rationale for the proposed time changes for waste collection.

Councillor Elliott replied that ongoing complaints were being received from residents about waste and seagulls.

Councillor Deborah Collins asked for clarification on when the window for collections was extended from 2 to 2.5 hours.

Councillor Elliott replied that this had changed as a result of the consultation process to reduce the need for extra vehicles and apologised that this was not reflected in the report that was circulated for the Panel.

Councillor Wright asked for further explanation regarding sections 3.11 and 3.12 of the Equalities Impact Assessment and how the Council were looking after its staff and the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises within the city.

Councillor Elliott replied that the proposed new collection window ended earlier than the current one and that the Equality Impact Assessment did not anticipate significant negative effects.

Councillor Box questioned whether enough information was available and suggested further scrutiny of the decision should take place following the pilot period.

Councillor Elliott acknowledged that the data available was from a low number of responses and expressed his willingness to return to the Panel for further scrutiny.

Councillor Hounsell referred to sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the report and asked if the Council were likely to need to employ an additional Enforcement Officer.

Councillor Elliott replied that he was highlighting this as a potential risk and reiterated that it was his view that it was a reasonable decision to adopt a trial period. He added that he would reexamine the decision if significant problems were to occur.

Councillor Collins commented that this could well be a serious issue for some local businesses and asked that the Council acts appropriately in terms of implementation and enforcement.

Councillor Elliott replied that he would advocate a supportive approach during the pilot and stated that the Council would work with businesses struggling to comply.

Councillor Hughes asked how the proposed changes would affect Council staff.

The Director of Place Management replied that they will work with the team on potential changes to shift patterns. He added that an improved public realm was the intended achievement.

Councillor Box questioned how this element could be measured successfully.

Councillor Elliott replied that he was willing to see how this could be measured.

He then gave a closing statement to the Panel. He said that he believed that the decision was reasonable and proportionate and that benefits to the public realm were there to be achieved. He added that the pilot would provide valuable data to inform future decisions.

Councillor Blackburn made a closing statement to the Panel. He maintained that the change of time for business waste collection element of the decision should be paused, with other two supported elements implemented first. He said that even within a trial period the costs to the businesses would be real.

Councillor Hughes stated that he felt that there was not an appropriate amount of data to proceed with a trial period and that changing the collection times would not result in less clutter within the city.

He added that he felt that the costs mentioned for the Council were likely to be real and that further scrutiny should take place in order to protect local businesses.

Councillor Hounsell commented that he felt that it was a rationale decision to have a trial period to test the feasibility of the change in collection times.

Councillor Wright said that she felt that pre-decision scrutiny would have been better, and that while improvements to the public realm are welcome, she did not agree that a pilot was a good idea.

Councillor Collins commented that only a small number of concerns had been raised through the consultation process and that a way forward was necessary to gather additional data. She asked that if the trial period goes ahead that officers will provide help to those businesses that need it, and the trial would be paused if significant problems did arise.

The Chair asked for the Panel to receive a report after six months of the trial period being in place so that they could be updated on its progress.

Councillor Hal MacFie said that he believed that 5pm – 6pm was a commercially important time of day for businesses and was therefore happy with decision to change the collection times.

Councillor Leach commented that he would like the decision to proceed as stated by the Cabinet Member for Resources.

A motion to refer the decision back to the Cabinet Member for reconsideration of the time restrictions was proposed by Councillor Shaun Hughes and seconded by Councillor Joanna Wright but was not carried. (Voting: 2 in favour, 5 against, 1 abstention).

A subsequent motion to dismiss the call-in and allow the decision to proceed was proposed by Councillor Deborah Collins and seconded by Councillor Duncan Hounsell and was carried. (Voting: 5 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention).

The Panel therefore **RESOLVED** to dismiss the call-in and allow the Cabinet Member’s decision to proceed.

The meeting ended at 12.26 pm

Chair(person) .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

## **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

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

Thursday 3rd July 2025

Present:- **Councillors** Andy Wait, Grant Johnson, Alex Beaumont, Anna Box, John Leach, Deborah Collins, Saskia Heijltjes and Karen Walker

#### **139 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **140 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

#### **141 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

The Chair noted that Cabinet Members Councillors McCabe and Roper had sent apologies as they were unable to attend.

#### **142 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **143 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There was none.

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

There were none

#### **145 MINUTES**

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meetings as a true record.

#### **146 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE**

There was none.

#### **147 HOMELESSNESS UPDATE**

The Chair invited the Head of Housing and Homelessness Response Manager to introduce the report.

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

Councillor Leach asked what 'support' consisted of. The officer explained that a person can move into a building and agree to engage with a support worker in terms of plans to move on/medical/family/employment and aim to regain independence. There can also be a Personal Support Plan with targets. 'Support' does not mean personal care.

Councillor Heijltjes asked if the Council is supporting Julian House. The officer explained that we have had to tighten our belts but the Council is working closely with Julian House. He explained it is a pathway rather than about supporting individual organisations.

Councillor Walker asked how many people are currently in refuges. The officer explained that she could get numbers in terms of refuges.

Councillor Johnson asked if an increase in pressure was expected given the annual housing trajectory. He also asked if there was a way to give ambitions on where we want to be on homelessness. The officer explained that there are many reasons why people become homeless and a key issue is now the cost of living. We also take in account legislative changes – if there are more developments, there will be more housing. In terms of ambitions – the officer explained that there is a Housing Plan which lays out the plan for growth. There are also two performance targets around the number of people in temporary accommodation (this authority is in the top 3<sup>rd</sup> of local authorities on this) and rough sleeping, the aim for this would be zero. The officer further explained that we are guided by Government Homelessness and Rough Sleepers guidance. The Government are currently reviewing the formula so our grant may be reduced.

Councillor Collins asked about the challenges around people who do not want to move off the street. The officer explained that there is a small core of people who find it impossible to engage with support services. There is a task and targeting group to try to address cases on an individual basis. This has currently reduced from 15 to 13 but this can change daily. We have an approach of 'housing first' which is a different approach. There is a 'Next Steps Accommodation Panel' which works with cases referred by support workers. We have strong partnerships.

Councillor Box asked if the service for young people stops when they reach 18. The officer explained that no, it does not as this would undo good work done. There is a 'homelessness pathway' solely for young people as their needs are specific.

Councillor Heijltjes asked about the effect of the disability benefit cuts. The officer explained that this was very new and need to be digested.

Councillor Leach asked what officers would attribute to the low numbers regarding usage rates. The officer stated that the prevention first approach means the service is more accessible and open. People can speak to someone on the same day. The officer further explained that, as a unitary authority, there are some benefits. We are also small enough to have good partnerships.



Councillor Johnson asked if representations were being made regarding adjustments to the grant. The officer explained that the potential cut was part of a consultation exercise, we have not had confirmation.

The Chair thanked the officer for their report.

## **148 CULTURE STRATEGY (ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS)**

The Chair invited the Head of Heritage to introduce the item and give a presentation.

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

Councillor Box asked about the costs around local charity events such as the Chew Valley 10k run. She asked that, in developing the strategy, could consideration be given to reducing the costs of road closures around such events. The officer explained that fees and charges need to be seen in the context of the Council budget as a whole but that the authority was definitely minded to consider this issue.

Councillor Collins asked about opportunities in the visitor economy around the wider area of BANES. She also asked about creative work spaces. The officer stated that a lot of work has been delivered by the regeneration team (creative works strategy). He stated that there is a plan to use culture to regenerate areas and mentioned 'locally loved, nationally known' plan to create culture loved by local people.

Councillor Beaumont mentioned the successful exhibition held in Keynsham. The officer agreed and also mentioned the Keynsham Music Festival which is one of Europe's largest free festivals. Councillor Wait stated that, as a trustee of the festival, he has found the relationship with BANES to have got worse and commented that the costs to hold such events makes it very difficult. BANES charge to use the park. He stated that he was pleased to say there had been an improvement this year and he embraced the idea of culture moving away from just the city. The officer explained that he had met with an organiser of the event in Keynsham. He acknowledged the issue but stated that this has to be seen within the context of the wider Council budget.

Councillor Johnson stated that he was surprised to see a political element in the presentation. He shared the frustrations of other members regarding the costs of events held in Paulton in that BANES could be negative regarding issues such as road closures/barriers/health and safety. He added that the local library has to pay interest rates. He stated that he had no problem with the strategy but that maybe it did not get to the root causes of problems. The officer stated that this is not political and that the presentation was just a descriptive narrative. He stated that it was vitally important for the strategy to deliver for the whole region and that there will be an emphasis on the Somer Valley and Radstock. We are in the consultation period, and it is vital we hear these issues.

Councillor Walker stated that Peasedown St John has potentially 250 more houses coming. The community library was run with a grant to start with, how will it continue to be supported. She also agreed with the points raised above about the costs of putting on local events. The officer stated that there could be conversations with

parish councils around the implications of fees. This will be a key part of the actions going forward.

Councillor Heijltjes stated that the major festivals are dominated by a couple of organizations. How can we work towards the local offer being more vibrant and inclusive. The officer explained that this comes down to criteria which will come from the action plan.

Councillor Johnson asked about creative workspaces. He explained that he used to have an art studio and asked how BANES could support this and provide spaces which could generate revenue. The officer stated that this would not be a quick fix as spaces would have to be re purposed. The groundwork will be laid over the next two years.

The Chair thanked the officer and asked that this item come back to the Panel later in the year.

**149    PANEL WORKPLAN**

Panel members noted their future workplan and the following items that were suggested for future meetings:

- Culture Strategy (Autunm)
- Waste Collection in the city centre
- Active Travel masterplan

The meeting ended at 11.52 am

Chair(person) .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING:	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING:	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2025	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Reset Local Plan Options document and consultation	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Attachment 1: Cabinet Report (25 <sup>th</sup> September) Reset Local Plan Options document (E3636)		

## 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The council is statutorily required to prepare an up-to-date Local Plan. A Local Plan establishes a spatial strategy, site allocations and a policy framework to guide and shape change and growth within the District. The Local Plan will be a key document in delivering the council's corporate strategy and its priorities.
- 1.2 In preparing a Local Plan the council is required to test and consult on reasonable alternatives or options in meeting evidence-based needs and establishing a planning policy framework for determining planning applications. On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025 Cabinet approved the reset Local Plan Options document for public consultation between 3<sup>rd</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> November. This report seeks the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel to consider the reset Local Plan Options document and to give its views, which will then be considered alongside issues raised in public consultation responses in preparing the Draft Local Plan.

## 2 RECOMMENDATION

**The Panel is asked to;**

- 2.1 Consider the reset Local Plan Options document and provide its views, alongside wider public consultation, to help inform preparation of the Draft Local Plan**

### 3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Local Plan is a fundamental element of the council's wider role of place-shaping. The Local Plan is being prepared to influence and shape all new development that requires planning permission, as well as supporting infrastructure, so that we create and maintain sustainable, healthy and attractive places for our communities.
- 3.2 Members will be aware that the council consulted on Local Plan options in spring 2024. Government then made significant changes to national policy in late 2024 and set out revised standard method figures of housing need for each local authority. For Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) our housing figure more than doubled from around 720 per annum to around 1,500 per annum. Due to the need to respond to the increased housing figure and other changes to national policy the council's Cabinet agreed that we needed to reset the preparation of our Local Plan. This was necessary to undertake further evidence base work and consider options to provide for additional development.
- 3.3 The Local Plan options the council previously consulted on in 2024 were based on planning for growth of around 14,500 dwellings and associated job growth over a twenty-year period. As a result of the government's revised housing need figure the council needs to identify and consult on options for the additional development required, which is now around 27,000 homes over an eighteen-year period (2025-2043) and associated job growth of around 25,000. At its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet agreed the reset Local Plan options document for consultation. Public consultation commenced on 3rd October and runs until 14<sup>th</sup> November.
- 3.4 Further detail on the reset options is set out in the report to 25<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet Report (see attachment 1). In summary the reset options primarily focus on place-based and site-based options for meeting the need for new homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure. New (additional or extended) site options are set out, alongside the options previously consulted on in 2024, in order to give a comprehensive picture of all the options on a place-basis being considered.
- 3.5 In addition to identifying and allocating sites for development the Local Plan will set out district-wide Development Management policies that will be used in determining planning applications. Options covering many policy areas were consulted on in the 2024 options document. In the reset options document only approaches or options are set out for new policy areas or where entirely new options need to be set out in response to changing circumstances, in particular revisions to national policy. The Cabinet report (see attachment 1) summarises the policy areas on which new options are set out.
- 3.6 It should also be noted that the government is proposing to introduce National Development Management Policies. The status, coverage and scope of these national policies is not yet known and therefore, there is uncertainty regarding the Development Management policies that will form part of the council's Local Plan.
- 3.7 Comments made during the options consultation in 2024 (on both site and policy approaches options) remain valid. They are not responded to by the council at

this stage and will continue to be carefully considered, alongside comments received during the current consultation, in preparing the Draft Local Plan. The Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel is requested to review the options presented and to give its views. These views will then be considered alongside the consultation comments in preparing the Draft Local Plan.

3.8 The Draft Local Plan will set out the council's proposed site allocations and policies. It is anticipated this will be presented to Cabinet or Council in late spring next year for approval for consultation. Following consultation on the Draft Local Plan it, along with comments received, is submitted for examination by a government appointed Planning Inspector.

3.9 Resetting the Local Plan has also provided an opportunity to review the approach to engagement and consultation. A new and innovative approach has been taken to consulting on the reset Local Plan options and engagement with key stakeholders has also taken place in the lead up to the current consultation to raise awareness and will continue after consultation. Further information on the approach to consultation is set out in section 10 of the Cabinet Report (attachment 1). The reset Local Plan options document and supporting evidence can be viewed on the dedicated Local Plan web-platform at:  
<https://bathnesplaces.co.uk/localplan/>

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 The statutory requirements and considerations in preparing a Local Plan are set out in the 25<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet Report (see attachment 1). As such they are not repeated here.

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

5.1 The resource implications of preparing a Local Plan are set out in the 25<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet Report (see attachment 1) and are not repeated here.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

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

## **7 EQUALITIES**

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment of the reset Local Plan Options document and consultation has been undertaken. It has been published on the council's website and is available here:  
<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=88786>

## **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

8.1 As set out in the 25<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet Report helping to address the climate and ecological emergencies through contributing to becoming zero carbon by 2030 e.g. reducing carbon emissions arising from new development; and facilitating nature recovery are key spatial priorities of the Local Plan. Policy

approaches or options set out in the document specifically aimed at meeting these priorities were set out previously in the Options document published in 2024 for consultation and also in the reset Options document.

## 9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 See 25<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet Report (attachment 1).

## 10 CONSULTATION

10.1 In preparing this report the Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development has been consulted. Details of public consultation on the reset Options document are set out in attachment 1 (25<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet Report).

<b>Contact person</b>	Richard Daone, Deputy Head of Planning – Planning Policy 01225 477546
<b>Background papers</b>	Reset Local Plan Options Document available on the council's web-platform: <a href="https://bathnesplaces.co.uk/localplan/">https://bathnesplaces.co.uk/localplan/</a>  Local Plan 2025-2043 Options consultation Equalities Impact Assessment: <a href="https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=88786">https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=88786</a>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING	Cabinet	
MEETING	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3636
TITLE:	Reset Local Plan Options document	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> Attachment 1: Reset Local Plan Options document Attachment 2: Reset Local Plan Options communications and engagement plan Attachment 3: Equalities Impact Assessment of Reset Local Plan Options		

## 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 In 2024 government issued significant changes to national planning policy and a revised standard method figure of housing need. The revised housing need figure for Bath & North East Somerset is more than double that of the previous government. As a result the council decided in 2024 to reset preparation of its Local Plan in order to consider the implications of changed policy and to enable progression towards a sound Local Plan. Resetting the Local Plan requires the council to prepare and consult on a further set of options for meeting the substantially increased level of housing need, associated job growth and some new policy approaches. This report seeks approval of a reset Local Plan options document for consultation commencing in October this year.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet is asked to;

- 2.1 approve the Reset Local Plan Options document (Attachment 1) for public consultation for a period of six weeks from 3<sup>rd</sup> October to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025**
- 2.2 agree and authorise the Executive Director for Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development and Communications and Community, to issue communications relating to the reset Local Plan Options and to undertake consultation as summarised in section 10 of this report and outlined in the communications and engagement plan (Attachment 2)**
- 2.3 delegate authority to the Executive Director for Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development, to agree textual changes to the Options document (Attachment 1) prior to its publication for consultation**

## **3 THE REPORT**

### **Local Plan 2025-2043**

- 3.1 The preparation of a Local Plan is a key means of shaping the future of places within Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) primarily by facilitating the delivery of high-quality development in a planned and co-ordinated way that will help the council meet its priorities e.g. providing the right homes in the right places and specifically more affordable housing, moving towards zero carbon and addressing the ecological emergency. It also enables delivery of development to be aligned with infrastructure provision that can be funded or part funded by developer contributions as well as investment from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA).
- 3.2 Development of housing that is more affordable, as well as additional economic space is crucial in improving people's lives and maintaining sustainable economic prosperity. Substantial investment in infrastructure, including transport, is necessary to unlock and support delivery of this development. The Local Plan is central to achieving this, as well as ensuring that change and development helps us to address the climate emergency, is resilient and adapts to climate change and facilitates nature recovery. The spatial priorities that underpin the Local Plan reflect these key objectives (see para 3.15 below).
- 3.3 The council publicised its intention to prepare a new Local Plan by publishing the Local Plan 2022-2042 Launch Document in November 2022. The Launch Document outlined the proposed plan period (twenty years to 2042); scope of the Local Plan; and the arrangements for preparing it. This was followed by preparation of and consultation on a Local Plan Options document in spring 2024. The Options document outlined both policy approach and development location options for accommodating the then assessed need for additional homes and jobs. Following consultation on the Options document the council then intended to prepare a Draft Local Plan, setting out its proposed policies and site allocations,



for formal consultation under Reg 19 (of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012) prior to it being submitted for Examination.

3.4 In December 2024 government issued significant changes to national policy and practice guidance and a revised standard method figure of housing need. The key changes to national policy include:

- Increased expectation that Local Plans will plan for a level of housing that meets the government's standard method figure of housing need and re-instatement of the need to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply
- Standard method figure of housing need increased nationally and more than doubled for B&NES – from around 720 per annum under the previous government to around 1,500 per annum
- Requirement that council's review their Green Belt if housing need cannot be met in any other way and introduction of the concept of 'grey belt' to help ensure the strategic release of land for development
- Introduction of 'golden rules' relating to the development of land released from the Green Belt requiring increased affordable housing provision; necessary improvements to local or national infrastructure; and provision of improved or new accessible green space
- Increased focus on delivering economic growth, including in specific sectors
- Greater focus on addressing the affordability of housing and specifically meeting the needs of those on lower incomes
- Commitment to regional/strategic planning and emphasis on its role in delivering the housing and economic growth needed

3.5 The changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and revised standard method figure of housing need have very significant implications for B&NES. As a result of these changes (trailed in consultation by the government in summer 2024) the council's Cabinet resolved in September last year to reset preparation of the Local Plan in order to ensure that it reflects revised national policy, to undertake further necessary evidence work, assess options for additional development and to enable a sound Local Plan to be prepared.

3.6 Resetting preparation of the Local Plan means that consultation on a further set of Options is necessary before progressing towards a Draft Local Plan. The council is required to test and consult on all 'reasonable alternatives' to meet the increased level of housing need.

3.7 As a result of government changes to the NPPF and the standard method figure of housing need Local Plan preparation and adoption has been delayed by around twelve months. The amended programme for Local Plan preparation has been agreed under delegated authority by the Executive Director for Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development and is set out in the council's published [Local Development Scheme](#). In summary it is now as follows:

- Subject to approval by Cabinet as recommended in this Report, Reset Local Plan Options consultation: October/November 2025
- Preparation and consultation on the Draft Local Plan: spring/summer 2026
- Submission of the Local Plan for Examination: autumn 2026
- Examination hearings and receipt of Inspector's Report: winter 2026 – summer 2027
- Adoption of the Local Plan by council: summer 2027

3.8 The NPPF requires that a Local Plan should cover a plan period of at least fifteen years from the anticipated date of adoption. As a result of the delays in preparation the plan-period will now be from April 2025 to April 2043. The NPPF also requires that a council's Development Plan (primarily the Local Plan) must include strategic policies to address its priorities for the development and use of land in its area. Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places, and make sufficient provision for housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development; infrastructure; community facilities; and the conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment. Non-strategic policies should be used to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development.

3.9 As referenced above the government has set out its commitment to strategic planning at a regional level, especially in areas where powers have been devolved to a Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA). Such authorities (including the West of England MCA) are required to prepare a Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) covering their area. Local Plans need to be in general conformity with an adopted SDS.

3.10 In 2021 the West of England Combined Authority Mayor halted work on the Mayoral SDS. As a result, the B&NES Local Plan (and the Local Plans of the other two MCA constituent local authorities i.e. Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council) will address the strategic issues that would have been addressed by the SDS. The three UAs have worked and continue to work closely together on our respective Local Plans. Through the Duty to Co-operate we are required to engage constructively and on an on-going basis on strategic cross boundary matters. In accordance with the Duty to Co-operate B&NES is engaging not only with Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council, but with our other neighbouring authorities of North Somerset, Somerset and Wiltshire Councils.

3.11 The B&NES Local Plan 2025-2043 will therefore cover all strategic and non-strategic policies relating to the development and use of land across the district. Upon its adoption it will replace the B&NES Core Strategy, Placemaking Plan and Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU).

3.12 Given the government's requirement for MCAs to prepare a SDS the West of England MCA has recently confirmed that it will re-commence work on the SDS. Further details on the scope of the SDS and programme for its preparation are awaited. The development strategy, site allocations and policies in the B&NES Local Plan 2025-2043 (as well as the other constituent UAs Local Plans) will

contribute to the SDS. Local Plans are required to be reviewed at least every five years. Therefore, following adoption of the SDS it is likely that the B&NES Local Plan 2025-2043 will be reviewed.

- 3.13 In response to the government's ambition to secure sustained economic growth and increased productivity the MCA is also required to prepare a Local Growth Strategy. The Local Growth Strategy is currently being prepared and is intended to provide the broad strategic direction for other relevant strategies and plans including the SDS. The Local Growth Strategy will outline how the MCA will help to drive growth in the region, building on the area's unique strengths and opportunities to support key growth-driving sectors. B&NES Council (along with the other constituent local authorities) is working in partnership with the MCA to ensure the Local Growth Strategy reflects this council's priorities and objectives for the local economy. The emerging Local Growth Strategy will also form an important part of the context for the B&NES Local Plan 2025-2043 and our planning policy framework and site opportunities will need to help deliver sustainable economic growth.
- 3.14 In addition to working with the MCA on the Local Growth Strategy and the SDS (once work re-commences) the council is also focussing on ensuring MCA infrastructure funding and investment will help to unlock and support delivery of development within B&NES.
- 3.15 As set out above the B&NES Local Plan 2025-2043 is an important mechanism in shaping the future of our places and delivering the council's priorities primarily through facilitating high-quality and sustainable planned development.
- 3.16 In the spring 2024 options document the council outlined the spatial priorities for the Local Plan. These spatial priorities will underpin and be delivered through the spatial strategy, policy framework and site allocations. The spatial priorities are proposed to remain the same and are as follows:

***Our Local Plan will plan for development in response to local needs to create attractive, healthy and sustainable places in line with the council's Corporate Strategy.***

***The Plan will:***

- *Maximise the delivery of housing that is more **affordable***
- *Create a **fairer, more prosperous and sustainable** economy*

***In doing so, our plans for development must:***

- *Enable B&NES to become **carbon neutral by 2030** and deliver a climate resilient district*
- *Protect and enhance nature through facilitating **nature recovery***
- *Improve **health and well-being** outcomes for all, including through planning health promoting and inclusive places and providing for cultural enrichment*
- *Reduce the need to travel unsustainably and enable **improved connectivity** for all through sustainable modes of transport and facilitating locally available services and facilities*
- *Respect, conserve and enhance our **heritage assets** and their landscape settings, in particular the World Heritage Site of Bath and National Landscapes*
- *Align the timely provision of **transport, health, education, social, cultural and green infrastructure** with development*

- 3.17 As set out in paras 3.1 and 3.2 above the council is committed to planning for the delivery of additional housing, especially affordable housing, in the right places, as well as more economic space to facilitate sustainable economic prosperity. The scale of growth set by the government through the revised standard method housing need figure of around 1,500 homes per annum is likely to be very challenging to deliver. Options are outlined in the Reset Local Plan Options document to achieve this. However, it should be noted that the cumulative impacts of the options and this level of development have not yet been assessed. This testing will be undertaken in working towards the Draft Local Plan.
- 3.18 Evidence work that will be published alongside the Reset Options document shows that the need for affordable housing is significant (around 50% of total housing need) and that the government's increased figure of housing need requires a greater amount of job growth in order to maintain a balance between homes and jobs within B&NES (estimated to be around 25,000 additional jobs during the Local Plan period).
- 3.19 Given the increased levels of housing and employment space to be planned for a range of options for additional development have been considered and are outlined in the Local Plan Reset Options document. The previous options that were subject to consultation in spring last year remain valid and are presented in the Reset Options document alongside new or extended options to accommodate the greater level of growth. This ensures that a comprehensive picture of options in places across the district is presented. Comments submitted in response to the spring 2024 consultation also remain valid and will continue to be carefully considered by the council in preparing the Draft Local Plan.
- 3.20 Within the context of the spatial priorities of the Local Plan and in particular the need to minimise carbon impacts arising from new development the approach to assessing and identifying options for development remains broadly the same as undertaken in 2024. This means focussing development options on sub-areas or places within the district which are, or can be, comparatively well connected to jobs, services and facilities through sustainable means of transport. Strategic growth options therefore continue to be focussed at Bath; within the Bath to Bristol corridor; and the Somer Valley. These areas are also those proposed to be the focus for economic growth through the emerging MCA Local Growth Strategy. In addition, options are presented for some local or non-strategic development in some the comparatively more sustainable villages.
- 3.21 As the main economic centre in the district and where a substantial proportion of the need for affordable housing is derived it is crucial that an appropriate level of growth is focussed at Bath. A central element of the proposed strategy is optimising the capacity of brownfield sites within the city both for additional housing and employment space. However, in order to sustainably deliver development required to meet the government's standard method figure of housing need the council considers that growth of the city needs to be considered. As such options for development primarily on the western edge of Bath are presented for consultation. As Bath is a double inscribed World Heritage Site (WHS) this makes planning and delivering strategic growth very difficult given the WHS inscription itself and associated attributes. Assessment shows that such development would give rise to substantial harm to the WHS and would be contrary to national policy. The council remains in dialogue with government on

this issue and is keen to demonstrate that Bath can be an exemplar for sustainable development which protects and enhances the city's heritage.

- 3.22 Options for strategic and non-strategic development are set out in other parts of the district as summarised above. The main focus of development is proposed to be on strategic sites as development at a larger scale is more capable of being supported by and delivering necessary infrastructure improvements and achieving the council's priorities. As set out above investment in supporting infrastructure, especially transport, is a pre-requisite for and will unlock development.
- 3.23 Whilst the main focus is proposed to be on strategic sites it should be noted that to maintain a five-year housing land supply a diverse supply of sites will be needed. This will include some smaller, non-strategic sites which are capable of delivering housing more quickly. In addition, some development in villages is necessary in order to help maintain vibrant villages, population levels and local services and facilities.
- 3.24 The development options outlined in the Local Plan Reset Options document are not solely focussed on housing and also include options for commercial/employment uses, necessary to help maintain or create more balanced communities and to help deliver job growth.
- 3.25 In addition to place-based site options to deliver growth the council is also presenting a limited range of new Development Management policy approach options. Development Management policies apply district-wide and are used in the determination of planning applications. The government is proposing to introduce a set of National Development Management Policies (NDMPs). However, there remains uncertainty as to the scope, coverage and status of the NDMPs, as well as the timing of their introduction. Therefore, at this stage it is proposed the B&NES Local Plan 2024-2043 will include a full suite of Development Management policies, but this will be kept under review as we progress towards the Draft Local Plan.
- 3.26 A broad range of Development Management policy approach options were consulted on in spring 2024. These options are not presented again in the Reset Options document and the comments submitted in response to the 2024 consultation are still valid and continue to be carefully considered by the council in preparing the draft Local Plan. In this Local Plan Reset Options document only policy approach options are presented either for new policy areas or where new/revised approach options are required as a result of revisions to national policy or other changed circumstances such as new or updated evidence. In summary these are options relating to:
- Affordable housing (updated text)
  - Co-living accommodation
  - Houses in Multiple Occupation
  - Purpose Built Student Accommodation
  - Gypsies and Travellers Accommodation
  - Housing Development Boundaries review
  - Climate change: adaptation & resilience, retrofit first and District Heating
  - Renewable energy
  - Low impact farming
  - Green Belt

- Protection of industrial sites
- Local Green Spaces
- Somersetshire Coal Canal
- Waste

## 4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Planning decisions must be taken in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise (Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Section 70(2) Town and Country Planning Act 1990).
- 4.2 Section 19(1B) - (1E) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out that each local planning authority must identify their strategic priorities and have policies to address these in their development plan documents (taken as a whole). The development plan for an area is made up of the combination of strategic policies (which address the priorities for an area) and non-strategic policies (which deal with more detailed matters).
- 4.3 In light of the UK Plan-led system, Regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires that Local Planning Authorities must review local plans and the NPPF states that this must take place at least once every 5 years, and Plans should then be updated as necessary. This must in whole or in part be to ensure that policies remain relevant and effectively address the needs of the local community.
- 4.4 The council updated parts of its Local Plan (comprising the Adopted Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan) through the LPPU. The LPPU was adopted in January 2023. However, a full update of the Local Plan now needs to be prepared in order to ensure that the needs for development within the district (e.g. for housing and employment space) over the longer term can be objectively assessed and responded to positively. Work commenced on the full update of the Local Plan and an Options consultation took place earlier this year. The revised NPPF and standard method figure of housing need required the Local Plan to be re-set and further engagement on reasonable alternatives or options to be undertaken.
- 4.5 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) received Royal Assent on 26 October 2023 which will make some changes to plan-making. Regulations by the Secretary of State are required to bring these changes into force. The previous Government said local planning authorities (LPAs) must submit their local plans for examination by 30 June 2025 (and adopt them by 31 December 2026) if they want their local plans to be adopted under the current system. Under the revised NPPF the submission deadline has been extended to December 2026 to enable local authorities to undertake significant further work on their Local Plans. If LPAs are not able to meet these deadlines (or if their local plans fail at examination), then LPAs must prepare their local plans under the new plan-making system details of which are still emerging from government. The council's Local Plan is being prepared under the current system and as set out above it is anticipated it will be submitted before the December 2026 deadline.

- 4.6 The first formal stage in preparing the council's new Local Plan is Regulation 18 of Town and Country (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012/767 which provides the opportunity to gather evidence and test options with local communities and stakeholders. Following consultation on the Options document last year further options engagement and consultation under Regulation 18 needs to be undertaken in respect of the re-set Local Plan.
- 4.7 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires all local planning authorities to prepare a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS sets out the programme, resources and arrangements for the production and review of statutory planning documents required by the council. The LDS must be kept up-to-date. The current version of the LDS is up-to date and is published on the council's [website](#).

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

- 5.1 The Local Plan has been and continues to be prepared utilising existing staff resources, led by the Planning Policy team and involving various other teams across the council, as well both council and MCA funding (see 5.2 below). Preparing a Local Plan requires significant resources. With regards to this Local Plan the need to reset it in light of the government's revisions to national policy and the standard method figure of housing need means substantial additional work needs to be undertaken. In recognition of this additional work central government made two funding grants available for application i.e. Green Belt review funding and Local Plans Delivery funding. This council applied for and received funding from both pots and these are being used to help cover the cost of preparing the Local Plan.
- 5.2 As identified above the costs of preparing this Local Plan are covered by government grants, council and MCA funding. Council funding has been primarily from the existing Local Development Framework (LDF) budget. The council also successfully bid for strategic masterplanning funding from the MCA and this has been and will be utilised in preparing the Reset Local Plan. Given the magnitude of the costs of preparing a Local Plan the funding identified above is not sufficient to cover the full costs. Therefore, a facility to draw down a total of up to £850,000 from the council's central reserves during the financial years 2025/26 and 2026/27 has been agreed. It is anticipated that drawing down the agreed £850,000 from central reserves will be sufficient to enable the Local Plan to be progressed to adoption.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

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

## **7 EQUALITIES**

- 7.1 Preparation of the Local Plan to date, including the Reset Options document has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) which ensures that the council understands the implications for people with protected characteristics of

each of the options presented for consultation (see Attachment 3). The impacts recorded through the EqlA will be taken into account in the next stages of plan-making. An EqlA of the Draft Local Plan will also be undertaken at the relevant time. The Local Plan is also subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (statutory requirement) throughout its preparation that also considers, at a more general level, equalities issues.

## **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

8.1 Helping to address the climate and ecological emergencies through contributing to becoming zero carbon by 2030 e.g. reducing carbon emissions arising from new development; and facilitating nature recovery are key spatial priorities of the Local Plan. Policy approaches or options set out in the document specifically aimed at meeting these priorities were set out previously in the Options document published earlier this year for consultation and also in this Reset Options document. The reset Local Plan will continue to be underpinned by addressing the climate and ecological emergencies, including through:

- Locating new development where it is best served by sustainable modes of travel and minimises car travel
- Policy approaches to minimise energy use or carbon emission rates in new development and ensure they are, as a minimum, zero carbon
- Options to help further reduce embodied carbon from all scales of development
- Options to ensure that future development is resilient to and adaptable to the impacts of climate change.
- Setting out policies that are aimed at better enabling the delivery of renewable energy installations in the most appropriate locations
- Looking at how to increase Biodiversity Net Gain in new development and working with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy to maximise nature recovery opportunities/benefits

## **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 In progressing the Local Plan the other option which was considered was accelerating preparation of the Local Plan in order that the transitional arrangements published by the government alongside the revised NPPF could be met. However, it was concluded that this would be impossible in a way that ensured the Local Plan would have been found sound at examination. Therefore, progressing the reset Local Plan to the programme set out in the LDS (and summarised in para 3.7 of this report) is the only appropriate course of action.

## **10 CONSULTATION**

10.1 In preparing this Report the Cabinet Member for Built Environment, Housing and Sustainable Development, the Executive Director for Sustainable Development, the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer have been consulted. It has been cleared for publication by the S151 and Monitoring Officer.

10.2 As part of preparing the Local Plan Reset Options document the council has engaged with residents and other stakeholders in explaining what a Local Plan is, the implications of the revised NPPF and increased figure of housing need,



the need to reset the Local Plan, test and consult on additional options and the next steps. The aim of this engagement prior to consultation on the Local Plan Reset Options document has been to increase understanding of local plan-making and to raise awareness of the issues to be addressed. It is hoped that this will help to increase the reach of consultation and engagement moving forward.

- 10.3 Broadening the reach of engagement and consultation on the Local Plan is crucial. In particular, the council is seeking to better involve younger people and families including those that don't own their own home. Engagement and consultation will also target seldom heard groups and ensure equality of opportunity to comment. In broadening engagement the council is using innovative methods and has set a target of engaging 10% of the population in the preparation of the Local Plan.
- 10.4 Consultation on the Local Plan Reset options document will take place between 3<sup>rd</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November. Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the council's published Statement of Community Involvement and a range of innovative engagement/consultation methods will be used. These are set out in more detail in the Communications and Engagement Plan (Attachment 2) and include:
- New tailored and user-friendly Local Plan web platform
  - In-person consultation events/exhibitions and on-line briefings
  - Roadshow going to various places across B&NES
  - Meetings with community representatives, including parish & town councils, stakeholders and ward councillors
  - Meetings and workshops with other stakeholders, including landowners and developers and Duty to Co-operate prescribed bodies
  - Tailored engagement with a number of seldom heard groups/networks
  - Publication of documents for consultation and comment including via the web platform above
- 10.5 The council will clearly communicate consultation on the Reset Local Plan Options document and is also aligning it with other relevant consultations, including the Movement Strategy for Bath and the Somer Valley Draft Design Guidance Supplementary Planning Document.
- 10.6 Following consultation stakeholder engagement will continue in both preparing the Draft Local Plan and through formal consultation on the Draft Local Plan under Regulation 19. The programme for the next stages of Local Plan preparation is set out in the Local Development Scheme which will be updated as necessary.

<b>Contact person</b>	<i>Richard Daone, Deputy Head of Planning - 01225 477546</i>
<b>Background papers</b>	<i>Local Plan 2022-2042 Options document (February 2024): <a href="https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Options%20Document.pdf">https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Options%20Document.pdf</a></i>

**Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format**

# Local Plan

Options consultation

Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel

23 October 2025

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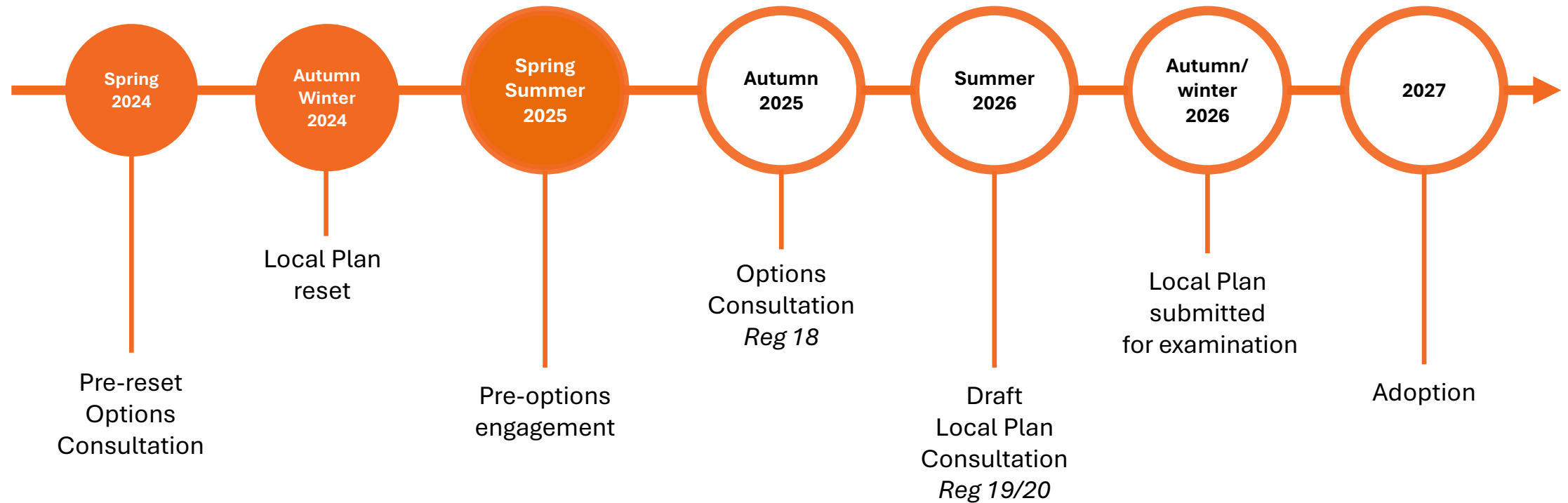
Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

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Improving People's Lives

# Local Plan Programme

Page 32



# ***District-wide requirements and approach***

# District-wide requirements and priorities

- Need for more housing, especially more affordable housing\* – access to a decent home and impact on economy
- Economy – transition to more prosperous, sustainable and fairer economy
- Climate and nature – delivering places that minimise carbon impact, more resilient to climate change and facilitate nature recovery
- Housing requirement more than doubled by government: 725 per annum to 1,500 per annum. 27,000 over Local Plan period (around half of this is affordable housing)
- Job growth: 25,000 over same period to maintain balance. Facilitate provision of significant employment space
- Importance of infrastructure investment to unlock and support development

*\* Affordable housing = housing where purchase price or rent is subsidised, typical tenures are social rented; shared ownership; discounted rent or purchase price*

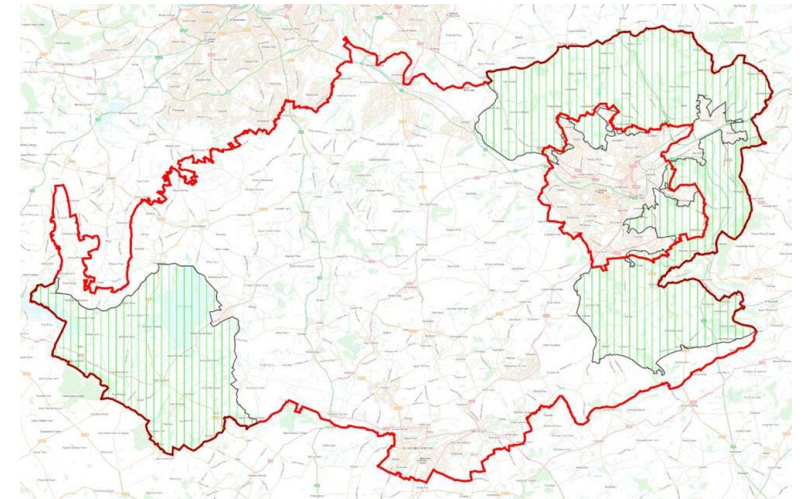
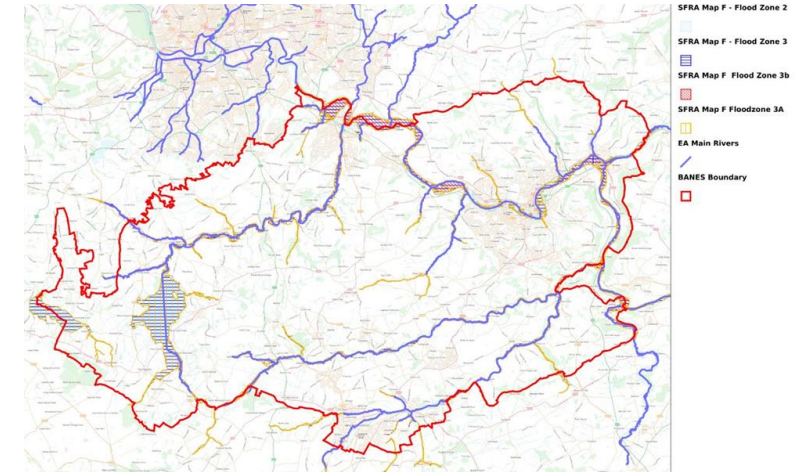
# Options: strategy

- Meeting district-wide requirements (from government/evidence base)
- Place shaping approach – importance of development helping to create attractive, healthy and sustainable places
- Spatial strategy will focus development on better/more sustainably connected places – focus on Bristol to Bath corridor and the Somer Valley
- Most development on strategic sites – maximise infrastructure investment/other benefits
- Diversity of supply – still need some smaller/non-strategic site options
- Options – all reasonable/evidence-based options tested – not all will need to be allocated in Draft Plan
- Place-based chapters with clear articulation of issues/challenges and emerging vision/priorities
- Maps outlining proposed options at a place level and for individual site options
- Options rated with regards to current sustainable connectivity

# Key strategy principles

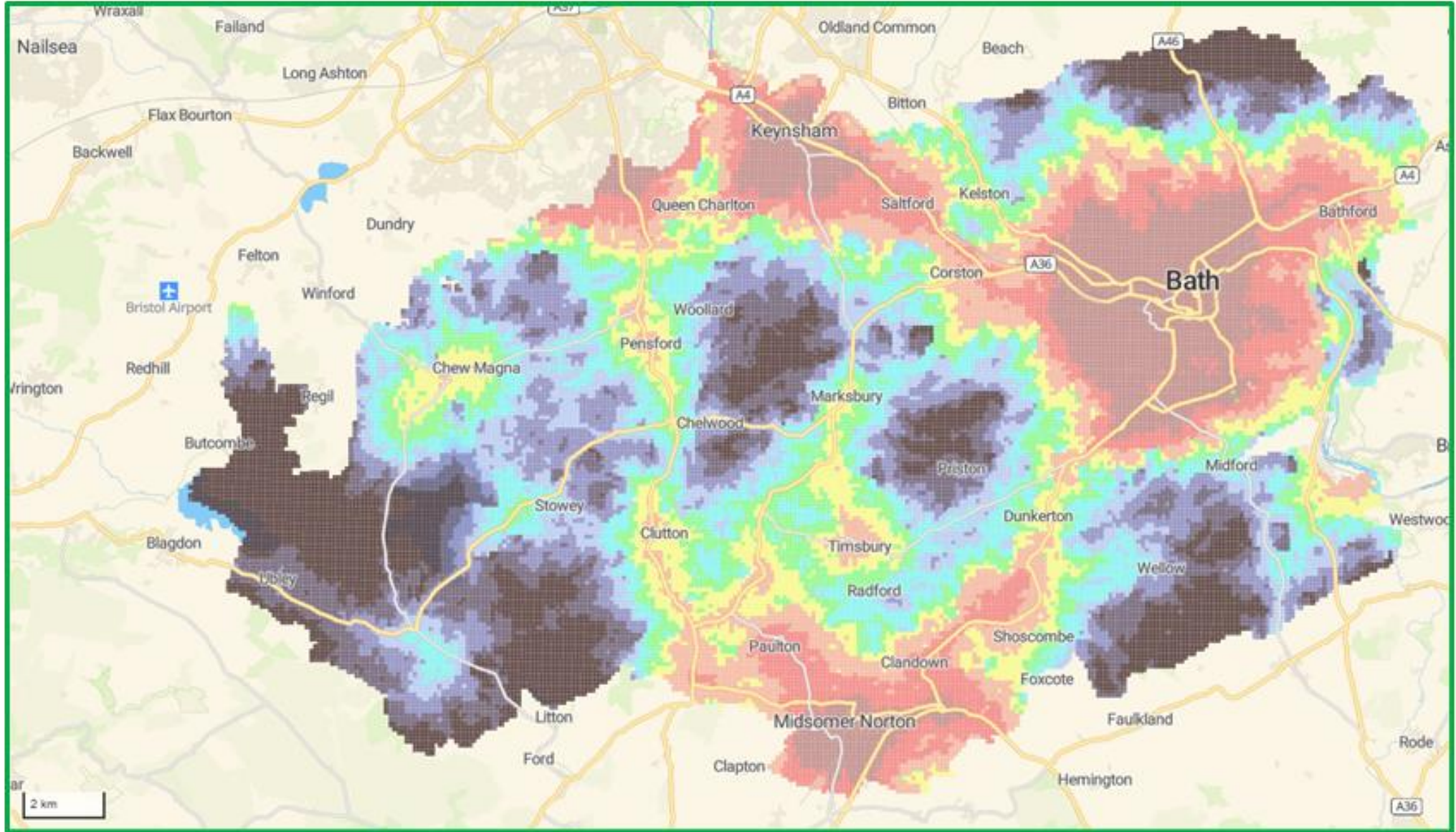
Spatial strategy and choice of development options shaped by:

- Sustainable transport connectivity
- Flood risk
- Local food production
- Biodiversity/nature recovery
- Landscape/historic environment impact
- Green Belt impact
- Infrastructure constraints and solutions
- Ground conditions
- Air quality

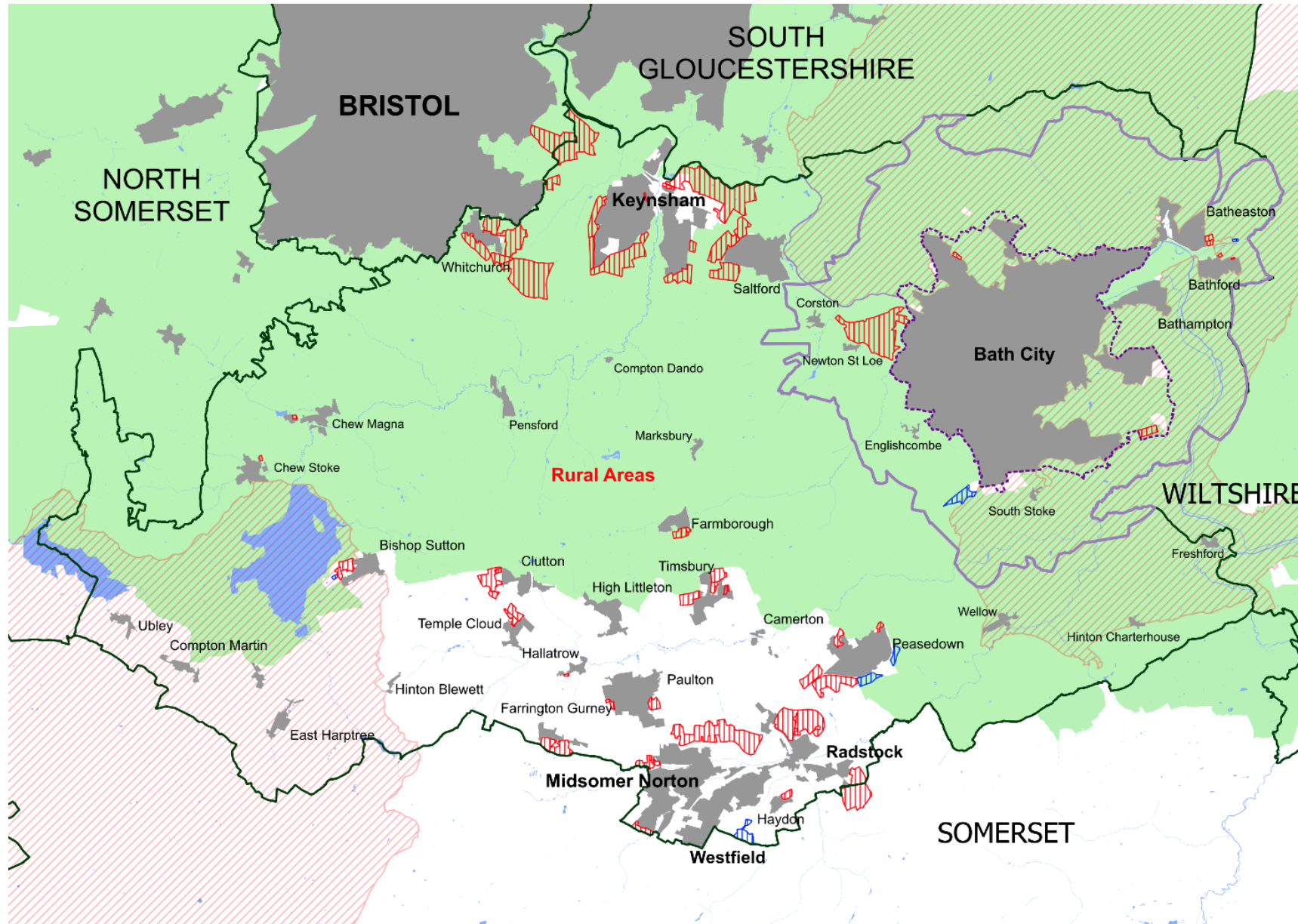




# Sustainable Transport connectivity



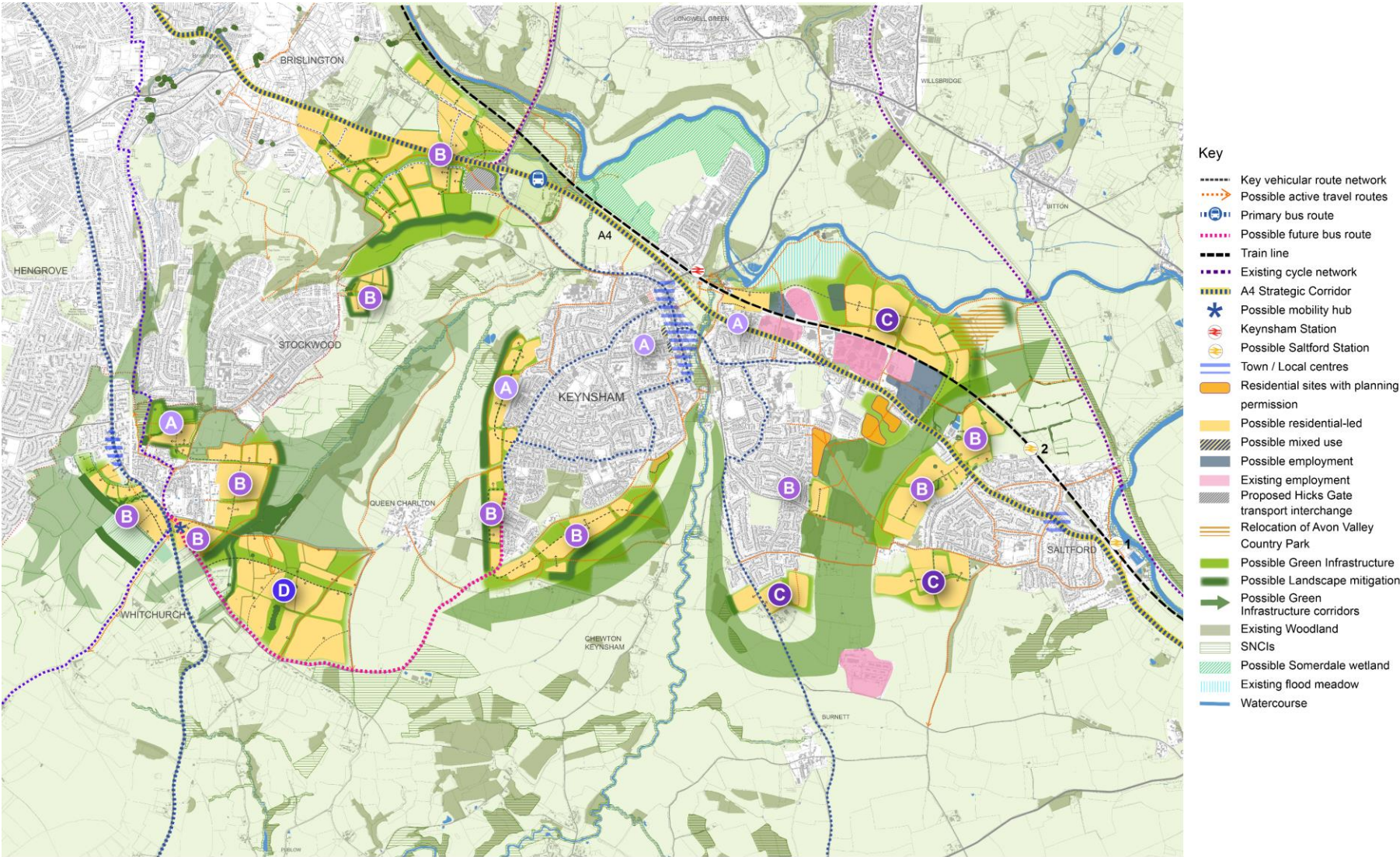
# District-wide options



# ***Site options by sub-area/place***



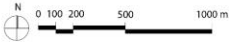
# Bristol to Bath corridor



Current Site Connectivity - Possible residential-led development

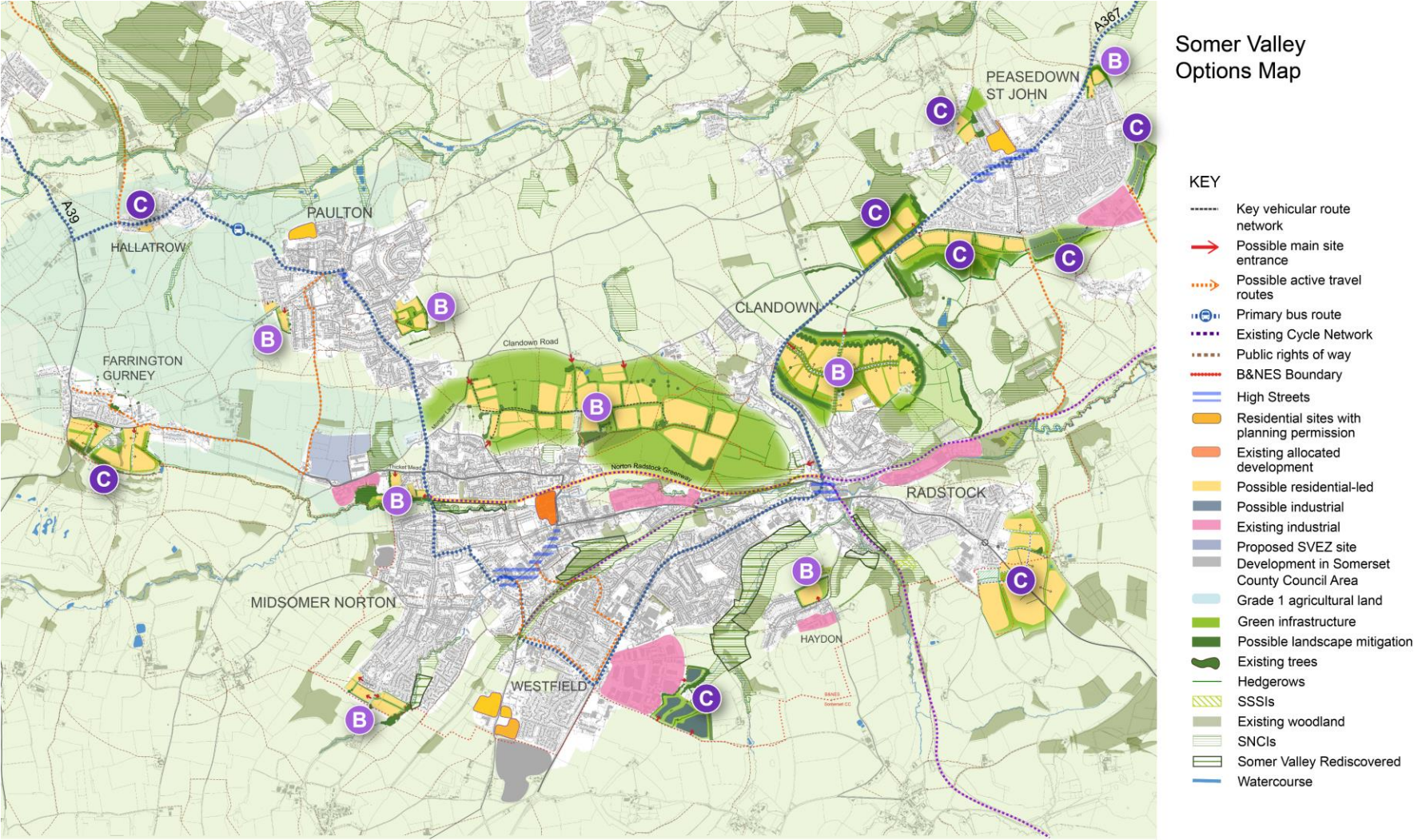
A A-rated B B-rated C C-rated D D-rated E E-rated F F-rated

The grading within the map illustrates the current transport connectivity by sustainable means based on the existing network, where A indicates the highest level of connectivity. They are intended for reference only. They do not account for future infrastructure improvements, which are expected to enhance connectivity in line with the emerging transport vision.





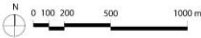
# Somer Valley



Current Site Connectivity - Possible residential-led development

**A** A-rated   **B** B-rated   **C** C-rated   **D** D-rated   **E** E-rated   **F** F-rated

The grading within the map illustrates the current transport connectivity by sustainable means based on the existing network, where A indicates the highest level of connectivity. They are intended for reference only. They do not account for future infrastructure improvements, which are expected to enhance connectivity in line with the emerging transport vision.

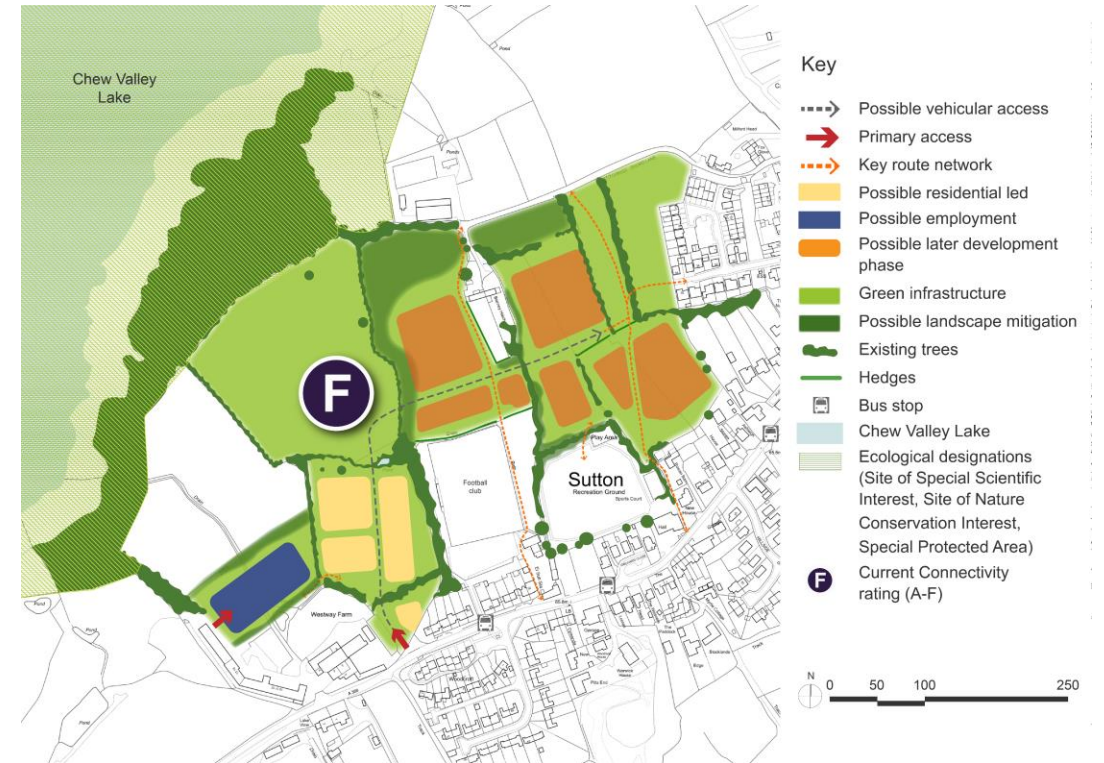
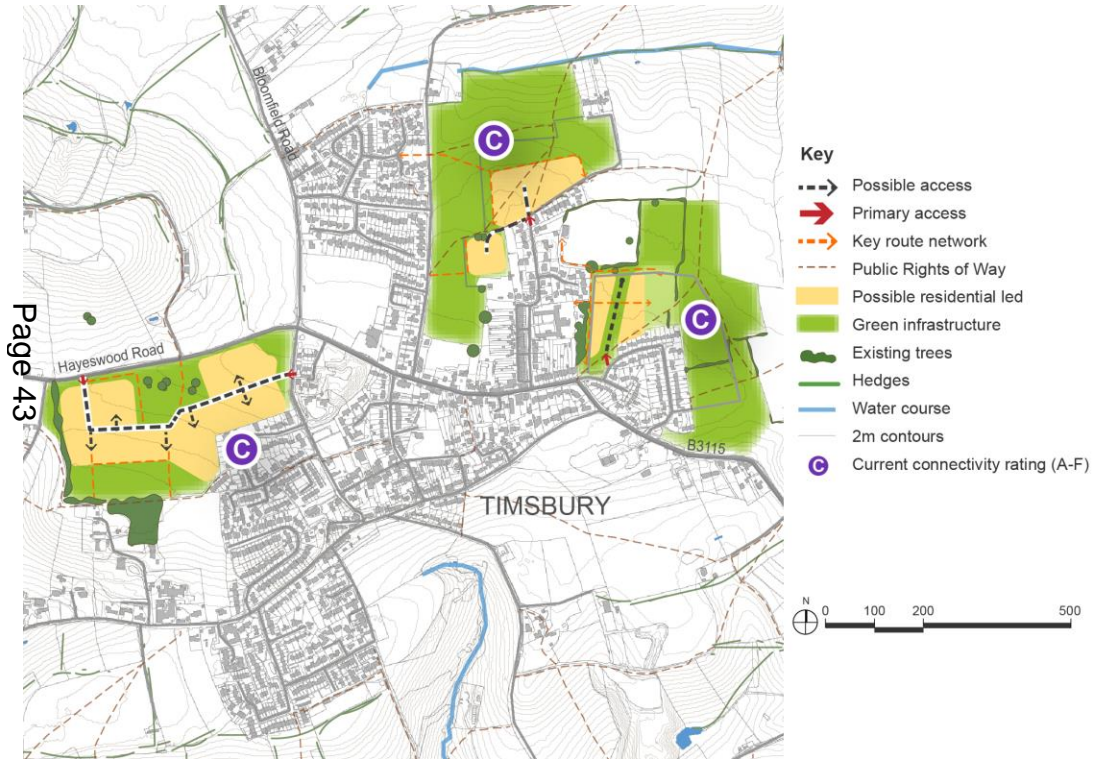




# West of Bath



# Rural – example options



# ***Development Management Policy Options***



# Development Management Policies

- Development Management policy approaches only to be included where there are new options
- National Development Management Policies anticipated imminently
- Key Development Management policy areas for this options consultation include:
  - *Climate adaptation/resilience*
  - *Retrofit first*
  - *Renewable energy – safeguarded areas*
  - *Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)*
  - *Employment sites protection*
  - *Gypsies and Travellers*
  - *Housing Development Boundaries (HDBs) review*
  - *Waste*

# *Engagement and Consultation*

# Engagement & Consultation - Opportunity



## A new approach

The resetting of the Local Plan has provided the Council with the opportunity to review its approach to engagement and consultation.

## The ambition

- Increase the quality and quantity of outreach and feedback (target engage 20k people);
- Going to where people are - roadshow/drop-in at 60 locations;
- Engage with community representatives including parishes
- New web platform, video and creative content, interactive maps  
<https://bathnesplaces.co.uk/localplan/>
- Involve Seldom Heard Groups



# Consultation roadshow/events

Dates	Location
7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Bath (central and sub-urban)
9 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Somer Valley
13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Keynsham, Salford, Whitchurch and Hicks Gate
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Bath (sub-urban)
21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Rural villages
24 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Chew Valley
27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Multiple (half term activities)
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Bath (central and sub-urban)

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>CES Scrutiny Panel</b>
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b>23 OCTOBER 2025</b>
TITLE:	<b>The Movement Strategy for Bath</b>
WARD:	All

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 Transport accounts for 36% of carbon related emissions within Bath and North East Somerset Council, impacting the Council goal to achieve Net Zero by 2030. Following the Journey to Net Zero Strategy in 2021, a Circulation Plan, now named a Movement Strategy was identified to recognise Bath's historic layout and constrained road network. The Movement Strategy proposes a shift away from years of car dependency by improving alternatives such as walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport. This will not only reduce transport emissions and congestion but also enhance the quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in, or visits the city.

## **2 THE REPORT**

- 2.1 In 2021, Bath & North East Somerset Council pledged to introduce a circulation plan as a standalone project as part of the Journey to Net Zero (J2NZ) document. Since then, this commitment has evolved into a comprehensive Movement Strategy. Why do we need a Movement Strategy?
- (1) Transport accounts for over 30% of Bath's carbon emissions and nitrogen dioxide emissions from transport has been linked to over 300 premature deaths a year in the West of England
  - (2) 36% of trips happen entirely within the city—many are short and could be walked, wheeled or cycled
  - (3) Public transport is often delayed by traffic, making it less reliable. Only 62% are satisfied with bus reliability and punctuality within B&NES
- 2.2 It's not just about congestion, but about how people move, how space is shared, and how we can shape a more sustainable, inclusive future for Bath.
- 2.3 Currently, around 294,000 trips are made each day on the Bath transport network, comprising journeys within the city, to and from Bath, and through Bath. With the expected population growth in the region over the next 10 years, if no

intervention is made, forecasts suggest an increase of 21,000 additional daily trips (7% growth). When considered alongside the wider West of England region, congestion is estimated to cost the regional economy approximately £800,000 per day, driven by lost productivity, longer journey times, and reduced reliability across the transport network.

2.4 A Movement Strategy is required to reimagine how we use, and view, our streets. It should aim to rebalance the city's transport network to better serve residents, businesses and visitors, while supporting our climate goals. The objectives underpinning the Movement Strategy reflect the Council's Corporate Strategy:

- (1) Create a high-quality place – this aligns with the Corporate Strategy to provide healthy lives and places. This involves working with health and other partners to tackle inequalities, promote healthy places, and support people to live healthier lives
- (2) Improve travel choices – this aligns with the Corporate Strategy to provide more travel choices, making it easier for people to walk, wheel and use public transport to reduce transport emissions.
- (3) Reduce vehicular traffic volumes – this aligns with the Corporate Strategy to create clean, safe and vibrant neighbourhoods. This would be achieved by working with local communities to promote civic pride and preventative approaches.

2.5 A Movement Strategy is necessary to provide the framework for delivering the Journey to Net Zero ambitions. The Strategy should identify measures, specifically for the city of Bath, that will help to significantly reduce transport-related emissions.

2.6 The Council will consult on a draft Movement Strategy from Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November. The aim of the consultation will be to listen to residents. The consultation is proposed to be conducted jointly with the Local Plan public consultation to make it easier for a wide range of people to have their say.

2.7 Following the public consultation the Movement Strategy will be revised to reflect the comments made and adopted in 2026.

### **3 CLIMATE CHANGE**

3.1 The Movement Strategy sets out a shift away from decades of car dependency by prioritising sustainable travel options such as walking, wheeling, cycling, and public transport. This shift is designed to reduce transport-related carbon emissions and congestion, while also improving air quality and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors.

3.2 Once implemented, the strategy will directly support the Council's commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. By reducing reliance on private vehicles and encouraging low-carbon modes of transport, the strategy will help to lower one of the largest contributors of local emissions. In doing so, it will also increase our climate resilience, making the city better prepared for the environmental challenges ahead.

## 4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 An alternative to delivering the Movement Strategy would be to take no action. However, this option was rejected as Bath and North East Somerset Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. Without a plan in place, future growth would likely lead to increased congestion and rising transport emissions, undermining the Council's environmental commitments.
- 4.2 The Movement Strategy analysis confirmed that with no action taken, there will be a 7% increase in total car journeys over a 10-year period, resulting in additional transport related emissions.
- 4.3 The Movement Strategy represents the next critical step in achieving the carbon reduction targets set out in the Journey to Net Zero. It provides a proactive and coordinated approach to managing transport demand, reducing emissions, and supporting sustainable development within Bath.

<b>Contact person</b>	Samantha Taylor, Senior Engineer – Strategic Transport Projects
<b>Background papers</b>	See the website for the main report and appendices: <a href="https://banestransport.co.uk/">https://banestransport.co.uk/</a>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	

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<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>			
MEETING	<b>Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b>		
MEETING DATE:	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:	
TITLE:	<b>Annual Climate and Nature Progress Report 2025</b>		
WARD:	All		
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>			
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>			
Attachment1: Annual Climate and Nature Progress Report 2025			
Attachment 2: Action Plan Review 2025 (Annex A to the Annual Climate and Nature Progress Report)			
Attachment 3: Climate and Nature Resident Survey 2025_Summary Report			

## 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report updates the panel on the progress made in tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies in 2024-25, both as a Council and as a wider district.
- 1.2 This report notes that there is significant activity underway and planned within the Council and across the district to tackle both emergencies. It recognises that more action is needed if we are to meet our climate change targets and enable the district to become Net Zero by 2030, as set out in the Corporate Strategy 2023-27.

## 2 RECOMMENDATION

### The Panel is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the progress made in tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies during 2024-25, as set out in the Attachments.
- 2.2 Approve the Annual Climate & Nature Progress Report before presentation of the Report to Council on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

### 3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Council's commitment to delivering against the Climate and Ecological Emergencies declared in 2019 and 2020 remains as strong as ever. Whilst the Climate and Ecological Emergencies are not the same, they are linked and share causes and solutions. The Council recognises it has an important role to play in tackling both emergencies, through a combination of its own delivery and enabling others to take action.
- 3.2 This year the Council continued to invest in tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies and is grateful for continued partnership working that enables it to reach further towards a low carbon, nature positive and climate resilient district. Tackling climate change will help support the recovery of nature and vice versa and we work where possible to deliver benefits for both emergencies together and the community, for example as we bring forward updated Local Plan proposals.
- 3.3 The Council has made progress reducing emissions on our own estate, reducing our Scope 1 and 2 Emissions by 44% since our baseline year of 2016-17. In February, we agreed to set aside the budget to electrify our waste fleet as vehicles become due for replacement, as well as to decarbonise more of our own buildings. We have continued to install upgrades, including solar PV at Bath Sports and Leisure Centre and have been successful in securing a further £312k from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to upgrade Carrswood Adult Day Centre and the Civic Centre in Keynsham.
- 3.4 The most recent territorial emissions data, reported by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), shows the steady progress that is being made to reduce emissions across Bath and North East Somerset. Emissions per capita have decreased by 53% since 2005 to 3.4tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person per year, ahead of England and South-West decreases.
- 3.5 Progress to reduce emissions sufficiently quickly towards Net Zero is challenging, however. Greenhouse gas emissions across BANES arise from all the services supporting civic life, the approximately 8,535 businesses, 79,250 homes, and the 3,250,000 km driven each day on our roads, as well as from agriculture. They are the result of many thousands of decisions by residents, visitors and businesses as well as national, regional and local government action and policies.
- 3.6 Between 2005 and 2023, greenhouse gas emissions for the district fell by 46%. The 2022 to 2023 drop of 46 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e was driven by decreases in domestic emissions, public sector, industry and commercial sector emissions. While this annual decrease continues the downward trend in our area's emissions reduction, the district is not on track to achieve net zero by 2030, in common with other local authorities and the national pathway.
- 3.7 The Council is proud to have worked with regional partners to develop the first Local Nature Recovery Strategy in England and delighted to be part of a consortium of partners, led by the Forest of Avon, who were successful in securing funding to develop the first new national forest in 30 years. This new forest will span Bath and North East Somerset (BANES), North Somerset, Bristol, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire and aims to create at least 2500 hectares of new woodland and other tree habitats in its first five years.

- 3.8 We have also made significant progress on our ability to monitor the state of nature across the district. We have calculated the land being managed for nature across our own estate, and we have worked with WECA and neighbouring local authorities to establish a baseline for land managed for nature in BANES and to develop a regional 'wildlife index'.
- 3.9 We have progressed our own Green Infrastructure delivery programme, providing benefits for nature, health and climate resilience. We have developed new Green Infrastructure Standards and a revised Local Plan Green Infrastructure policy.
- 3.10 The approach to the Local Plan has been reset due to updates to national Planning Policy, and we are still ensuring it will be our most ambitious for nature recovery. We are exploring the option of requiring 20% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), rather than the mandatory 10%, and planned policies include a requirement for sustainable drainage systems and local targets for tree cover.
- 3.11 The Council's regional work has also expanded on climate. We are an active participant in regional energy planning project Mission Net Zero, a £5m initiative, funded by Innovate UK, to accelerate the West of England's transition to Net Zero. We are also contributing to work on regional climate resilience chaired by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (WECA). This complements a project running internally this year to understand how we need to adapt our services as the impacts of climate change are felt.
- 3.12 In Spring 2025, over 800 residents told us how they felt about the state of climate and nature, what they had been doing and why, as well as what the Council could support more of. The most important issues raised were around water, how we restore nature, the energy we use and how we travel. Next was concern about the waste we produce and how we prepare for the impacts of climate change.
- 3.13 Feedback as to how the Council could play a greater role included improving transport options, enabling more energy efficient housing upgrades, protecting and increasing green spaces as well as pursuing stronger policies, enforcement, leadership, and lobbying higher government.
- 3.14 This survey complements the Council's annual Voicebox survey that this year was answered by 1072 residents. This survey told us that access to nature and green spaces was the most important to them in making somewhere a good place to live, alongside affordable, decent housing and the level of crime & antisocial behaviour.
- 3.15 The detailed feedback shared is helping guide us as we update our Climate and Nature Strategy to focus council action, as well as prepare for more community conversations about the roles we all play.

## **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 Annual Climate & Nature Progress Report outlines the next steps that are covered by existing budgets or notes where there are resource constraints associated with delivery. Business case development will be undertaken and opportunities to increase external funding will be sought.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 This report recommends that Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel note the positive progress achieved over the past year across the priorities set out in the Climate Emergency Strategy and Ecological Emergency Action Plan. As such, a risk assessment has not been conducted in relation to this report.

## **7 EQUALITIES**

- 7.1 An EIA has not been carried out as this is a report on progress, not new policy. It should be noted that actions to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergencies have benefits that extend beyond just climate and nature. Home energy efficiency improvements and domestic retrofit can reduce household energy bills. Improved access to public transport and active travel can improve health outcomes and reduce social isolation. Access to nature and green social prescribing can have positive impacts for people experience limiting health conditions.

## **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 8.1 This Report provides a direct update on the Council's progress towards tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, built on the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declarations in 2019 and 2020 respectively. It delivers on our commitment to report annually.
- 8.2 The Report presents the combined actions of services across the Council and where the Council has worked in partnership and sets out the next steps across the identified priority areas for climate (decarbonising buildings, decarbonising transport, increasing renewable energy generation and decarbonising council operations) and ecology (leadership and evidence, land and water management, nature-based solutions, access and engagement, evidence and monitoring, and working in partnership).

## **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 None – providing an annual progress report was a commitment set out in the Climate Emergency Strategy and Ecological Emergency Action Plan.

## **10 CONSULTATION**

This report has been reviewed and cleared by the Executive Director of Sustainable Communities, the Head of Legal Service & Monitoring Officer, and the Council's S151 Officer.

<b>Contact person</b>	Jackie Clayton, Head of Place Shaping jackie_clayton@bathnes.gov.uk
<b>Background papers</b>	Climate Emergency Strategy – available online - <a href="https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/read-our-climate-strategy-and-action-plan">https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/read-our-climate-strategy-and-action-plan</a>  Ecological Emergency Action Plan – available online - <a href="https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/ecological-emergency-action-plan">https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/ecological-emergency-action-plan</a>  <a href="#">Corporate Strategy 2023-27</a>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	

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Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

# Bath & North East Somerset Annual Climate and Nature Progress Report 2024-2025



TACKLING THE CLIMATE &  
ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

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## Foreword

Our commitment to delivering against the Climate and Ecological Emergencies declared in 2019 and 2020 remains as strong as ever. I hope that the progress set out in this update helps convey this commitment, as well as encouraging everyone across our communities to act where they can.

Whilst the Climate and Ecological Emergencies are not the same, they are linked and share causes and solutions. The Council recognises it has an important role to play in tackling both emergencies, through a combination of its own delivery and enabling others to take action.

This year we have continued to invest in tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, and we are grateful for continued partnership working that enables us to reach further towards a low carbon, nature positive and climate resilient district. Tackling climate change will help support the recovery of nature and vice versa and we work where possible to deliver benefits for both emergencies together and the community, for example as we bring forward updated Local Plan proposals.

We have made progress reducing emissions on our own estate. In February, we agreed to set aside the budget to electrify our waste fleet as vehicles become due for replacement, as well as to decarbonise more of our own buildings. We have continued to install upgrades, including solar PV at Bath Sports and Leisure Centre and have been successful in securing a further £312k from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to upgrade Carrswood Adult Day Centre and the Civic Centre in Keynsham.

**Councillor Sarah Warren,  
Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet  
Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel**



We are proud to have worked with regional partners to develop the first Local Nature Recovery Strategy in England and delighted to be part of a consortium of partners, led by the Forest of Avon, who were successful in securing funding to develop the first new national forest in 30 years. This new forest will span Bath and North East Somerset (BANES), North Somerset, Bristol, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire and aims to create at least 2500 hectares of new woodland and other tree habitats in its first five years.

Our regional work has also expanded on climate. We are an active participant in regional energy planning project Mission Net Zero, a £5m initiative, funded by Innovate UK, to accelerate the West of England's transition to Net Zero. We are also contributing to work on regional climate resilience chaired by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (WECA). This complements a project running internally this year to understand how we need to adapt our services as the impacts of climate change are felt.

I would like to thank the over 800 residents who took the time to share feedback on what matters to them as part of our Spring 2025 climate and nature survey, as well as those who came to workshops in Midsomer Norton and Bathavon North. These views are helping us shape our new combined Climate and Nature Strategy that will consider additional topics such as the food we eat, the resources we use and the impacts we can have on our water and rivers. It is only by working together that we will deliver the needed work to become more resilient, reduce our emissions, adapt to the changing climate and restore nature.

# Working with Communities – Community Feedback

**Working with our local communities is an important part of delivering action for climate and nature. By encouraging individuals to share their views, take action and connect with local landscapes we can tackle the climate and ecological emergencies together. This section shares some of the highlights of our work with communities.**

- In Spring 2025, over 800 residents told us how they felt about the state of climate and nature, what they had been doing and why, as well as what the Council could support more of.
- The most important issues raised were around water, how we restore nature, the energy we use and how we travel. Next was concern about the waste we produce and how we prepare for the impacts of climate change.
- Feedback as to how the Council could play a greater role included improving transport options, enabling more energy efficient housing upgrades, protecting and increasing green spaces as well as pursuing stronger policies, enforcement, leadership, and lobbying higher government.
- This survey complements the Council's annual Voicebox survey that this year was answered by 1072 residents. This survey told us that access to nature and green spaces was the most important to them in making somewhere a good place to live, alongside affordable, decent housing and the level of crime & antisocial behaviour.
- The detailed feedback shared is helping guide us as we update our Climate and Nature Strategy to focus council action, as well as prepare for more community conversations about the roles we all play.

## CASE STUDY: Community Conversations

In Autumn 2024, we hosted two Community Conversation events to hear residents' views on climate and nature. Held in Batheaston and Midsomer Norton, the sessions welcomed a total of 58 attendees. Council representatives joined table discussions to help facilitate conversations on key themes of transport, waste & consumption, nature & wildlife, buildings & energy, and food.

Alongside these guided discussions, participants were free to explore the room and connect with local organisations who shared information on their work in the area. Organisations represented included Bath and West Community Energy, the Climate Hub, the Centre for Sustainable Energy, and Grow Batheaston.

The events highlighted a wide range of community-led actions already underway and active groups working across all discussion themes. They also sparked ideas for new initiatives and helped build connections between residents.



**Midsomer Norton  
Community Conversation,  
November 2024**

## Working with Communities - Nature

- One of the key themes of our Bath River Line (BRL) project has been 'working with communities', particularly students and schoolchildren. The 'Life on Water' exhibition showcased powerful photographic stories exploring life along the River Avon created by photography students. Supported by the BRL team from January to June, students received mentoring, networking opportunities, and a behind-the-scenes visit to Avon Fire and Rescue.
- We ran a workshop for Year 5 and Year 6 students at Somerdale School looking at river biodiversity, natural flood management and water quality. The children engaged really well with the session and came away with a better understanding of the natural environment surrounding Somerdale.
- Our Neighbourhood Nature Areas scheme has enabled more local residents to improve the value of areas that we currently manage, such as road verges and small open spaces, for nature. We now have a total of 33 sites where residents are managing sites, with our most recent survey showing positive outcomes for people and nature.
- Our Landscape City Project has been working with local communities and 'friends of' groups to set up new volunteering opportunities, which will help bring more woodlands and species-rich grassland in Bath into positive management for nature. The Project has also engaged with local communities to inform plans to develop a new 'eco-hub' at Entry Hill Golf Course.

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### CASE STUDY: Charlcombe Community Nature Reserve

Volunteers are transforming former grazing land at a Council-owned site in the Charlcombe Valley into a thriving community nature reserve.

Using funding received through our Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Policy, we have entered into a long-term partnership with the recently set-up Friends of Charlcombe Community Nature Reserve to improve the 6.5-hectare site for people and wildlife.

Local volunteers have already spent over 300 hours on making improvements to the site, with the Council's Parks Team cutting areas of the reserve to create conditions for wildflowers to thrive. This is happening alongside the development of a longer-term Land Management Plan for the site.

The Friends of Group have been engaging local 'citizen scientists' to record the wildlife that already calls the site home, including twenty species of butterfly! They have also been asking local residents to share their ideas for improving the site for nature.



**Charlcombe  
Community Nature  
Reserve**

# Working with Communities

## CASE STUDY: Developing a New Food Strategy

Bath and North East Somerset is developing a new food strategy with one of the key focuses being on the sustainability of our food and where it comes from.

The first in a series of workshops took place in May 2025, marking a successful start towards our aim of a community driven strategy. More than 60 stakeholders—from food producers and local businesses to representatives from education, health, and the voluntary sector—came together to shape our vision for more inclusive & sustainable food in B&NES.

Guided by the Sustainable Food Places framework, participants explored five core themes and engaged in lively discussions to identify priorities, challenges, and opportunities. With 100% positive feedback and lots of great insights, the workshop has been a great starting point for our community-led strategy.



**Workshop 1 developing the new Food Strategy, May 2025**

## CASE STUDIES: Reducing Food Waste

Tackling food waste is a key objective of the Council's zero waste strategy. In 2025 and into 2026, we are focused on delivering a weekly food waste recycling service to residents in central Bath. This work will make sure all homes in B&NES can regularly recycle food waste. The waste team has also partnered with Curo this Autumn to run targeted engagement to increase awareness and use of the food and wider recycling services.

### Electrical waste recycling workshops for schools

In Spring 2025, the Council's waste project team coordinated a programme of educational workshops to 12 local primary schools, reaching around 500 pupils. The workshops were held in the training room at Keynsham Recycling Hub where pupils were able to look out over the public recycling centre and rear operational yard. Sessions were also held within schools to ensure wider reach and accessibility.

The workshops were funded using a social value contribution from Valpak, the Council's electrical compliance contractor. The Council partnered with Sustainable Hive and Bath Share and Repair, to deliver the workshops for Year 5 and 6 pupils. The sessions focused on practical activities on how to identify and appropriately recycle electrical waste and wider learning on the recycling services provided in B&NES.



# Climate Emergency



# Tackling the Climate Emergency

Our 2019 Climate Emergency Strategy sets our ambition and priorities to tackle the Climate Emergency, with actions targeted across the Bath and North East Somerset area and our own operations. Our four priorities are to:

1. Decarbonise Buildings;
2. Decarbonise Transport;
3. Increase Renewable Energy Generation; and
4. Decarbonise the Council's own operations.

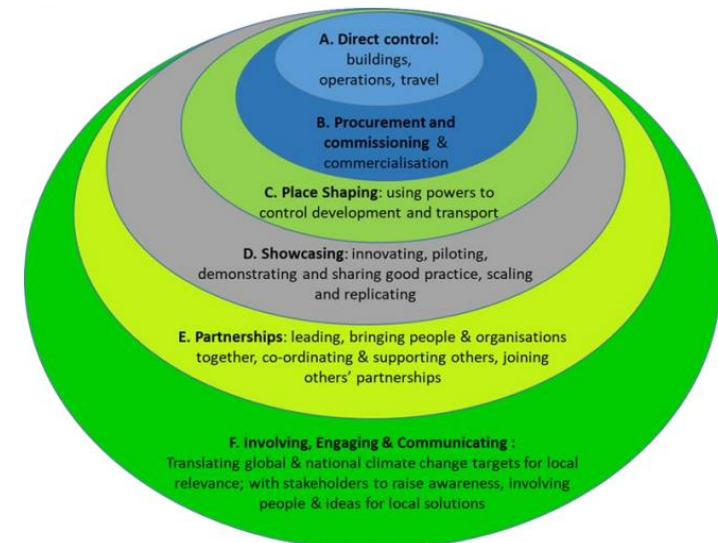
Our principles for delivery of these priorities include working in partnership, providing leadership, including in place shaping, and enabling community action.

In 2025, BANES was ranked 17<sup>th</sup> of UK local authorities by Climate Scorecards UK, which assesses action across seven categories: buildings & heating, transport, planning & land use, governance & finance, biodiversity, governance & finance, and waste reduction & food. This placed us 4<sup>th</sup> outside of London boroughs, 2 percentage points behind the cities of Bristol, Edinburgh and Glasgow<sup>[1]</sup>.

We were delighted to see our overall score increase due to improved action on sustainable transport, collaboration & engagement and waste reduction & food and are a 'top performing council' for planning & land use and buildings & heating. We continue to use the framework to inform our priorities.

In 2024, B&NES were once again awarded a B Score from the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), for our progress on tackling the climate emergency. Last year, nearly 100 states and regions around the world disclosed their climate data in this way.

## How Local Authorities Control and Influence Emissions

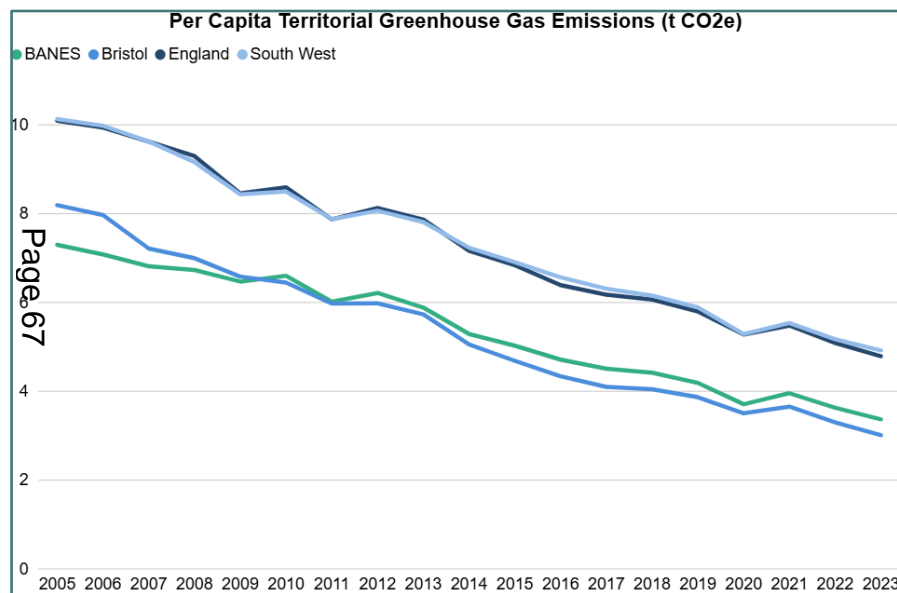


Source: Coxcoo, R. & Roberts, S. (2020) *Climate Action Planning Tool for Local Authorities*, Centre for Sustainable Energy. <https://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2541>

The Climate Change Committee estimates that local authorities in the UK have power or influence over a third of emissions in their local areas<sup>[2]</sup>. We therefore prioritise action where we can have the most impact and deliver for residents.

## Tackling the Climate Emergency

The latest territorial emissions data, reported by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), shows the steady progress that is being made to reduce emissions across BANES. Emissions per capita have decreased by 53% since 2005 to 3.4tCO<sub>2</sub>e per person per year, ahead of England and South-West decreases [3].



Progress to reduce emissions sufficiently quickly towards Net Zero is challenging, however. Greenhouse gas emissions across BANES arise from all the services supporting civic life, the approximately 8,535 businesses [4], 79,250 homes [5], and the 3,250,000 km driven each day on our roads [6], as well as from agriculture. They are the result of many thousands of decisions by residents, visitors and businesses as well as national, regional and local government action and policies.

As a council, emissions from our own operations (Scope 1 and 2) account for <1% of the total territorial emissions for the wider BANES area. In alignment with our principles, we see tackling our own operational emissions as important work to provide local leadership on the Climate Emergency.

This year, as set out in this progress update, we have secured investment to significantly reduce emissions in two of the highest emissions areas of our own estate – our fleet and more of our own buildings. However, further progress may be restricted as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund that we have relied on to fund buildings decarbonisation has now been closed by national government and we wait to hear what might replace it.

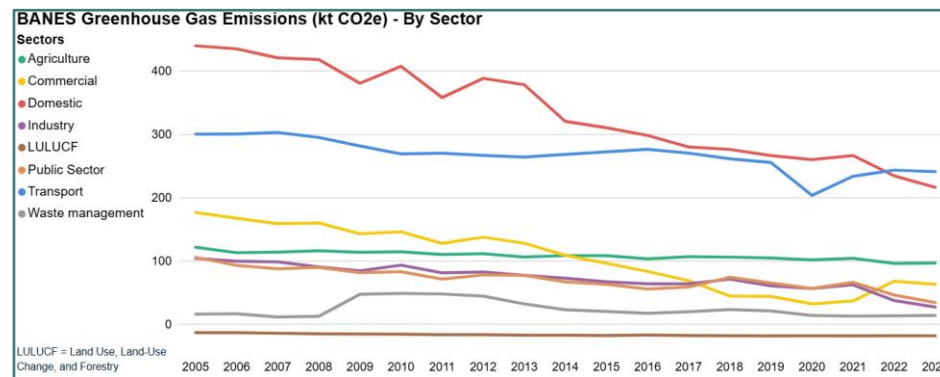
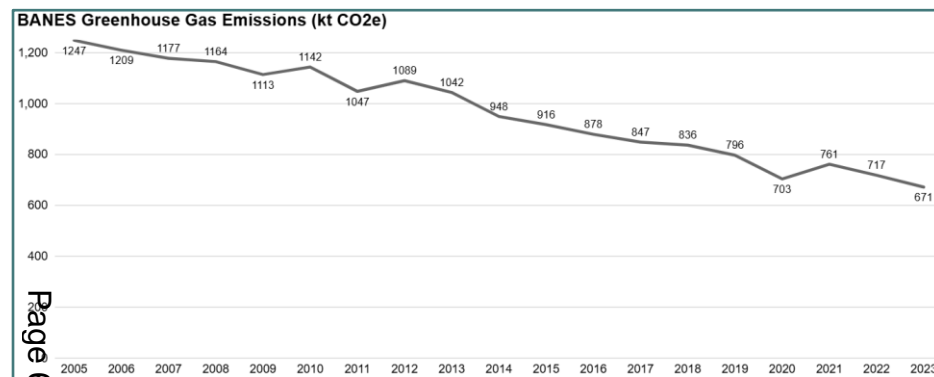
Alongside our own emissions reductions, we also work in partnership to support emissions reductions across the whole of the BANES area. This year we gained agreement from our Future Ambition Board to convene and work with civic partners more closely. We were also successful in a partnership bid from the National Lottery to establish a Community Energy Champions network to advise residents.

At regional level, are part of a new West of England Climate Resilience Working Group and contributed to work to assess risks across the region. At the same time, we progressed our own Green Infrastructure delivery programme, providing benefits for nature, health and climate resilience. We have developed new Green Infrastructure Standards and a revised Local Plan Green Infrastructure policy.

# Where We Are Now – Decarbonising Bath and North East Somerset

The graphs below shows the territorial emissions for the Bath and North East Somerset district<sup>[3]</sup>.

Territorial emissions cover emissions that occur within the UK's borders and are used to track UK-wide progress towards international and domestic targets. Territorial emissions arise from use of gas, petrol and diesel (direct) and electricity (indirect), including from domestic, transport, public sector, commercial, industry, agriculture, land use, land use change and forestry, and waste management sources.



Between 2005 and 2023, greenhouse gas emissions for the district fell by 46%. The 2022 to 2023 drop of 46 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e was driven by decreases in domestic emissions, public sector, industry and commercial sector emissions. While this annual decrease continues the downward trend in our area's emissions reduction, the district is not on track to achieve net zero by 2030, in common with other local authorities and the national pathway.

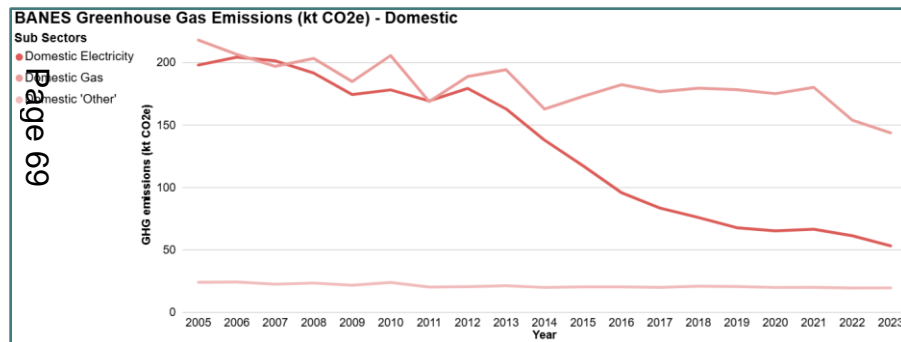
Transport (36%) and domestic (32%) emissions combined make up 68% of BANES territorial emissions. These sectors have been the two key sectors driving emissions since 2005 reporting began and have influenced the focus of the 2019 Climate Strategy reported on in this Progress Report. Commercial (9%), public sector (5%) and industry (4%) together contribute 18% of emissions and a proportion of these emissions will include energy use in buildings. Agriculture contributes 14% of territorial emissions and waste management 2%. Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) contributes a positive 3%.

Within the highest emitting sectors are the following Top 5 sub-sectors: domestic gas (21%), travel on minor roads (17%), travel on A roads (16%), agriculture livestock (10%) and domestic electricity (8%). Thereafter, commercial emissions from electricity (5%) and gas (4%), as well as public sector gas (3%) contribute 12% of territorial emissions.

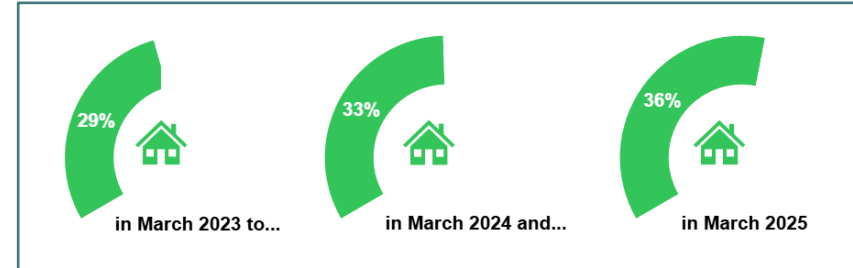


## Highlights: Decarbonising Buildings

Approximately one third of emissions in BANES come from electricity and gas used in our domestic buildings. The key domestic emissions challenge as a district is to replace gas. To do so also requires energy efficiency improvements, especially in older buildings, so that heat pumps can operate effectively and affordably. As a result, the B&NES 2019 Climate Strategy set out that 65,000 properties would need some kind of home upgrade. The below chart sets out progress to date<sup>[3]</sup>.



- There were 162 heat pumps installed for domestic buildings in BANES in the 2024-25 financial year<sup>[4]</sup>. In addition, 169 residents have completed a home assessment via Retrofit West, which provides a costed whole-house retrofit plan tailored to each home.
- EPCs are used to give broad efficiency ratings to buildings. The percentage of domestic homes in BANES with an EPC rating of A-C has increased from 29% in March 2023, to 36% in March 2025<sup>[5]</sup>.



- 22% of BANES privately owned homes have an EPC rating of C and above. 70% of social rented homes have reached that target. Social rented properties are reaching higher levels of energy efficiency as the government has previously set a mandatory target of EPC C by 2030 and has invested in this goal through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and the new Warm Homes: Social Grant.
- Residents in BANES remain able to access Retrofit West's services, and we continue to work to encourage uptake of grant funding and free retrofit home upgrade advice to residents and local businesses. Calls from people in BANES to the Warm Homes Helpline make up 24% of total enquiries to CSE's programme across the region.
- The Council is developing a Retrofit Enabling Plan to supplement the current updating of its Climate and Nature Strategy which will help us to target our resources as we strive to increase the installation of energy saving upgrades to homes across the region and across all tenures. The Plan is currently an internal document to support action A1.1 'Develop Council's strategic approach to retrofit'.

## Highlights: Decarbonising Buildings Continued

- The Council is also preparing to work in partnership with private landlords and Retrofit West's new Landlord Service to meet the requirements of the incoming Renters Rights Bill and extended Decent Homes Standard.
- We are developing policy options for the Council's Carbon Offset Fund in anticipation of receiving the first developer contributions to enable and support additional retrofit and renewable energy projects. This will benefit homes and communities within BANES, whilst saving emissions and reducing energy use and reliance on fossil fuels.
- The Council is part of a coalition with Bristol City Council, North Somerset and Bristol City Leap to deliver energy efficient upgrades to homeowners via the Warm Homes: Local scheme which launched in September 2025.
- Our Energy Transformation team has been working with colleagues from Housing and the Health and Well Being Board to understand the impact of homes that suffer from excess cold, heat or damp and mould and to direct residents to advice and assistance in making improvements.

### CASE STUDY: Community Energy Network – Energy Champions

The Community Energy Network is a partnership project with B&NES Council, Bath & West Community Energy, University of Bath, Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) and, through the BANES Community Wellbeing Hub, Age UK and Citizens Advice. It is funded by the National Lottery.

Bath & West Community Energy are recruiting a volunteer team of Energy Champions. They will support residents to save energy at home and improve home energy efficiency, through providing support and signposting to relevant information. Through Energy Essentials training, provided by CSE, the Champions will learn new skills and gain the knowledge to actively engage with the wider community about energy efficiency.

A pilot group of [11 Energy Champions](#) has been recruited, this network will continue to grow.

# Highlights: Decarbonising Buildings Continued

## CASE STUDY: Green Heritage Homes

*Partnership project with Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE), B&NES Council, Bath Preservation Trust, Centre for Sustainable Energy, People Powered Retrofit, and the South West Net Zero Hub.*

Bath and North East Somerset is known to have one of the highest concentrations of listed buildings in the country. There are over 5,000 Grade I, II\*, and II listed buildings in Bath, and the district has 663 Grade I listed buildings. Homeowners of listed buildings face particular challenges in implementing energy saving upgrades. Green Heritage Homes is providing tailored energy advice through home visits with a conservation officer and retrofit advisor.

Phase I of the Green Heritage Homes project ended in March 2025, one of 36 Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) projects funded by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to promote the sensitive retrofitting of listed buildings.

69x pre-app surveys were completed, offering retrofit advice to listed building homeowners and 46% of homeowners surveyed indicated they are planning to undertake retrofit works following advice. Additional engagement included running 4x listed building surgeries, hosting free online module training, creation of listed building factsheets, creation of 'bitesize' retrofit videos - which have collectively received over 2,000 views - and engagement with other heritage and retrofit professionals through talks, webinars, and seminars.

As of April 2025, Green Heritage Homes has been renewed for 'Phase II' over three years, funded by Historic England, WECA, and Curo Group. B&NES will work with energy experts from BWCE.

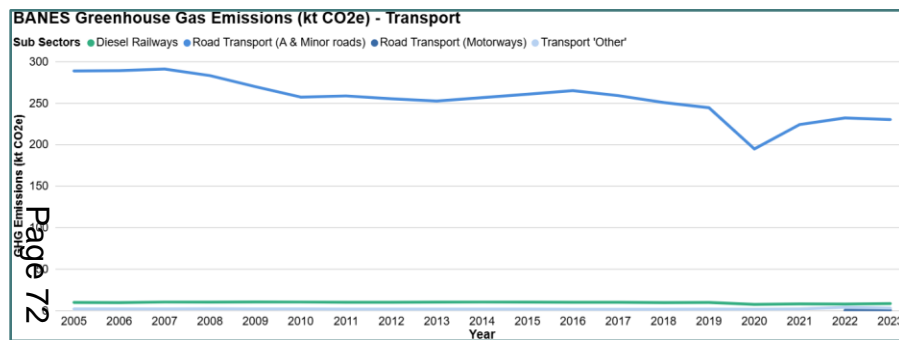
The project will deliver:

- Level 0 pre-app advice for retrofit of listed buildings.
- Joint energy/pre-app surveys with Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE), engaging with social housing suppliers such as Curo.
- Progression of Local Listed Building Consent Order (LLBCO) for solar panels in inner roof valleys within the Bath Conservation Area.
- Dissemination of learnings with other local authorities to motivate similar project work.



# Highlights: Decarbonising Transport

**Decarbonising transport remains one of our biggest challenges, in part due to the rural-urban nature of our district and the combination of changes needed to policy, behaviour and technology. We focus on creating an environment that makes it easier to travel by public transport or active travel, including walking, wheeling and cycling, as well as enabling the switch to electric vehicles.**

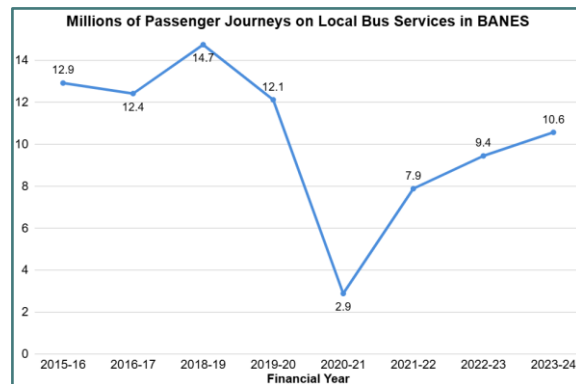


- Emissions from transport in the district is in line with the national picture. The most recent Carbon Budget from the Climate Change Committee noted '*Emissions in surface transport...have shown limited or no reductions overall*' [\[8\]](#).
- This is reflected in the small decrease in the number of kilometres travelled by all vehicles in the district of -3% (-4% for cars and taxis) vs the 2016 data, established as the baseline in the 2019 Climate Strategy [\[9\]](#). In the same period there has been an increase of 3% in kilometres travelled by all vehicles (with no change for cars and taxis) in England.
- In order to decarbonise transport, there needs to be a switch from fossil fuel vehicles to electric cars, vans, HGVs, buses, and motorcycles, supported by measures to reduce traffic growth, improve the efficiency of conventional vehicles, and decarbonise the rail network [\[8\]](#).

- In addition, enabling alternatives to driving, via public transport, walking, wheeling and cycling as well as developing communities that minimise travel demand, reduces emissions and delivers a range of additional benefits such as improving air quality, congestion and for our health & wellbeing [\[8\]](#).
- To date, 3.7% of privately registered vehicles in BANES are classed as Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEVs), with 2.3% of these battery electric. This is slightly ahead of the national average where ULEVs make up 3.2% of private vehicle registrations in July 2025 [\[10\]](#) [\[11\]](#).
- To enable the transition to electric vehicles, the Council is committed to expanding access to electric vehicle infrastructure, with plans to install an additional 400 charging sockets by 2030. This is specifically aimed at supporting residents without access to off-street parking.
- BANES currently has 118 public chargers (60 chargers per 100,000 residents, vs the England average of 124) [\[12\]](#). Changes in procurement regulations had impacted rollout progress, but these are now resolved. Between August 2024, and July 2025, a total of 13,629 electric vehicle charging sessions were recorded across the district via the Revive Network.
- The target housing numbers set by national government in 2025 result in the need to increase housing in the district by almost 30,000 homes. As this has been translated into potential sites under the Local Plan during 2025, particular focus has been put on understanding likely emissions that will result for transport, seeking to minimise these as far as possible.

## Highlights: Decarbonising Transport – Public Transport

- At the time of report publication, the Council will be consulting on a new Movement Strategy for the Bath area, in line with *Creating Sustainable Communities: Journey to Net Zero*, published in February 2025 and focused on Keynsham and Saltford, Hicks Gate, the Somer Valley, and Whitchurch Village. These strategies seek to create sustainable communities by providing more travel choices whilst investing in a transport network that meets current and future community needs.
- In order to encourage more journeys to be made by public transport, the Council continues to work with WECA to grow bus use and improve service quality. This is through initiatives such as the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), the Transport for City Regions fund (TCR) and the Enhanced Partnership between WECA, B&NES and bus operators that coordinates delivery and unlocks funding.
- The number of passenger journeys in BANES taking place on local bus services has increased from 9.4 million in 2022-23 to 10.6 million in 2023-24.



- Activities to increase bus use and improve service quality include fares and access, service support and infrastructure investment:

- National £3 adult single fare cap in place until March 2027 and £1 child fare cap for under-16s. WECA, with support from B&NES, is investing to keep most single journeys at £2.40 or less.
- Free travel offers including Birthday Bus, support for care leavers, and 'kids go free' during the summer holidays.
- Enhanced frequency on key routes including Park & Ride hours extension trial in summer 2025.
- WESTlink demand-responsive transport improving access in less well-served areas.
- Electrification of Weston Island depot to support zero-emission buses, one of four depots in the region being transformed. Charging infrastructure is being installed, making it a key hub for Bath's zero-emission fleet.
- CRSTS-funded improvements to Bath City Centre and the Bath to Bristol Strategic Corridor, including bus priority and stop upgrades.
- As part of the regional approach, B&NES is working towards having a fully electric bus fleet by 2030. Electric buses will be in operation in the district during 2026 as part of £90m regional funding throughout the region. Electric buses are planned to operate on 10 routes across Bath.
- Each electric bus saves around 75 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. This is equivalent to removing 54 cars from the road.
- The numbers of rail passenger entries and exits (rail use) has increased at all BANES train stations between 2022-23 and 2023-24. At Bath Spa station there were an estimated 6,118,136 passenger entries and exits in 2023-24, compared to 5,468,466 in 2022-23.
- A feasibility study commissioned by WECA for reopening Saltford rail station has been completed, with report publication expected by the end of this year. B&NES, WECA, and Network Rail are developing a rail network timetabling study to identify infrastructure upgrades needed for regular services at a new station.



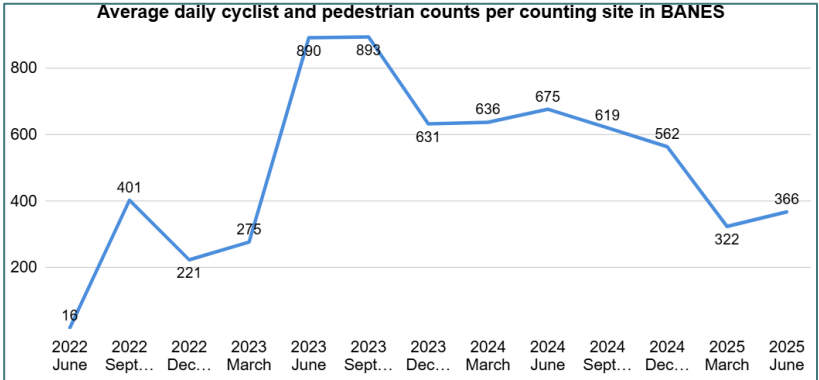
# Highlights: Decarbonising Transport – Walking, Wheeling and Cycling

- The Council is committed to increasing walking and wheeling in the district. Activity during 2024/25 has been focused on delivering the Local Active Travel & Safety Programme and starting work on the Scholars Way project funded under the national CRSTS programme for sustainable transport corridors. Liveable Neighbourhoods trials and decisions about their permanent implementation have also been undertaken.
- In February 2025, the Council published an Active travel Masterplan. Currently, over a third of car trips across BANES are less than 5km. There is the need to make walking, wheeling and cycling, or ‘active travel’, the natural choice for a lot more of these shorter journeys. The Active Travel Masterplan is a comprehensive plan that sets out the existing and future network of active travel infrastructure required to enable and provide for sustainable and healthy forms of transport around the district.
- In 2023, 55% of adults reported walking or cycling for travel at least once per week in BANES, returning to pre-pandemic levels:[Note: update before publication once 2024 released]

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- Our 25 active travel count sites have recorded an average of 366 cyclists and pedestrians daily in 2025, including weekends.



- Organisations, businesses and schools can help increase levels of walking, wheeling and cycling through creating travel plans that encourage and enable their employees and communities to try alternative ways of commuting and doing the school run.
- At the end of April 2025, 51% of schools in BANES were registered for the ModeSHIFT Stars scheme to create school travel plans and 15% of schools had an accredited plan ranging from ‘approved’ to ‘outstanding’. Chew Stoke Church School was recognised as the England Primary School of the Year in 2024/25 by the scheme. New guidance from the Department of Education is that all schools should develop a Climate Action Plan during 2025 and ModeSHIFT Stars will be a way to understand and work on sustainable travel as part of this.
- Since TIER/Dott took over the e-Bike/Scooter trials in September 2023, 863,000 kilometres have been clocked in BANES. There's been more than 18,000 trips taking place across BANES. The service runs 24/7 as of October 2025.

# Highlights: Decarbonising Transport

## CASE STUDY: New Bus Initiatives

Starting in April 2025, BANES introduced new measures to make public transport more affordable and accessible, supporting sustainable travel across the region. Funded by WECA and North Somerset Council, the initiative represented a £1.3 million investment aimed at improving travel choices and reducing reliance on private vehicles.

The package included a cap on most children's bus fares at £1, preventing an increase to £1.30 and saving families up to £60 per child per school year. It also extended free 24/7 bus travel for Disabled Person's travelcard holders, removing previous time restrictions, and continued free bus travel for care leavers for another year. Additionally, the cost of multi-operator day bus tickets was capped at £7, preventing a rise to £8, ensuring affordability across 11 different bus companies. In summer 2025, kids went free on the region's buses.

These improvements have created a more sustainable, accessible, and efficient transport network, encouraging greater use of public transport and reducing carbon emissions. The package runs until March 2026, supporting long-term climate goals through enhanced mobility options.



## CASE STUDY: Bath Cycle Hangars

Bath has expanded its cycle hangar programme with the installation of 20 new hangars, supporting the Council's commitment to active travel and sustainable transport. This brings the total to 41 hangars across BANES. Each hangar provides secure, weather-protected storage for up to six bicycles, occupying half the space of a standard car parking bay.

Since their introduction in 2023, cycle hangars have seen high demand, with occupancy reaching 94% in April 2025. In Bath, existing hangars have been at capacity for nearly a year, highlighting the need for additional secure cycle storage. The expansion aims to encourage more people to choose cycling for everyday journeys, improving travel options, health, and wellbeing.

The initiative is funded through the Government's Active Travel Fund and delivered in partnership with WECA, which is investing in over 80 new cycle hangars across the region. Future funding opportunities will be explored to further expand cycle storage and promote sustainable transport.



# Highlights: Increasing Renewable Energy Generation

**Increasing renewable energy generation across the district helps to decarbonise the electricity grid, improve energy security and reduce the emissions associated with our energy use. We work in close partnership with local energy organisations to identify and develop renewable energy projects that benefit local people. Significant growth in installed capacity is expected but further work is still needed to identify enough suitable sites to meet our 300MW target by 2030.**

- The Council continues to work closely with Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE). This year our partnership secured £1.5m lottery funding to develop the BANES Community Energy Network. Please see case study on next page.
- We are supporting Keynsham Community Energy with feasibility assessment for a solar project on Keynsham leisure centre.
- The Council is a partner to the £5m Mission Net Zero project led by Bristol City Council. The project will publish a Regional Climate Investment Plan for the West of England region in 2025.
- We are continuing our work with partners across WECA to identify where we could use heat from the abandoned and flooded mines, working across the region to provide lower cost, low carbon heating to buildings. We will have outputs from these studies later this year.
- We are carrying out a study as part of the Mission Net Zero project, to understand if we can develop a heat network to

supply low carbon heat to the city centre. We are engaging with some of Bath's biggest commercial off takers as well as our own internal stakeholders to understand how this could help to decarbonise buildings within the World Heritage Site and provide a future 'plug-in-and play' low carbon solution to enterprises who want to relocate to Bath.

- We are working to ensure that our planning policies align with the potential requirements coming from the implementation of Heat Network Zoning by central government in 2026.

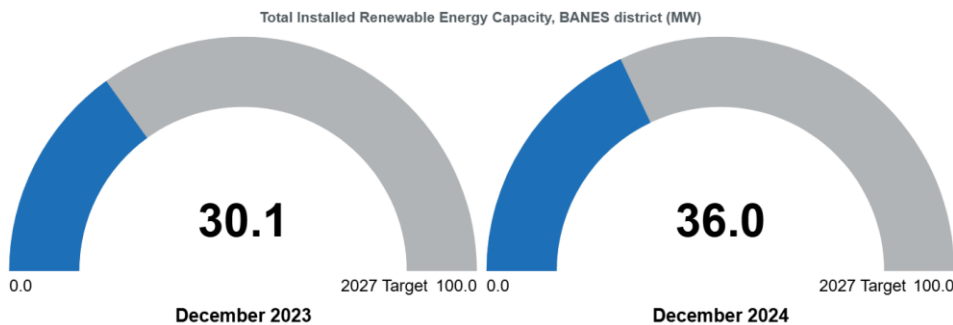




## Highlights: Increasing Renewable Energy Generation Continued

- There were 593 domestic solar PV installations in the 2024-25 financial year.
- The district pipeline is growing, which is important towards delivering our interim district target of 100 MW by 2027. The Marksbury Plain commercial solar farm has been constructed, providing 20 megawatts (MW) of capacity. A site has been approved in Paulton for 9 megawatts (MW) of solar and 49.5 MWp battery storage. A 2 MW community-owned solar farm in Compton Dando received planning consent in December 2024. A 9.5MW solar farm near Nempnett Thrubwell was consented in 2022 and there is currently an application pending to extend this by 10 MW. A planning application for 49.5 MW at Stowey Road Solar Farm has been submitted.

Installed renewable energy capacity has increased from 30 MW in 2023, to 36 MW in 2024. This data is from DESNZ and does not yet reflect the Marksbury installation which was completed in 2025:



### CASE STUDY: Community Energy Network: Energy in your Community

Through the Lottery funding Community Energy Network, B&NES Council, Bath & West Community Energy and the Centre for Sustainable Energy are working in partnership to empower communities to explore and build their own renewable energy projects.

This means that not only would the communities make decisions collectively on the projects, but they would also receive financial benefits that would go directly back into the community.

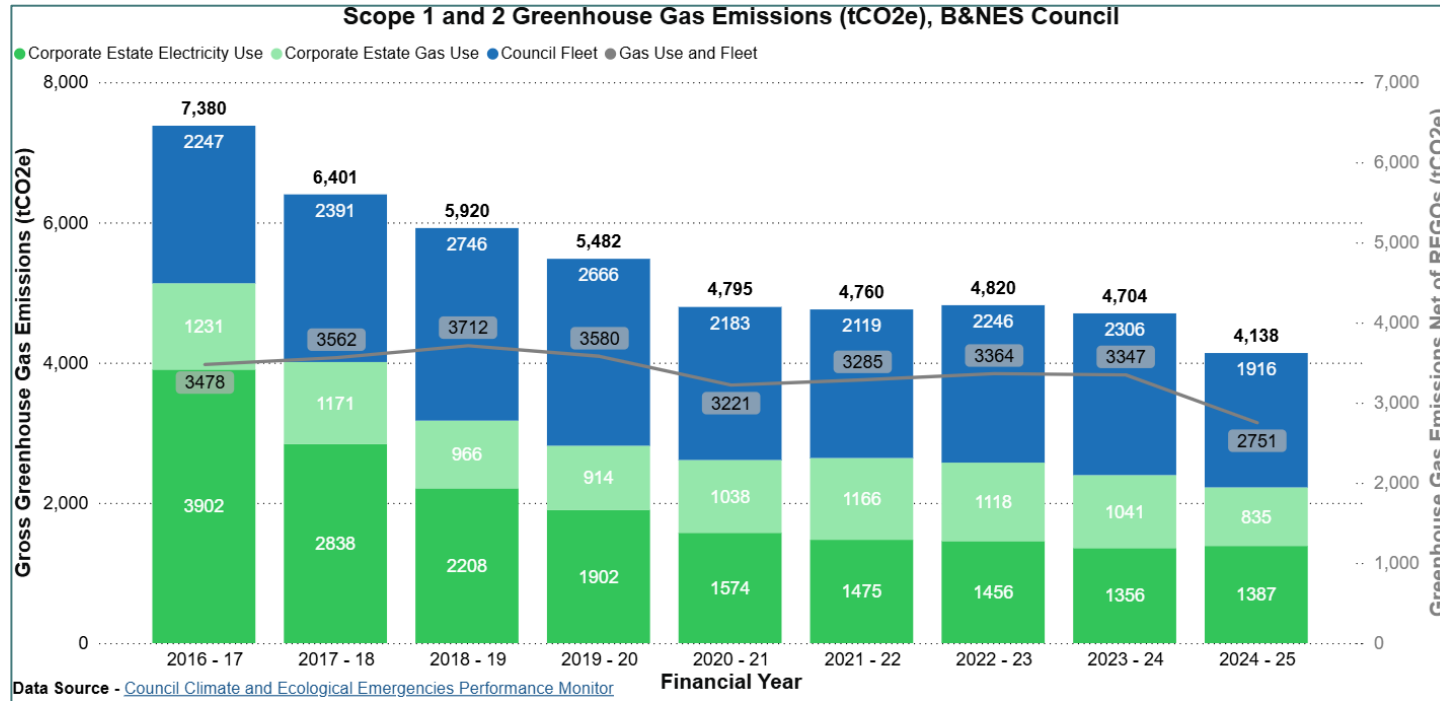
Three areas are being continued from a piloted in 2022; Peasedown and Wellow, Stowey Sutton and East Harptree and West Harptree, Temple Cloud and Hinton Blewett. Three new areas have been selected after registering their interest- St Catherines and Batheaston, Twerton and Whiteway, and Radstock and Westfield.

<https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/energy-your-community>



## Where We Are Now: Decarbonising Council Operations

The graph below focuses emissions for the Council's own operations, known as scope 1 and 2 emissions. This includes emissions from gas and electricity used in buildings under our control, and our own vehicle fleet. The Council's emissions make up less than 1% of territorial emissions for the Bath and North East Somerset area.



Between 2016-17 and 2024-25\*, we have successfully reduced our emissions by 44%. Fleet emissions decreased by 17% compared with 2023-24 due to ongoing replacement of the fleet with electric alternatives.

As we set out on the next slides, we have progressed our commitment to becoming Net Zero for our own operations by 2030 by securing substantial grant and budget provision. This means we can phase investment to decarbonise our key buildings and waste fleet. We have purchased REGOs\*\* for our electricity on contract until end 2027. We will review the next contract in line with the agreed strategy at this point. Purchasing REGOs guarantees electricity purchased from renewable sources in the UK and therefore we can report our net emissions from electricity as zero, but we continue to report gross emissions for completeness.

**\*Note:** electricity and gas consumption values for the latter half of 2023-24 are based on conservative estimates due to ongoing billing issues. These values may be subject to change in subsequent reporting cycles. **\*\*Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin**

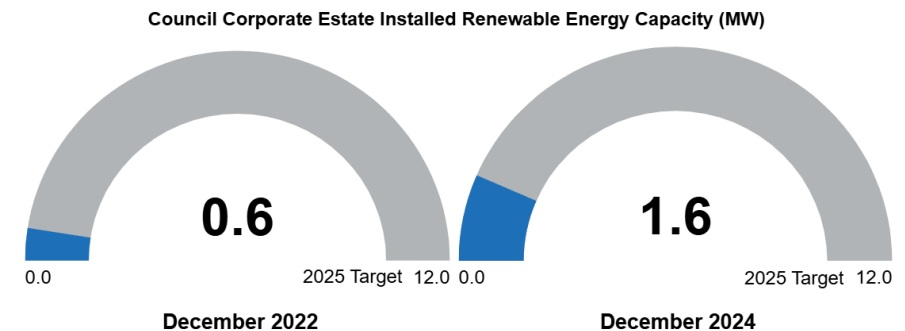
# Highlights: Decarbonising Council Operations

**Decarbonising our own operations is crucial to lead action on climate change in the region. We are making practical progress on decarbonising our estate.**

- Net Zero Council budget provision of £14m has been made, focused on decarbonising our waste fleet and buildings.
- Within this, £4million has been earmarked between 2025/26 and 2029/30 to decarbonise the buildings of the Council's Corporate Estate. This includes feasibility work for a hydroelectric power scheme at Pulteney Gate in central Bath that could provide electricity for heat pumps at Council buildings in the City Centre including the Guildhall, the Roman Baths and Pump Rooms. If found to be feasible, the hydro scheme would reduce carbon dioxide emissions while maintaining river levels; improving fish migration and reducing electricity bills and therefore costs to the Council.
- Both of this year's funding applications for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant for air source heat pumps were successful and will include installation of heat pumps at Carrswood Adult Day Care Centre and Keynsham Civic Centre. Keynsham Civic Centre heat pumps will partially utilise the existing solar PV array and a new solar PV array is planned for Carrswood to do the same. The combined effect of these measures will be to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and operating costs of the two buildings.
- The new PSDS grant funding will result in estimated annual carbon savings of approximately 74 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>, around 3% of the Council's corporate estate emissions.
- This year, we installed solar PV on the Bath Leisure Centre building – please see slide 26 for this as a case study.

B&NES Council owns and leases the leisure centre building, and therefore this building falls under the Council's commercial estate, as opposed to its Corporate Estate for which our renewables target below is set. This is an example of the Council prioritising the securing of grant awards to fund renewables where these are available.

- Renewable energy capacity on the Council's corporate estate remained 1.6 MW to December 2024. Over the past year, business and feasibility work has been undertaken on multiple sites to further increase renewable energy capacity on the corporate estate. Our current identified pipeline achieves 2.5 MW of rooftop solar, leaving a considerable gap in our generation target. If the target cannot be met using existing Council assets, alternative options currently being explored include investment in local community energy projects and power purchase from renewables sites within BANES.



# Highlights: Decarbonising Council Operations Continued

## CASE STUDY: Electrifying our waste fleet

Decarbonising the fleet will make a significant contribution to reducing emissions from the Council's own operations. The vehicles currently in use account for almost half of the Council's carbon footprint, with Heavy Good Vehicles (HGVs) accounting for 70% of emissions, despite only making up 28% of the fleet. The waste and cleansing operations operated by the local authority are already supported by 12 electric vehicles.

Capital provision has been made to replace 12 refuse collection vehicles and 30 recycling trucks with electric vehicles over the next two years and will also bring savings on maintenance and fuel. Potential replacement vehicles are being trialled with a view to starting replacement between 2026 and 2028.



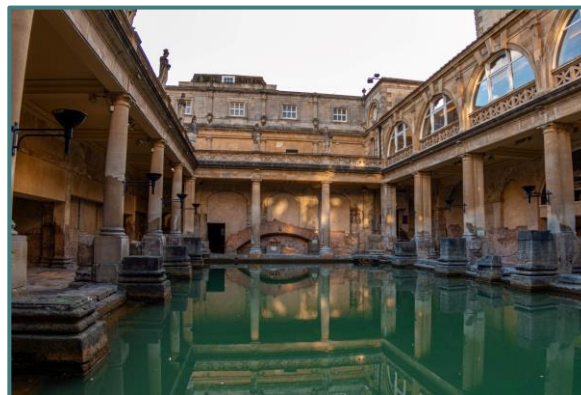
Example electrified waste vehicle

## CASE STUDY: Heritage Services

Heritage Services is an essential part of B&NES; responsible for stewarding the public facing heritage assets in the Council's care. The key cultural assets managed are: The Roman Baths, Victoria Art Gallery, The World Heritage Centre, Clore Learning Centre, Bath Record Office and The Fashion Museum which is currently under redevelopment. As an independent business unit, the service is unique amongst UK local authorities in operating at no cost to the local taxpayer but instead returning an agreed profit each year.

### Current Impact

Since the baseline year of 2019/20, Heritage Services carbon footprint has reduced from 2,912 tCO<sub>2</sub>e to 2,437 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in the latest reporting year of 2023/24. Scope 1 & 2 emissions have dropped significantly due to heat pump installation in 2022, and grid decarbonisation. Scope 3 emissions remain high and are largely estimated using spend-based data. Visitor travel emissions, though not formally included within our carbon boundary yet, are continuously monitored and will be included when the data and appointment methodology is more reliable.



# Highlights: Decarbonising Council Operations Continued

## Heritage Services Environmental Action Plan

In 2024/25 the service created a 3-year environmental action plan which aims to accelerate progress towards becoming Net Zero, whilst also preserving the ancient monuments, listed buildings and world-renowned collections in our care and continuing to deliver a financial return to the Council. The plan is structured around three pillars: People, Place and Heritage.

### Place:

- Reduce Scope 1 & 2 emissions by 52%
- Ensure zero waste to landfill and improve visitor led recycling
- Improve Scope 3 emissions data accuracy

### People:

- 100% of FTE staff to be certified Carbon Literate
- Engage with suppliers to set their own Net Zero targets
- Improve sustainability communications with visitors

### Heritage:

- Lead by example in climate adaptation
- Share best practices and collaborate with sector peers
- Address climate-related risks to historic assets

## Key Progress in 2024/25

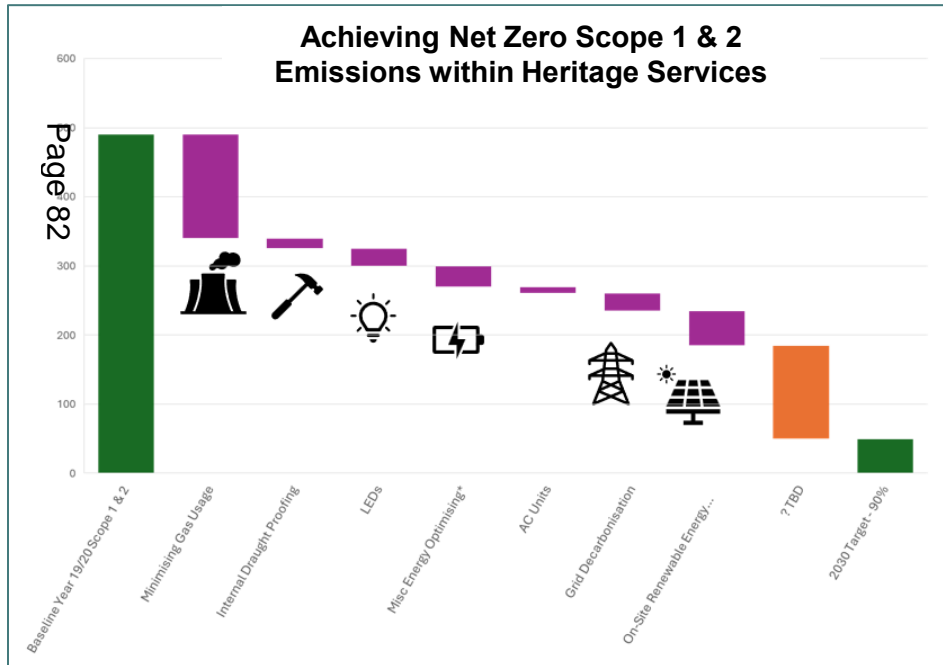
- **Supplier Engagement:** we are engaged with 35 of our top suppliers, providing support through online webinars, workshops, and guidance packs to aid their own carbon footprinting and reduction.
- **Climate Risk & Adaptation Planning:** we have undertaken a climate risk assessment of the Roman Baths identifying 17 risks from the 4 main hazards to the area as identified by the Met Office – Heavy Rainfall & Flooding, Overheating, Drought and Storms & High Winds. An adaptation plan is now underway.
- **Sustainable Sourcing:** our catering supplier Searcys have doubled down on their local supplier base, prioritising provenance and positive environmental impact. Key ingredient suppliers are actively farming regeneratively.
- **Sustainable Tourism:** we co-hosted a sustainable tourism workshop with Visit West and Buro Happold. Over 60 cross-sector attendees explored how tourism can support heritage, climate action, and community well-being—resulting in clear next steps focused on data, partnerships, and authenticity.
- **Reduced Waste:** our operations are now zero waste to landfill, and we have taken steps to improve visitor led recycling on site.
- **Industry Recognition:** the Victoria Art Gallery is now an active member of the Gallery Climate Coalition, demonstrating commitment to environmental sustainability within the visual arts sector.



# Highlights: Decarbonising Council Operations Continued

## Heritage Services Environmental Action Plan Governance:

Progress against the 3-year action plan is overseen by the Heritage Services Senior Leadership Team and Advisory Board, with alignment to council-wide strategies. Actions, and climate-related risks, are tracked through KPIs and reviewed quarterly. More details on the Heritage Services action plan, KPIs and emission reduction goals can be found in their action plan. [Note: add hyperlink once available].



## Scope 3 Emissions

**Scope 3 emissions are those that are produced indirectly by activities outside an organisation's own operations. For the Council, this includes emissions associated with our procurement of goods and services, outsourced contracts, the buildings we own but do not occupy, and our corporate travel.**

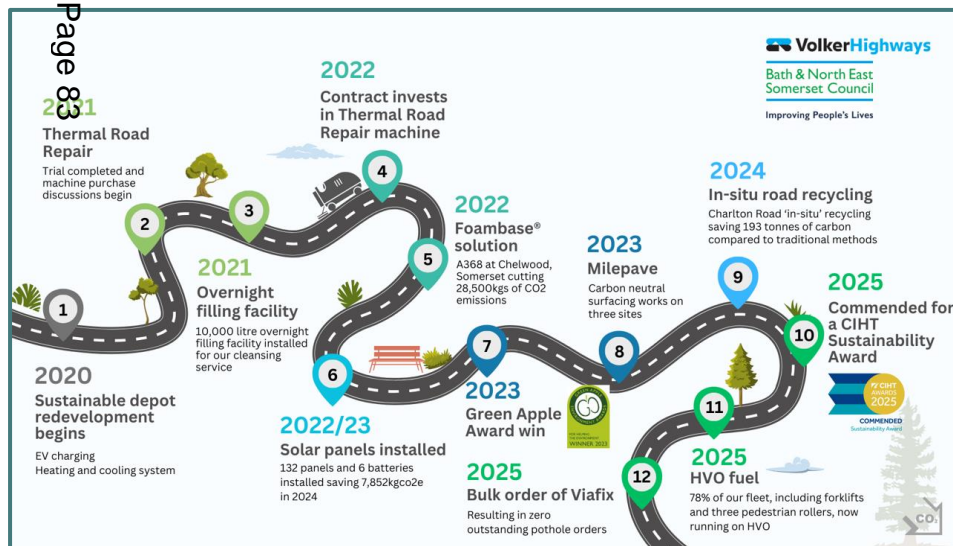
**Scope 3 emissions are more difficult to measure and reduce as they fall outside our direct control. As a council we are making progress in identifying our Scope 3 emissions sources and what actions we can take to reduce them.**

- The Council recognises that the way in which it purchases goods and services can significantly alter the climate and nature impacts that these have. In November 2024, B&NES published its updated [Procurement Strategy](#) and is now working to implement it. Embedding sustainability and climate action into all procurement activity is one of six priority themes in the strategy.
- The Council outsources a number of its services. In 2025, our Clutton depot, managed as part of the highway maintenance contract with Volker Highways, was named a finalist for a CIHT (Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation) Sustainability Award. The shortlisting highlights Volker Highways' and the Council's commitment to building a future-proofed highway depot that supports greener infrastructure, reduces operational carbon and improves energy efficiency. It is one aspect of a roadmap of sustainability-focused improvements being managed between the Council and Volker Highways.

# Highlights: Decarbonising Council Operations – Scope 3 Emissions

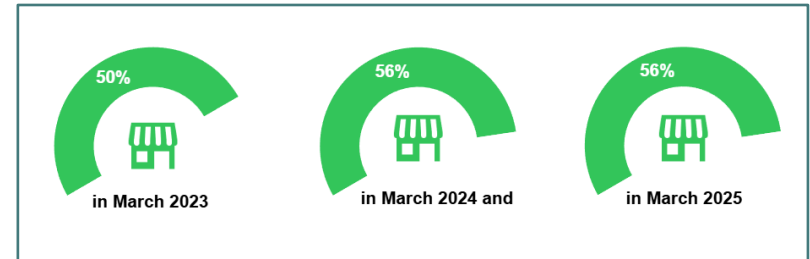


Credit Volker Highways: Clutton Depot pre and post redevelopment



B&NES and Volker Highways Roadmap

- The buildings that the Council owns and leases fall within its Scope 3 emissions. The percentage of council-owned commercial units with an EPC of A-C increased from 50% in March 2023 to 56% in March 2024 but had not changed by the end of March 2025. Higher EPCs mean that buildings that are leased from us will be more energy efficient and have lower emissions associated with them. It remains challenging to finance emissions-focused upgrades to our commercial estate because the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme has not been open to these types of buildings.



- The Council's Commercial Estate team have drafted the following measures for inclusion within the Corporate Estate Strategy that, subject to adoption, will have beneficial impacts on the Council's Net Zero commitment:
  - Continuing the programme to ensure commercial estate assets are Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) compliant\*; by assessing properties and where necessary commissioning works to ensure they can achieve an appropriate MEES compliance EPC rating assessment.
  - Engaging with the tenants when considering applications for Landlord's consent to carrying out works and encouraging them to adopt energy efficient options.
  - To work closely with the maintenance teams, especially at the design, scoping and specifying of works associated with the Commercial Capital Planned Programme of void refurbishments and other works of repair and maintenance, to ensure they incorporate sustainable measures.

\* Current requirement for an E rated EPC, rising to C by 2030

# Highlights: Decarbonising Council Operations – Scope 3 Emissions

## CASE STUDY: Bath Sports & Leisure Centre Rooftop Bath Sports & Leisure Centre Rooftop Solar PV

B&NES Council owns the leisure centre building, and it is operated by GLL.

Rooftop solar PV with a maximum generation capacity of 90 kWp was installed in early 2025 using the Swimming Pool Support Fund grant administered by Sport England, that was won in 2024.

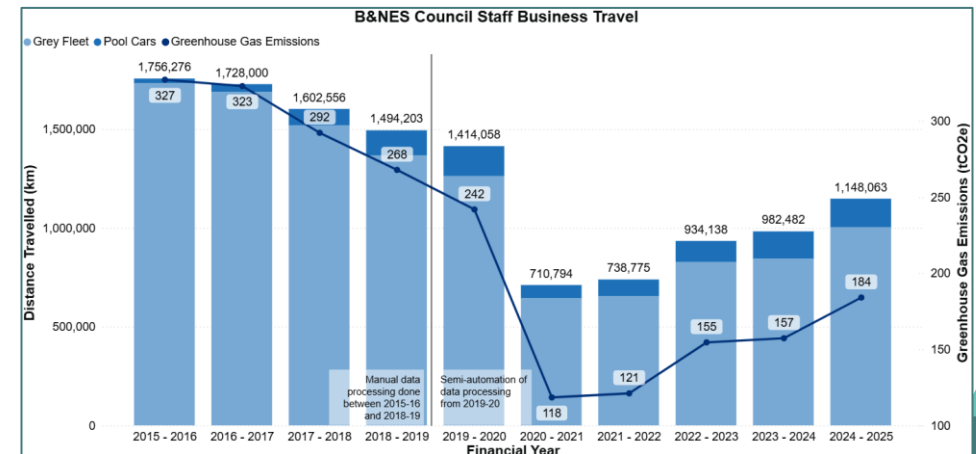
The project was delivered on time and in budget with an immediate effect of reducing electricity bills and carbon dioxide emissions for the sports and leisure centre complex. The solar PV array is laid out in an east and west configuration in order that the generation is spread more evenly across the day to account for electricity use in the morning and afternoon peaks.



Solar panels on the roof of the Bath Sports and Leisure Centre

## Corporate Travel

- The majority of the emissions from corporate travel come from our grey fleet, which is when staff use their own vehicles for corporate travel. Remaining emissions come from the use of the Council's pool car fleet, leased through Co-Wheels. B&NES pool car fleet is either non-plug-in hybrid or electric vehicle.
- Though emissions associated with business travel were 44% lower in 2023-24 compared to 2015-16, they increased by 17% between 2023-24 and 2024-25. This is because this year, we report increased mileage visibility, and therefore emissions, associated with in-sourcing adult social-care services.
- The Corporate Travel Policy aims to encourage all employees to plan their journeys in such a way as to limit travelling to the lowest possible level, whilst maintaining the efficient and safe performance of their duties.





# Ecological Emergency

# Tackling the Ecological Emergency

Our Ecological Emergency Action Plan sets our priorities and the actions we are taking to tackle the ecological emergency. Our three priorities are to:

1. Increase the extent of land and waterways managed positively for nature;
2. Increase the abundance and distribution of key species; and
3. Enable more people to access and engage with nature.

We are not able to tackle the Ecological Emergency alone, but we recognise that we have an important role to play in tackling the Ecological Emergency, both through our own delivery and policy-making, and through supporting others to take action.

Much of our work on nature recovery so far is being delivered through our Strategic Green Infrastructure Projects, which have led place-based partnerships to benefit nature and people. We are now looking to step up our ambition by better integrating nature recovery across the Council, in areas such as planning, regeneration, management of our estate, and day-to-day operations. We recognise the importance of nature based solutions to adapting and building resilience to climate change.

This report provides an update on our progress in tackling the ecological emergency and summarises the work we have done as a council so far.

We look forward to continuing our work to help restore nature across the district and to bring people closer to the natural environment.



Councillor David Harding, Councillor Anna Box, Deputy Leader Sarah Warren, Green Infrastructure Project Manager Meg Collin, and Chew Valley Reconnected Partnership Chair Phil Heath visiting Chew Valley Lake.

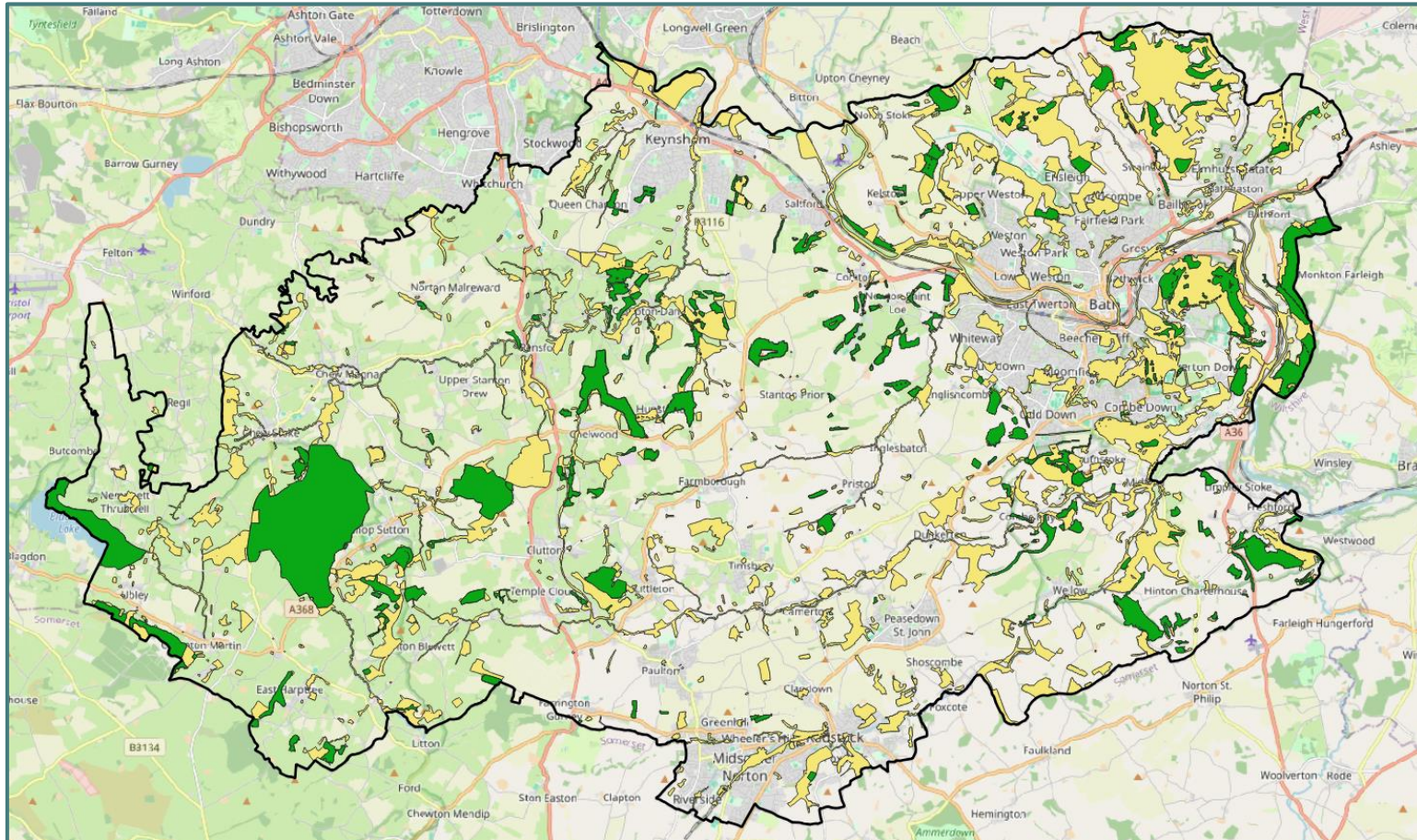


A volunteer helping to lay a footpath through the wildflower meadow in Midsomer Norton Town park



# Ecological Emergency: Where We Are Now – Bath & North East Somerset Council

This section of the Annual Report looks at the amount of land managed for nature across the district.



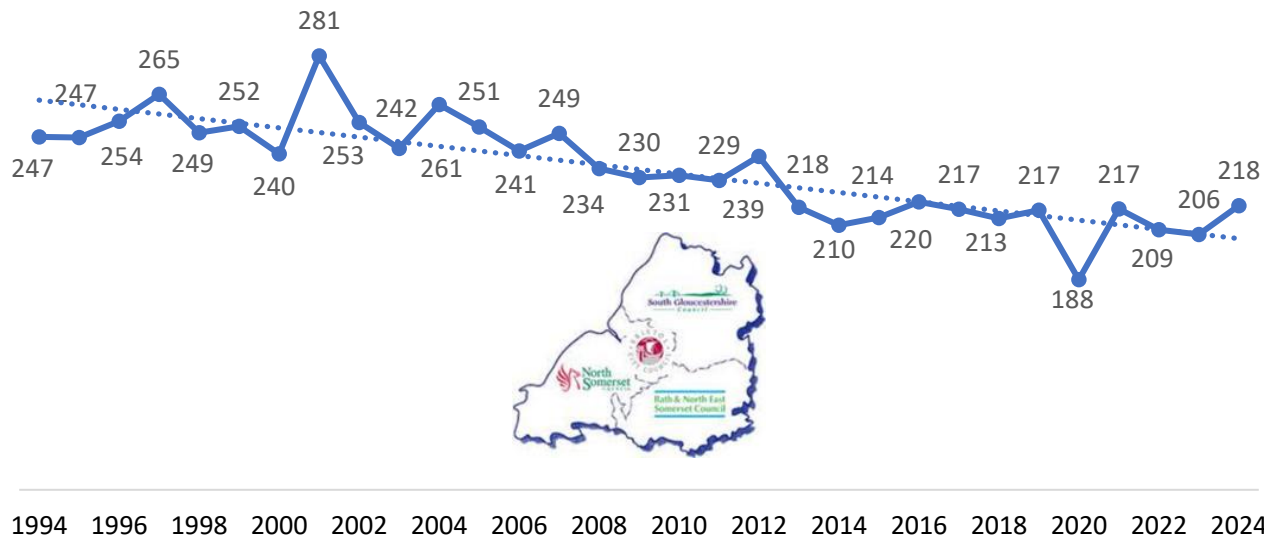
The West of England Nature Partnership has mapped the land managed for nature across the region. The map above shows the land that we are confident is already managed for nature in BANES in green, and land that may be being managed for nature in yellow. We are confident that 6.17% of land in BANES is currently managed for nature, with an additional 14.15% of land potentially being managed for nature. This compares with the ambition to have 30% of land managed for nature by 2030.

# Ecological Emergency: Where We Are Now – Bath and North East Somerset District

## Biodiversity - Increase the abundance and distribution of key species

The best data we have on wildlife populations is derived from the British Trust for Ornithology's annual Breeding Bird Survey. This data is only currently available for the whole of the West of England, but we expect the declines in BANES will mirror these changes.

Total bird records per km<sup>2</sup> square surveyed in the West of England



Between 1994 and 2024, bird populations across the West of England (Avon) fell by approximately 12%. Although these records only go back to 1994, from UK records we can be confident that populations would have fallen significantly before the mid-1990s. The overall decline also masks more drastic decline in certain species, particularly 'specialist' species and insect-eating birds. For example, the swift count in the region fell by 87%, and the cuckoo count by 95%.

As the decline in wildlife is associated with land use change, agricultural intensification, and pollution across the district (as well as climate change), B&NES council does not have direct control over the majority of actions that are needed to reverse the decline in wildlife. That is why we are committed to showing leadership and working in partnership to enable action across the district.



## Highlights: Leadership and Evidence

**Having declared an Ecological Emergency in 2020, it is crucial that B&NES council shows leadership in responding to the crisis facing nature. This year, we played a key part in developing the country's first Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and we have made good progress on monitoring the state of nature locally.**

- Our leading approach to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) (B&NES was one of the first councils in England to adopt a BNG Policy) has enabled the ongoing establishment of seven offsite habitat banks in BANES, which will result in the creation of over two hundred hectares of habitats including species-rich grassland across the district. It has also meant we have seen early delivery of BNG by developments.
- The approach to the Local Plan has been reset due to updates to national Planning Policy, and we are still ensuring it will be our most ambitious for nature recovery. We are exploring the option of requiring 20% BNG, rather than the mandatory 10%, and planned policies include a requirement for sustainable drainage systems including 'SuDS', requirements for developments to have more and better 'green infrastructure', and local targets for tree cover.
- We have developed new Green Infrastructure (GI) Standards to ensure that developments include sufficient green infrastructure, such as street trees, green walls, sufficient local green space and allotments. This will ensure developments are better for residents, resilient to climate change, and support nature recovery.
- We have made significant progress on our ability to monitor

the state of nature across the district. We have calculated the land being managed for nature across our own estate, and we have worked with WECA and neighbouring local authorities to establish a baseline for land managed for nature in BANES and to develop a regional 'wildlife index'.

### CASE STUDY: Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Our Nature Recovery Manager led the development of the West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which was the first in the country to be published in November 2024.

The LNRS sets priorities and 'focus areas' for nature recovery across the region, enabling us to better target our resources and ensuring planning decisions take account of opportunities for nature recovery.



The LNRS is launched at the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) Conference

## Highlights: Land and Investment

**Managing more of our land for nature is one of the key ways the Council can directly contribute to nature recovery. This year, we have been diversifying the funding we use to manage more of our land for nature.**

- Our Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Pathfinder project is enabling us to fund nature recovery on council-owned sites through the sale of BNG 'Units'. At Charlcombe Meadows, we are working with the Friends of Charlcombe Community Nature Reserve to enhance the 6.5 hectare site for biodiversity, and we are now developing similar plans for other sites.
- Our Landscape City project is developing plans to improve the management of Council-owned sites in Bath for nature and people. This includes a masterplan for the former golf course at Entry Hill, improving the management of our woodlands, and developing proposals for an 'Ecology Hub' in the City.
- We are working on securing long-term Countryside Stewardship funding to further enhance the value of our parks and green spaces for nature by, for example, improving the species-richness of grass we are managing for wildlife.
- We are developing management plans for Council-owned land at Fox Hill and Nelson Ward Drive in Radstock to enhance their value for nature and have secured £250k of funding to deliver improvements.
- The [Bathscape Landscape Partnership](#) has continued its work improving the value of the landscape surrounding Bath

for nature. This year, work on enhancing Carr's Wood and Pennyquick Park has neared completion (see case study), and we have recruited a land management advisor to increase our capacity to survey nature-rich sites and to advise landowners on managing land for nature.

### CASE STUDY: Enhancing Carr's Wood and Pennyquick Park

We are coming to the end of our works enhancing Carr's Wood and Pennyquick Park in Twerton for nature. Through Network Rail funding, our partners and teams of volunteers have spent the last few years planting trees, sowing wildflowers, running events and generally making the site more wildlife friendly.

The last of the works are now underway with our contractors to improve the condition of Carr's wood for wildlife, including replanting trees and shrubs where ash has been felled.

Almost 1000 trees have been planted, and grassland seeding should see wildflowers steadily increasing in the coming years.



Tree planting at Pennyquick Park

## Highlights: Access and Engagement

**Alongside restoring nature, one of our key commitments is increasing residents' access to and engagement with nature. We have a variety of projects that are engaging and empowering people to take action for nature locally, especially where this helps to tackle inequalities in access to green spaces.**

- The Bath River Line project has begun work to create a 10km linear park alongside the River Avon in Bath. This year we have delivered new seating, improved access to the river path and pollinator-friendly planting along the river path, as well as lots of engagement with residents and visitors (see case study).
- The Somer Valley Rediscovered project has continued to engage thousands of local people through a variety of events including forest bathing, park yoga, and nature walks, as well as achieving over 3,000 volunteering hours. This year has also seen the creation of a wild meadow footpath at Midsomer Norton Town park, accompanied by a new audio trail.
- Bathscape continues to engage thousands of people in and around Bath in the city's landscape through hundreds of wellbeing and tree walks, the September Walking Festival, bug hunting with local children, our monthly Footprints podcast, and much more. This year, we have also published a Wildlife Safari Bath guidebook and have run training sessions for volunteers on site surveying and tree care.

### CASE STUDY: Festival of Nature

As part of the 2025 Festival of Nature, the Bath River Line project hosted a vibrant programme of events and activities designed to connect people with the River Avon and its surrounding green spaces.

Activities included an outdoor film screening, creative exhibitions, paddleboarding taster sessions, family-friendly craft day, and interactive displays. These events reached a diverse audience, offering accessible, engaging ways to experience nature in the heart of the city.

Each event encouraged reflection on river health, wildlife, and conservation, while promoting enjoyment and stewardship of the river.

Highlights included the “River in the Sky” installation at SouthGate (estimated to have been experienced by 9 million visitors) willow fish workshops with local schools, and the “Life on Water” photography exhibition.



Outdoor film screening as part of the Festival of Nature

## Highlights: Working in Partnership

**We are not able to reverse nature's decline alone, and we are fortunate to have lots of ambitious organisations taking action for nature in the district.**

**This year has seen more ambitious projects being developed, funded and delivered that we have either led or supported in partnership, including nationally significant programmes for trees and woodlands, and for calcareous grassland habitats.**

- Together with the Forest of Avon Trust, we led a successful bid for the Western Forest to be chosen as England's second National Forest, with £7.5 million of funding for more trees and woodland across the West of England, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire (see case study).
- Last year, we supported Bristol Avon Rivers Trust in a successful bid to the West of England Green Recovery Fund to develop a farmer clusters for the Chew, Cam and Wellow catchments. The Cluster is now active and distributing grants to farmers and landowners for activities that enhance nature and improve water quality; we are represented on the Steering Group that oversees distribution of these grants.
- The West of England Nature Partnership (WENP), of which we are a funding member, has published nine '[Priority Programmes](#)' that represent partners' shared priorities (informed by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy) and show how we plan to target investment to bring nature back across the West of England. The Programmes were launched at the WENP Conference in November 2024, with speakers including politicians, environmental leaders, and prominent funders and investors such as Triodos Bank.

- The Big Chalk Partnership, on whose Board we sit, comprises more than 150 organisations with a common and ambitious vision of creating thriving chalk and limestone landscapes across southern England. Having only been established in 2023, the Partnership has gone from strength to strength in the past year, recently securing core funding for project staff and £750k for a new capital grants fund. Work is ongoing to develop a much more ambitious funding proposal.
- We have again supported the [Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership Fund](#), which provides seed-funding and small grants to enable partnership projects to carry out vital scoping, feasibility and community engagement work, as well as funding smaller community projects. The funding can be used for activities that improve the health of rivers and waterways across the catchment, and that improve people's enjoyment of and connection with the water environment.
- We have continued to take a leading role in the WaterSpace Partnership (covering the Avon corridor between Bristol and Bath), the Somer Valley Rediscovered Partnership and the Chew Valley Reconnected Partnership. The Chew Valley Reconnected Partnership has recently appointed its first Chair and is now aiming to develop partnership proposals to deliver nature recovery across the catchment.
- We have contributed funding to Your Parks Bristol & Bath to restore 15.6 hectares of habitats across 19 parks in Bristol and Bath, including meadows, ponds and woodland edges.



# Highlights: Working in Partnership Continued

## CASE STUDY: Western Forest

We have been successfully working in partnership towards our ambition to double woodland cover across BANES, and this year we have gone a huge step further by helping to secure £7.5 million of funding for a new National Forest.

We played a key role in the development of the successful bid to establish the 'Western Forest' as only the second National Forest in the country, together with partners including the Forest of Avon Trust and the Natural History Consortium.

The Western Forest covers the West of England, Gloucestershire and parts of Wiltshire, and will result in the creation of at least 2,500 hectares of new woodland and other tree habitats (such as agroforestry and orchards) in the first five years.

As well as creating new woodland habitat, The £7.5 million of funding will be used to enable farmers to integrate trees into their farm businesses in a way that is profitable, sustainable and benefits food production. A people and nature programme will include cutting-edge communications and will pilot innovative programmes around volunteering, health, education and access.

The Western Forest will accelerate the increase in tree and woodland cover across Bath and North East Somerset, building on successful projects including the 100-acre Great Avon Wood and the 422-acre Lower Chew Forest at Wick Farm.



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## Abbreviations

<b>ABBE</b>	Awarding Body of the Built Environment	<b>CVRP</b>	Chew Valley Reconnected Partnership
<b>B&amp;NES</b>	Bath and North East Somerset Council	<b>DESNZ</b>	Department of Energy Security and Net Zero
<b>BANES</b>	Bath and North East Somerset District/Area	<b>DFES</b>	Distribution Future Energy Scenarios
<b>BART</b>	Bath Avon River Trust	<b>DNO/DSO</b>	Distribution Network Operator/ Distribution System Operator
<b>BE</b>	Battery Electric	<b>EOI</b>	Expression of Interest
<b>BEV</b>	Battery Electric Vehicle	<b>EPC</b>	Energy Performance Certificate
<b>BNG</b>	Biodiversity Net Gain	<b>EVI</b>	Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
<b>BRL</b>	Bath River Line	<b>FTE</b>	Full time equivalent
<b>BSIP</b>	Bus Service Improvement Plan	<b>FWAG SW</b>	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West
<b>BWCE</b>	Bath & West Community Energy	<b>FWD</b>	Future Work and Design
<b>CDP</b>	Carbon Disclosure Project	<b>GHH</b>	Green Heritage Homes
<b>CIHT</b>	Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation	<b>GI</b>	Green Infrastructure
<b>CMPs</b>	Carbon Management Plans	<b>GLL</b>	Greenwich Leisure Limited
<b>CPD</b>	Continuing Professional Development	<b>GRF</b>	Green Recovery Fund
<b>CRSTS</b>	City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements	<b>HE/FE</b>	Higher Education/Further Education
<b>CSE</b>	Centre for Sustainable Energy	<b>HGV</b>	Heavy Goods Vehicles

## Abbreviations - Continued

<b>HUG</b>	Home Upgrade Grant	<b>OZEV</b>	Office for Zero Emission Vehicles
<b>ICEV</b>	Internal Combustion Engine Vehicles	<b>PID</b>	Project Initiation Document
<b>KPI</b>	Key Performance Indicators	<b>RCV</b>	Refuse Collection Vehicles
<b>KRV</b>	Kerbside Recycling Vehicles	<b>REGO</b>	Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin
<b>kWp</b>	Kilowatt peak	<b>RERAS</b>	Renewable Energy Resource Assessment
<b>LAEP+</b>	Local Area Energy Plan	<b>RESP</b>	Regional Energy System Plans
<b>LEAD</b>	Local Energy Advice Demonstrator	<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise
<b>LEVI</b>	Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	<b>SNCI</b>	Sites of Nature Conservation Interest
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Association	<b>SuDS</b>	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
<b>LLBCO</b>	Local Listed Building Consent Order	<b>SVR</b>	Somer Valley Rediscovered
<b>LNRS</b>	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	<b>TCR</b>	Transport for City Regions
<b>MEES</b>	Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards	<b>TIER</b>	TIER Mobility Company
<b>MW</b>	Megawatts	<b>UKSPF</b>	UK Shared Prosperity Fund
<b>NAP</b>	Nature Action Plan	<b>ULEV</b>	Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle
<b>NGED</b>	National Grid Electricity Distribution	<b>WECA</b>	West of England Combined Authority (also known as the MCA)
<b>NPPF</b>	National Planning Policy Framework	<b>WENP</b>	West of England Nature Partnership

# Glossary of Climate Emissions Terms

**Scope 1** – Emissions are released as a direct result of an activity. For a local authority this will largely comprise combustible fuel for heating boilers and fuel burned in owned fleet vehicles.

**Scope 2** – Emissions released as an indirect consumption of an energy commodity. For a local authority this will be the purchased grid electricity used in its operations (buildings, street lighting and for charging Electric Vehicles (EV)).

**Scope 3** – Scope 3 emissions are all other indirect emissions produced by activities outside an organisation's own operations. For the Council, this includes emissions associated with our procurement of goods and services, outsourced contracts, the buildings we own but do not occupy, and our corporate travel. The Local Government Association (LGA) estimated that scope 3 emissions usually represent 70-80% of a local authority's total emissions.

**CO<sub>2</sub>e** – Carbon Dioxide Equivalent is a standard unit for measuring carbon footprints. CO<sub>2</sub>e expresses the impact of seven different greenhouse gas in terms of the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that would create the same amount of warming.

**Territorial Emissions** - Territorial emissions cover emissions that occur within the UK's borders and are used to track UK-wide progress towards international and domestic targets. Territorial emissions arise from the direct (gas, petrol, diesel) and indirect (electricity) use of energy, including domestic, transport, public sector, commercial, industry, agriculture, land use, land use change and forestry and waste management. These are broken down by local authority boundary in Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) data.

**Consumption Emissions** - This accounts for all GHG emissions through the supply chain of goods and services consumed in the UK, wherever they are produced in the world. This includes emissions from UK imports of goods and services and excludes emissions arising from UK-produced goods that are exported.

# **Annex A: Progress on Actions**



## Progress on Actions – Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plans

Annex A provides an update on our key actions contained within both our Climate Action Plan and Ecological Emergency Action Plan. Alongside each action, progress update and next steps, there is a numbered progress rating. The ratings correspond to the below:

- 1 = Action/strategy still in formation
- 2 = Action/strategy in place, but with no current outputs
- 3 = Action/strategy well underway with current outputs
- 4 = Action/strategy mature, with plans for redevelopment or additions
- 5 = Bespoke action/strategy now complete and considered finished

The Ecological Emergency Action Plan reporting remains the same for the 2024-25 year, but an updated Climate Action Plan has been included because new actions were added last year to those set in the Climate Strategy.

**In this main report we provide a high-level overview of progress. Please see full Annex A for further detail of individual actions.**

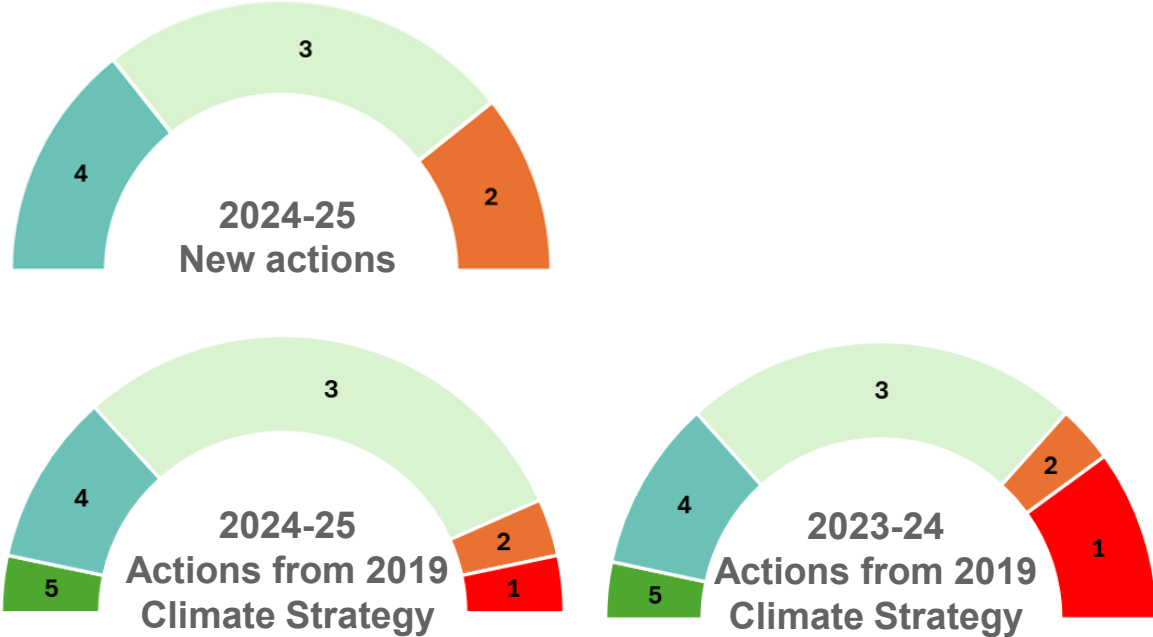


# Progress on Actions – Summary of Progress – Climate Emergency

## Summary:

- 29 actions are tracked, split between the 2019 Strategy (15 actions) and new actions set in 2023-24 (14 actions). The 14 new actions set in 2023-24, are reported on for first time in 2024-25.
- 26 actions have either progressed their score or remained as ongoing work since 2023-24.
- Of the original 2019 Strategy actions, 10 actions score 3 and 4 and are ongoing works this year where progression to the next score is not yet expected.

**Climate Emergency – Progress on Actions**  
*Size of wedge indicates number of actions at each score*  
*Number in each wedge is the score represented*



## Key to scores

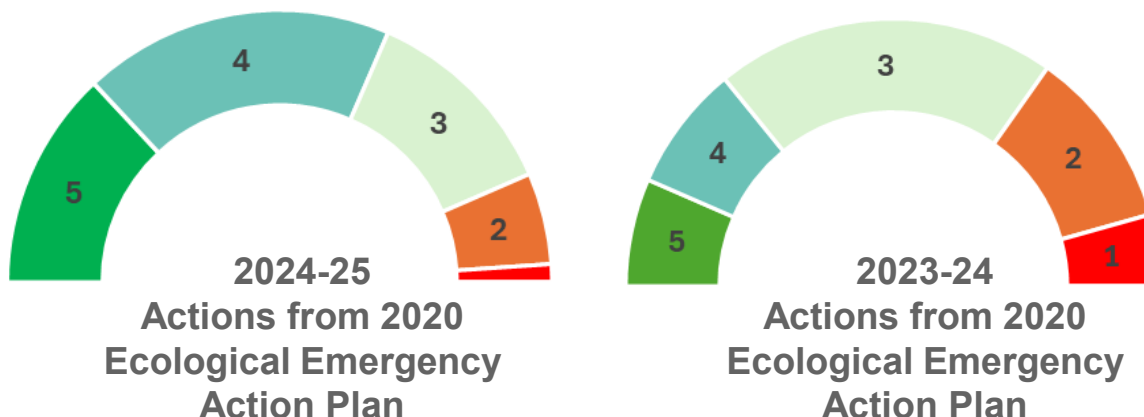
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# Progress on Actions – Summary of Progress – Ecological Emergency

## Summary

- 46 actions tracked
  - Progress made on 26 actions since 2023-24
  - 6 actions completed since 2023-24 update
- 87% of total actions in 2024-25 are well underway ('3') or more

**Ecological Emergency – Progress on Actions**  
*Size of wedge indicates number of actions at each score*  
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## Key to scores

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Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Bath & North East Somerset  
Annual Climate and Nature Progress Report 2024-2025  
**Annex A: Progress on Actions**



TACKLING THE CLIMATE &  
ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY

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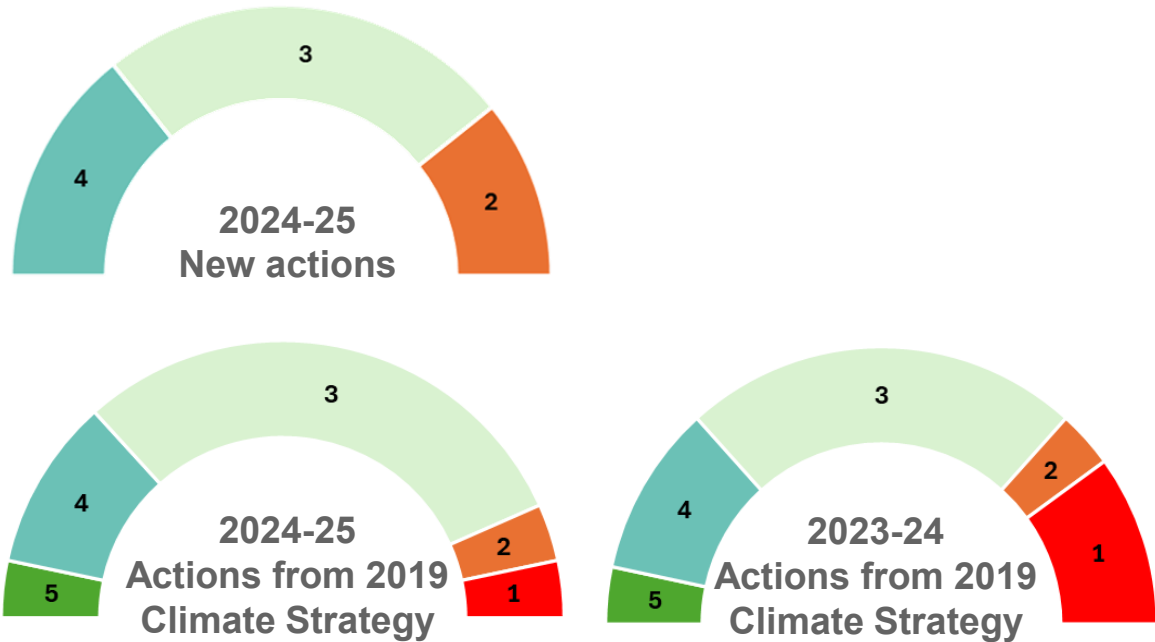
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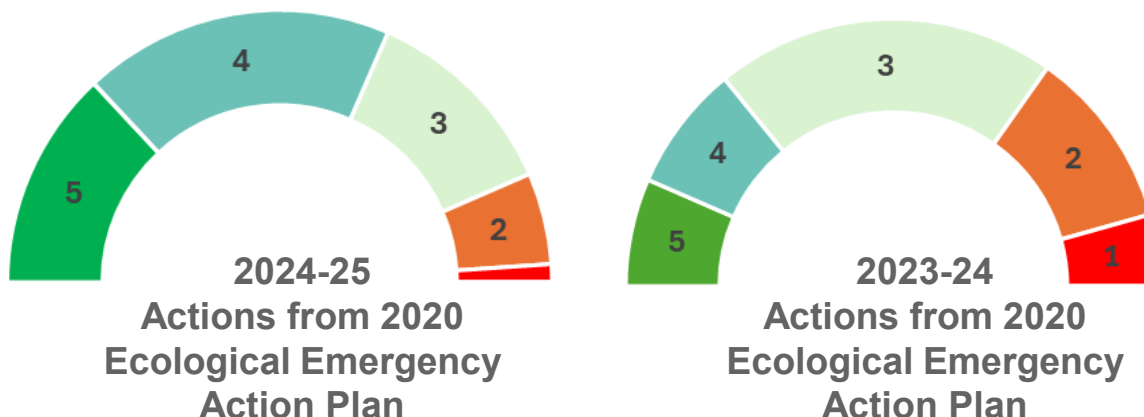


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## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Buildings

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A1.1	<b>Development of strategic approach to home energy efficiency retrofit and decarbonisation of heat.</b>	<p>A cross organisation retrofit working group has been established which brings together partners and providers across Bath and North East Somerset to understand, promote and support local advice and delivery services.</p> <p>Preliminary outputs which identify above and below ground opportunities for using waste heat from the abandoned coal mines are being explored with a working group from WECA.</p> <p>Working group convened to discuss wider heat network opportunities with Future Ambition Board Anchor Institutions to understand how B&amp;NES can support wide development.</p>	<p>Finalising Council's Retrofit Enabling Plan for domestic properties, to supplement the new Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. This will be an ongoing group which will help us to understand where there may be local gaps in knowledge, understanding and delivery and identify ways in which we can offer further support.</p> <p>Pin-point single location for drilling exploratory boreholes to compare real world results with desktop studies. Final selection of site to take forward to this stage will be made from 5 sites identified across Bristol, South Glos, and BANES, with 2 of those five sites being in BANES.</p> <p>Work is due to start on a shortlist of homes from August 2025 onwards, based on those who had signed up for HUGS funding.</p>	3
		Completed		5

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Buildings 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Page 08 A1.3 A1.4	<b>Promote government grant schemes including for low-income households, to maximise uptake locally. Explore options to increase direct support for low-income households.</b>	As part of a consortium with Bristol and North Somerset, BANES will be benefitting from a share of £11m in Warm Homes: Local Grant.	<p>Work is due to start on a shortlist of homes from August 2025 onwards, based on those who had signed up for HUGS funding.</p> <p>Continue to raise awareness and use of current support offers, for example, through the Energy at Home website.</p>	3
	<b>Develop communication strategies to drive public interest and access to information about retrofit and domestic renewables.</b>	<p>Funding received for specialist communications skills to help tailor messages, amplify the work of partner organisations and improve customer journeys to encourage uptake of retrofit advice.</p> <p>Communications are ongoing across the Combined Authority area to raise the profile of the <a href="#">Retrofit West Programme</a>.</p>	<p>Promote uptake of retrofit and domestic renewables with trained volunteers working as part of the Community Energy Network.</p> <p>Further develop communications approach to amplify support available for retrofit and renewables, e.g. via Green Heritage Homes, Green Open Homes and Solar Together projects.</p> <p>Take part in activities with local community energy groups, including with civic partners to understand retrofit needs.</p>	3

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Buildings 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A1.5	<b>Develop planning policies and guidance to enable energy efficiency improvement of buildings.</b>	<p>B&amp;NES has the following policies in place which support the energy efficiency improvement of buildings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy SCR6: New Build Residential Development</li> <li>• Policy SCR7: New Build Non-residential Development</li> <li>• Policy SCR8: Embodied Carbon</li> <li>• Policy SCR5: Water Efficiency</li> </ul> <p>As a result of changes to National Planning Policy and the government's proposed revised housing figure, the Local Plan is being reset. This doesn't mean starting again – the work done already to consult on these policies is still very relevant, as are the responses we received to our consultation in 2024, which we have been considering carefully.</p>	A second options document will be going to public consultation in the autumn, consulting only on new policy areas or policy options where required as a result of changes in circumstances, including a climate adaptation and resilience policy and a retrofit-first policy.	3

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Buildings 4

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A1.6	<b>Maximise benefits to BANES residents from WECA Retrofit Accelerator Hub.</b>	<p>Continue to identify opportunities to maximise benefits to BANES residents from Accelerator as a whole, including ongoing engagement with the Combined Authority retrofit steering group.</p> <p>Funding received from WECA for 2 days/week of comms professional to help tailor messaging and promote the Retrofit West service to more BANES residents.</p> <p>Work with partners including Bath College to provide business support and skills training to grow the retrofit supply chain locally.</p>	<p>Continue to attend regular activity and events with Retrofit West to ensure all messaging, updates offers etc are reflected to homeowners and businesses across the region.</p> <p>Carry out audit of existing comms channels and Energy @ Home website to make sure the customer journey is simplified and rewarding.</p> <p>Continue collaborations with retrofit projects and business and skills to share knowledge and collaborate effectively..</p> <p>Look for opportunities to collaborate with community groups to work with sectors which require encouragement to carry out more retrofit work (e.g. Private Sector landlords)</p>	3

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Transport

No.	Action	Progress Update (2023-4 activity)	Next Steps (planned 2024-5 activity to Autumn 2025)	Progress Rating
A2.1	<b>Development of a suite of capital programmes to contribute to a reduction in car use by 25% in BANES.</b>	<p>Progression of design development and delivery of the following CRSTS projects that enable a shift towards more sustainable modes of transport and lower transport emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bristol to Bath Strategic Corridor</li> <li>• Somer Valley Links</li> <li>• Bath City Centre</li> <li>• Liveable Neighbourhoods</li> <li>• Bath Walking, Wheeling &amp; Cycling Links</li> <li>• Bath Quays Links</li> <li>• Scholars Way</li> </ul>	<p>Bath Quays Links and Scholars Way - commence construction</p> <p>Bristol to Bath Strategic Corridor – undertake the final stage of public consultation</p> <p>Remainder of projects – continue to develop the business cases</p>	3
A2.2	<b>Increasing ability to estimate whole-life carbon emissions of transport impact from development projects.</b>	We produced Carbon Management Plans (CMPs) and carried out Greenhouse Gas assessments as part of the economic appraisal for CRSTS projects.	Continue to produce CMPs and quantify carbon reduction as part of business case development of CRSTS projects.	3



## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Transport 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A2.3	<b>Work with NGED as DNO/DSO to increase grid capacity in BANES to allow for faster rollout of EV fast chargers.</b>	Delivery of EVI is being discussed frequently with NGED at a high level and in more detail with local Network Planners. Required connections for OZEV LEVI EV chargers are likely to have a small capacity requirement and NGED do not envisage any issues with providing connections.	Continue DNO operational meetings, focusing on supporting significant EVI work packages of WECA Green Recovery Fund (GRF) and OZEV Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund. Once the operator for the LEVI fund has been appointed, they will be introduced to NGED as they will be responsible for connections.	3

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Increasing Local Renewable Energy Generation

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A3.1	Develop an evidence base to inform new Local Plan and future workstreams regarding potential deployment of renewable energy in BANES.	<p>The evidence base, the <a href="#">Renewable Energy Resource Assessment</a> (RERAS, technical resource assessment) was published in 2022.</p> <p>A project funded via Bristol City Council, Mission Net Zero, has given the Council access to a new Local Area Energy Planning tool that can inform spatial planning and identification of new projects.</p> <p>The Options consultation for the new Local Plan includes potential safeguarding of renewables sites identified in the RERAS</p>	Complete new Local Plan, reviewing consultation response and updating policies accordingly	4
A3.2	Develop communication and engagement strategies to drive public interest / access to information and expertise about renewable energy.	[Action combined with #1.4]		n/a

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Increasing Local Renewable Energy Generation

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A3.3	<b>Development of Energy Strategy to provide strategic framework and outline of short and longer-term actions.</b>	Energy actions for the Council will be captured in Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy due 2026, rather than publishing a standalone Energy Strategy. More detail will be set out in a Net Zero Council action plan (for Council's own estate and assets); a Retrofit Enabling Plan; and the outputs of the Mission Net Zero Regional Climate Investment Plan	Working with external stakeholders to translate the outputs from the Mission Net Zero Regional Climate Investment Plan into an action plan for the district	1

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Council Operations

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A4.1	Develop pipeline of Council renewables projects in line with 2030 target for 12MW installed capacity.	[Replaced with action 4.3 in new actions for 2025]		3
A4.2	Put in place the framework and policies for measuring and reducing the council's Scope 3 emissions.	Limited progress on Scope 3 emissions. Analysis is available on where our Scope 3 emissions are coming from and we have continued to learn from partners about best practice in this area. We seek understanding of other neighbouring authority and regional approaches. Specific work continues for our heritage estate scope 3.	Support the implementation of the Council's November 2024 Procurement Strategy.  Develop and pilot approaches to measurement with key teams and suppliers. Set out approach as part of updated Climate Emergency Strategy.	2
A4.3	Waste Services action to reduce operational carbon emissions.	The Keynsham Recycling Hub site is completed and opened to the public. The site includes a 780 KWP solar array, EV charging, waste-water recycling for vehicle washing and >10% biodiversity net gain.  The Council is progressing its plans to relocate its Bath Recycling Centre. This places the Climate and Ecological Emergency policy at the fore. It aims to reuse existing infrastructure wherever possible so that the overall carbon footprint of the development is minimised.	Continue planning and testing for the electrification of waste fleet, more detail under action 4.5.  The Bath Recycling Centre is due to open in 2026.	4
A4.4	Property Services projects to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's corporate estate.	[Action combined with #4.1]		n/a

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Council Operations 2

No.	Action	Progress Update 2024/25	Next Steps 2025/26	Progress Rating
A4.5	<p><b>Decarbonising Council fleet programme.</b></p> <p>With most of the fleet due for renewal in the short term, B&amp;NES has the opportunity to decarbonise a significant proportion of it, ahead of the 2030 net zero target.</p> <p>Based on assessment of the fleet, and available zero-emission technologies, battery electric (BE) will be the most suitable alternative in most cases to replace current internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEVs).</p> <p>Of those ICEVs which will be replaced, 65% (112) of the fleet are directly suited for replacement with BEVs. 33% (57) would need more clarification.</p>	<p>Budget provision has been secured to replace recycling and refuse trucks as they become due for replacement.</p> <p>Identification, feasibility and trialling of both kerbside recycling vehicles (KRVs) (April 2025) and refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) (June 2025).</p> <p>RCV trials concluded that Mercedes eEconic demonstrated and was technically suitable but questions about size as they do not build a narrow chassis. Proposed to purchase 6 eEconic's of the 12 vehicles required to ensure they are suitable for all routes. Consideration will then be made at a later date between the new Dennis eCollect (when available) and the eEconic for the remaining 6 vehicles.</p> <p>Romaquip (KRV) trials were positive and proved it was fit for purpose for replacing the 30 end of life vehicles. Further trials are arranged for December 2025 to test the vehicle in colder weather.</p>	<p>Progressing mid size replacements with EV for vehicles in Community Equipment, Waste, refuse collection, at Haycombe Crematorium and Parks. 2024/25 Purchases include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3x Electric Motorcycles (Parking Services)</li> <li>6x Electric Vans (Various Council Teams)</li> <li>3x Electric Carts (City Centre Cleaning)</li> <li>2x Electric Ride on mowers (Haycombe Crematorium)</li> <li>1x Electric utility vehicle (Cleansing)</li> </ul> <p>Work through costings where trials and assessments are demonstrating EVs are suitable. Confirm purchase of 6 RCV eEconic's for 2025/26.</p> <p>Carry out December 2025 testing of Romaquip KRVs. KRV purchase would be in 2027/28.</p> <p>Fleet Transition Plan is being developed for review by Council, alongside buildings decarbonisation plans.</p>	3

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency – Decarbonising Council Operations 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
A4.6	Aligning council policies and plans.	<p>Climate and Nature Strategy update work started to bring together Climate and Ecological strategy and plans at the mid-point to 2030, to evidence how the Council will deliver the Corporate Strategy Core Priority of Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies</p> <p>Local Plan development continues to support strong environmental policies. Please see action 1.5</p> <p>Work started to define and build the business case for managing more of our land for nature</p>	<p>Work with the BANES community through a variety of ways to test and develop strategy areas. This will include working with civic partners through the Future Ambition Board to start transition planning respective contributions.</p> <p>Continued consultation for Local Plan reset. Please see action 1.5</p> <p>Gain agreement for the principles that underpin being a Nature Positive Council</p>	4



## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 - Buildings

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
<b>Buildings</b>				
<b>B1.1</b>	<p>a) Deliver 30x Level 0 pre-apps and sign up 50x Listed Building Energy Champions</p> <p>b) Progress 10x retrofit planning applications/full pre-apps</p> <p>c) Develop online guidance pages for Green Heritage Homes project</p> <p>d) Delivery of homeowner engagement via webinars, surgeries, and wider promotion of services</p> <p>e) Engage planners in GHH training modules to enable more planning approvals for retrofit of listed buildings</p>	<p>a) Total 26x Level 0 pre-apps and 43x Listed Building Energy Champions completed</p> <p>b) 83x planning applications/pre-apps completed and monitoring process set up for retrofit apps/pre-apps issued</p> <p>c) Creation of resources including listed building factsheets and bitesize retrofit videos, made available on B&amp;NES website</p> <p>d) Hosting 4x listed building surgeries, 2x online webinar modules on heritage significance and the consent process and presentation of project at external meetings, webinars, and seminars</p> <p>e) Funding of ABBE Level 3 qualification for project officers and CPD sessions for officers, including Green Register training and vacuum glazing CPD session (also attended by Historic England)</p>	<p>Progress and deliver Green Heritage Homes Phase II from April 2025 for a three-year fixed term period.</p> <p>Key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue delivery of Level 0 pre-app and retrofit casework</li> <li>- Progress LLBCO for solar panels in the conservation area</li> <li>- Ongoing enablement of retrofit – working with social housing provider</li> <li>- Addressing the supply chain</li> </ul>	4

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 – Buildings 2 and Transport

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
<b>Buildings</b>				
<b>B1.2</b>	Support the programme of Green Open Homes events with Bath and West Community Energy	Held a <a href="#">Green Open Homes</a> weekend in Autumn 2024, delivered in partnership with BWCE, Bath Preservation Trust, Buro Happold and Transition Bath.	Work with partners to agree next steps for the Open Homes Programme, including Green Heritage Homes Champions.	4
<b>B1.3</b> Page 119	Work with West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and local delivery partners to promote Retrofit West advice and support to B&NES residents ensuring uptake is proportional to other Unitary Authority areas	Regular working with Retrofit West and WECA. All comms officers involved to evaluate progress and agree next steps.	Carry out audit of retrofit comms and update digital and print materials in order to maximise impact.	3
<b>B1.4</b>	Support town and parish Councils and community groups to access funding and expertise to retrofit Community Buildings	Convened a retrofit working group	Understand whole picture of community retrofit activity in the area and identify any gaps	2

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 – Buildings 2 and Transport

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
<b>Buildings</b>				
<b>B1.5</b>	Promote WECA Green Business Grants to support rollout of rooftop solar and heat pumps to commercial buildings	<p>This year to date the council has helped the following with carbon-reduction installations: clothing (Westfield Industrial Estate), food and drink (High Street, Keynsham), food and drink (The Maltings, Bath), tourism (High Street, Bath).</p> <p>Monthly outreach is undertaken by the council's Business Engagement Officer, with team colleagues from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority. Both B2B and B2C are approached. All major B&amp;NES industrial estates have been visited.</p> <p>The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority is running a LinkedIn Lead generation campaign from July – September 2025</p>	There are ongoing expressions of interest (EOI) raised at businesses such as: environmental (Brassmill Enterprise Centre, Bath), precision engineering (The Maltings, Bath), precision engineering (Midsomer Norton), food and drink (High Street, Midsomer Norton) and hospitality (High Street, Bath).	3
<b>2. Transport - Detailed plans for transport are set out in the Journey to Net Zero plans for Bath and for North East Somerset</b>				

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 - Renewables

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
<b>Renewables</b>				
<b>B3.1</b>	Ensure the Local Plan provides a supportive policy environment to reach the target of 300MW of in-district generation by 2030 with updated policy re enabling wind development in line with new central government policy.	Local Plan policy on wind generation is being reviewed as part of Local Plan Update, in line with revised NPPF	Complete Local plan options consultation and policy review	3
<b>B3.2</b>	Develop a Local Area Energy Plan for Bath & North East Somerset through the regional Mission Net Zero project (completion date November 2025).	The Mission Net Zero project was funded by Bristol City Council via an Innovate UK grant. One project within the programme was creation of a Regional Climate Investment Plan and Pipeline. The project has given all councils in the region access to the LAEP+ tool, an energy planning tool that supports spatial planning. The project is at a regional level and therefore the outputs do not include a detailed Local Area Energy Plan for BANES. The LAEP+ tool can be used to inform local energy planning within the Council, with stakeholders, and to feed data into Regional Energy System Plans (transitional plans due 2026, full RESP due 2027) that will inform the next period of network investment in 2028-2033.	Secure additional resource beyond November 2025 to enable the use of the LAEP+ tool to be embedded in Council processes, and to engage local stakeholders in energy planning. Continue to support the development of Regional Energy System Plans via the new RESP South West office.	3

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 – Renewables 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
B3.3  Page 122	Develop a business case for Council to co-invest in renewables sites for local Community Energy projects via a Joint Venture	Council is reviewing options for investment in local projects based on updated modelling provided by consultants. This includes a variety of options including loans, power purchase agreements, and a Joint Venture. The government's Local Power Plan is intended to provide support for Local Authority and Community Energy partnerships and could unlock opportunities to co-develop projects; detail of the support available is due to be published by the end of 2025.	Finalise options for investment once details of Local Power Plan published (2025) and take a strategic decision on options to pursue	3
	B3.4 Support development of local Community Energy groups through Cooperation Agreements, exploring opportunities for joint projects to accelerate delivery (including solar project with Keynsham Community Energy on Keynsham Leisure Centre)	<p>The Council has continued throughout 2025 to pursue the rooftop solar project with Keynsham Community Energy for Keynsham Leisure Centre. Significant officer time has been contributed to the project in-kind and it is hoped installation can take place in 2025.</p> <p>A grant of £71k capital funding was awarded by Bath and West Community Energy to the Fairy Hill solar farm in Compton Dando, via the UKSPF Rural fund.</p>	<p>Complete Keynsham solar project</p> <p>Continue to support development of new Community Energy projects via Cooperation Agreements</p>	4

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 – Renewables 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
<b>B3.5</b>	Work with Distribution Systems Operator and new Regional Energy System Planner to understand grid opportunities and constraints locally, and unlock new investment to meet future demand	The Council responded to information requests from NGED and the newly formed Regional Energy System Planner (RESP) to inform network planning for the new price control period 2028-2033. Quarterly strategic meetings take place with NGED stakeholder manager and local grid engineers	<p>Continue to engage in RESP process as new regional governance is implemented</p> <p>Secure additional resource to implement use of the LAEP+ tool within the Council to inform spatial energy planning in collaboration with the WECA.</p>	4



## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25 – Council Operations

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
<b>Council Operations</b>				
<b>B4.1</b>	Develop an implementation plan for decarbonisation of the council's own vehicle fleet	[See 4.5 above for update]		
<b>B4.2</b>	Develop a full plan for heat decarbonisation of Corporate Estate by 2030 including costed Heat Decarbonisation Plans for each significant building	Following a budget allocation of £4m over 5 years, a £250k decarbonisation programme has been approved for 25/26 that includes feasibility studies, technical support, Pulteney Hydro Scheme feasibility and building intelligence data project.	Completion of Stage 2 of Hydro feasibility work; commencement of 2 heat decarbonisation projects using PSDS award; further Energy Assessments and Heat Decarbonisation Plans for the corporate estate.	3
<b>B4.3</b>	Develop pipeline and costing for 12MW Council owned renewable generation by 2030 (including a minimum 2MW of wind), and deliver an additional 230KW installed capacity in 2024-25	Completion of the Bath Sports and Leisure Centre rooftop solar project (90kWp) and approval for rooftop solar projects including Carrswood Day Centre; Pump Room; and Odd Down Sports Ground. Business case and PIDs in progress for other sites.	Completion of Carrswood; Odd Down Sports Ground and Pump Room rooftop solar PV. Completion of business cases for solar canopies at car parks. PID approval for Parkside solar and St Keyna grant funded rooftop solar.	3
<b>B4.4</b>	Develop and pilot approaches to measure and reduce Council Scope 3 emissions. Set out approach as part of updated Climate & Nature Strategy.	Used LGA tools to set Scope 3 boundary Reviewed sustainable procurement models at West of England local authorities and at West of England Mayoral Combined Authority to seek common approach Heritage Services pilot work with Roman Baths shop suppliers	Review spend based analysis Scope 3 work from 2021 vs LGA boundary to report more fully in 2026 Agree resource to manage development of approach to Sustainable Procurement to support implementation of the 2024 Procurement Strategy Set Scope 3 target	2

## Progress on Actions – Climate Emergency new actions for 2024-25

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Other				
B5.1	As part of the development of the new Climate & Nature Strategy, set out our approach to climate change adaptation and resilience, including identifying priority actions.	Our new Strategy for Climate & Nature adds climate resilience to the overarching outcomes we are working towards: Net Zero, Nature Positive and Climate Resilient. As a result, climate adaptation and resilience is being embedded as a cross-cutting theme in the Strategy, with new priority actions being identified alongside recognising existing actions that deliver for nature recovery and net zero and help our communities and places prepare and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.	<p>Development of a programme of work to mitigate risk to delivery of council Services.</p> <p>More specific place-based climate risk assessments and adaptation action planning with partners, to be planned and delivered and feed into the Climate and Nature Strategy</p>	2

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Leadership and Evidence

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C1.1	<b>Integrate the ecological emergency into the strategic framework that will be set out in the next Corporate Strategy (2024-)</b>	Corporate Strategy published in 2023, including references to the Ecological Emergency.  Action Completed.		5
C1.2	<b>Roll-out and embed a Council-wide decision support tool to ensure potential impacts on nature inform all major decisions and projects across the Council, mitigating impacts where necessary.</b>	The decision support wheel has been used to evaluate the impact of projects on biodiversity, land, water, soil (among other things).	Use learnings from the initial rollout of the wheel to ensure it is being used in a way that properly captures the impact of projects on the environment and, where necessary, balances these against social impacts.	4
C1.3	<b>Ensure the Council's Commercial Strategy supports the vision of being Nature Positive by 2030 and helps tackle the ecological emergency. This should include a framework for using the West of England Nature Recovery Network and, when published, the West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy, to inform land acquisition, management and disposal.</b>	We have informed decisions on potential asset disposal and management this year and will continue to be involved in these decisions.	Identify options for improved management for nature for sites that we have requested are retained for their value to nature, and how this can be funded.	4

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Leadership and Evidence 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C1.4	<b>Produce and deliver an ecological emergency literacy training programme for Council employees and members.</b>	<p>The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority is working on a nature literacy package, which we will support and utilise.</p> <p>We updated our internal online training on climate and nature in 2024.</p>	Support the Combined Authority in the development of a nature literacy package.	3
C1.5 Page 127	<b>Produce a guidance note for renewable energy projects, including solar and wind developments, to embed management for nature into their schemes.</b>	We have identified an existing guidance note that has been included in the pre-application process for solar developments.	Monitor how the guidance note is being used in the pre-application process	5
C1.6	<b>Ensure policies and guidance in the new Local Plan address the ecological emergency and improve access to nature, and consider adopting Building with Nature standards.</b>	<p>The previous <a href="#">Local Plan Options Document</a> included a number of options that would help address the ecological emergency.</p> <p>We are in the process of revising the Options Document as part of the Local Plan Reset, and it will be published later this year.</p>	We will finalise the revised Local Plan Options Document, which will again include options for a number of policies that will help tackle the ecological emergency and improve people's access to nature.	4

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Leadership and Evidence 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C1.7	<b>Evaluate the feasibility of setting a higher requirement for biodiversity net gain, above the mandatory figure of 10%.</b>	<p>Mandatory biodiversity net gain (BNG) has been in force since January 2023, over a year ahead of the national deadline.</p> <p>The previous Local Plan Options Document <a href="#">included options</a> to require 20% biodiversity net gain, which will be included in the revised Options document.</p> <p>We have drafted a paper setting out the need for 20% Net Gain to support this Option.</p>	<p>Evaluate responses to the Options Document to inform next steps regarding a 20% BNG Policy.</p> <p>Ascertain the BNG requirements for the site allocations in the Local Plan and consider how these will be delivered.</p>	3
C1.8	<b>Review and update the Council's approach to food to integrate opportunities to reduce the impact of food production on nature.</b>	The Food Strategy is currently in development, with drafting expected to be completed by the end of 2025.	Continue work to develop the Food Strategy in partnership.	4
C1.9	<b>Incorporate standards related to nature recovery in the council's minimum standards for procurement.</b>	The B&NES Procurement Strategy was published in 2024, with an ambition to 'embed sustainability and climate action in to all procurement activity'.	Seek resource to implement a model for sustainable procurement with suppliers (for both climate and nature).	3

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Land and Water Management

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C2.1	<b>Identify and deliver opportunities for nature recovery and biodiversity net gain on the following sites as a priority: Entry Hill, Odd Down Sports Ground, The Approach Golf Course and Lansdown, and then on B&amp;NES Council's wider estate.</b>	<p>We have completed a biodiversity net gain (BNG) assessment for Entry Hill, identifying the potential to generate 62 Biodiversity Units from improvements to the Site. The possibility of an Ecology Centre is being explored through the Landscape City project.</p> <p>Two options for landscape improvements at Odd Down are being consulted on as part of plans to refurbish facilities there; both will improve the site's value to nature, although one is more focused on biodiversity. A planning application will be submitted later this year.</p> <p>A BNG assessment has been completed for Approach Golf Course to identify potential future opportunities for habitat creation.</p> <p>We have also produced plans for habitat creation at Primrose Hill as part of our BNG Pathfinder project, following the success of this approach at Charlcombe Way.</p>	<p>Develop a collaborative masterplan for Entry Hill with partners and identify funding to deliver the Masterplan, including potential sale of BNG units. Explore the possibility of partners managing Entry Hill to deliver agreed aspirations.</p> <p>Complete consultation on Odd Down and submit planning application.</p> <p>Continue to identify opportunities to sell biodiversity units generated through BNG Pathfinder Project.</p> <p>Continue to generate opportunities for nature recovery on other Council sites across our estate.</p>	4



## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Land and Water Management 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C2.2	<b>Package together and fund already-identified opportunities for improving the management of our parks and green spaces for nature.</b>	We are working on an application for Countryside Stewardship funding for managing areas of grassland within our parks and green spaces for nature, which will provide a regular income source and enable us to do more for nature.	We will finalise our plans for grassland management and submit an application when the window for applications opens later this year.	4
		We are also exploring options to secure internal or external funding for equipment needed to manage more of our grassland as species-rich meadows.	Through Landscape City we are developing management plans for woodlands in Bath, which we plan to progress to stewardship applications.	
C2.3	<b>Design, fund and deliver a training programme for operational staff on how to better manage parks and green spaces for nature.</b>	Parks and Green Spaces staff have completed training on managing grassland for nature. The CPRE Hedgerow Heroes project has also provided training on hedgerow laying and management	Continue to monitor potential funding sources that could enable us to deliver any additional training.	5
C2.4	<b>Adjust cutting regimes of highways verges where there is scope for improved management for nature.</b>	Initial discussions on equipment needed to enable more urban verges to be better managed for nature.	Progress funding applications for equipment that would enable more urban verges to be managed for nature.  Explore innovative solutions to manage more rural verges for nature.	2

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Land and Water Management 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C2.5	<b>Produce a B&amp;NES Tree and Woodland Strategy for 2023-30, including plans for increasing tree and woodland cover, and improving woodland management on our own estate.</b>	dA first draft of an Action Plan for council-owned woodlands was produced in early 2024, which we are working to. We have recruited a Tree and Woodland Manager to produce a district-wide Strategy	Produce Tree and Woodland Strategy for the district, and formally publish our Action Plan for Council-owned woodlands	4
C2.6 Page 131	<b>Create an improved 45-hectare nature park at Somerdale, Keynsham as part of WaterSpace Connected and in partnership with Taylor Wimpey.</b>	We've continued to explore options to deliver the nature park, but a lack of funding has slowed progress.	Continue to explore options for funding for the nature park.	3
C2.7	<b>Extend the Bathscape Partnership Scheme to 2025 and develop the project through to 2030.</b>	The project was successfully extended through to 2026, and funding was secured for the Landscape City Project, which focuses on improving management of Council-owned sites within the Bathscape.	Identify a source of funding and develop a proposal for the next phase of Bathscape.	3

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Land and Water Management 4

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C2.8	<b>Deliver 34 hectares of improved, nature-rich green space in and around Midsomer Norton, Westfield and Radstock as part of Somer Valley Rediscovered.</b>	This is being delivered through Somer Valley Rediscovered. See the <a href="#">Somer Valley Rediscovered website</a> for further detail.	Continued delivery through Somer Valley Rediscovered; completion planned for early 2026.	4
C2.9 Page 132	<b>Establish the Chew Valley Reconnected Partnership (CVRP) to coordinate activity among stakeholders and communities to enhance the natural environment of the Chew Valley.</b>	<p>Partnership established in 2023, and is ongoing through the Chew Valley Reconnected project.</p> <p>The Partnership is looking to develop joint project and funding proposals to deliver coordinated nature recovery across the catchment.</p>	Continue to support and coordinate the Chew Valley Reconnected Partnership (CVRP).	5

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Nature-Based Solutions

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C3.1	Identify priority areas for nature-based solutions to localised flooding and runoff of pollutants from the road network and developments; and facilitate partners, including Bristol Avon Rivers Trust and FWAG SW, delivering targeted solutions with landowners.	Further progress has not yet been possible.	Evaluate learnings from the South Gloucestershire Council and BART Green Recovery Fund-funded project on this subject and ascertain how they can be applied to BANES.	1
C3.2	As part of the development of the Local Plan 2025, require developments to deliver Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) that meet adoptable standards and benefit wildlife.	Included as an Option in the previous Local Plan Consultation; planned to be included as an Option in the revised Options document.	Consult on this Option and review responses. This will inform the policy approach taken forward in the Draft Plan, which is due to be completed by Summer 2026.  Ensure any policy reflects best practice and opportunities, and links with Green Infrastructure policy and standards.	4

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Nature-Based Solutions 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C3.3	<b>Work with Bristol Avon Rivers Trust to restore the River Chew. This will involve identifying, costing and evaluating options for removal or retrofitting of weirs and other barriers to fish passage within the Chew catchment, river habitat restoration, and accessing funding for priority projects.</b>	We have continued our work with BART and other partners to explore options for the future of Keynsham Memorial Park weir to improve the river for wildlife in line with national and regional nature recovery strategies.	Secure funding to enable the Council to lead a partnership project focussing on River and Weir Improvements in the Park, starting with feasibility and development work.	3
		The Chew, Cam and Wellow farmer cluster is providing funding for projects that restore the health of the catchment and improve biodiversity.	Continue to engage with BART and farm cluster on delivery of the Action Plan.	
C3.4	<b>Pilot bat-friendly lighting to reduce the impact on light pollution on wildlife along the Avon River corridor (as part of WaterSpace) and use this to inform our approach to street lighting.</b>	No progress made this year.	Review the suggested partnership approach with the University to developing bat-friendly lighting solutions on the Bristol Bath Railway Path, along the River Avon corridor, and other active travel routes.	2

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Nature-Based Solutions 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C3.5	<b>Produce a toolkit of ecological interventions for highways, infrastructure and regeneration projects that are easy to deliver at low cost and that can contribute to delivery of biodiversity net gain.</b>	<p>We have produced a guidance note for integrating nature positive design into transport infrastructure and are producing a guidance note for wildlife-friendly building design.</p> <p>The GI Strategy also includes standards for Green Infrastructure in development.</p>	<p>Finalise guidance note for wildlife-friendly building design.</p> <p>Finalise and publish GI Strategy.</p>	4
Page 135 C3.6	<b>Scope out opportunities for the use of nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation (carbon sequestration) and adaptation across the district, and options for funding/financing these.</b>	B&NES is part of a West of England Climate Resilience Working Group set up to progress work to adapt to climate change at the regional level, including the potential for nature-based solutions.	<p>Continue to work with the West of England Working Group, including to co-develop a regional adaptation strategy, identifying opportunities for nature-based solutions and how these might be funded.</p> <p>Work with / support carbon off-setting policy requirements.</p>	3
C3.7	<b>Use the Invest in B&amp;NES website, as well as other established channels of communication, to better communicate the opportunities to invest in nature for businesses.</b>	We have continued to support regional nature business engagement through the Combined Authority, including the launch of a nature business toolkit in 2024.	Update of regional toolkit planned for November 2025. Additional engagement and resources planned to coincide with Wild Summit (September) and Social Value Regional Plan (January).	4



## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Access and Engagement

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C4.1	<b>Seek funding for a dedicated post (or posts) for the Neighbourhood Nature Areas scheme, supporting communities in active management of their local green and blue spaces for nature.</b>	<p>The UK SPF for a 'Nextdoor Nature' project in the Somer Valley has now been completed, which delivered these objectives in that area and was run by Avon Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>We have continued to run the Neighbourhood Nature Areas scheme.</p>	<p>Explore opportunities to fund an extension of the 'Nextdoor Nature' project in the Somer Valley.</p> <p>Monitor opportunities for funding posts in other areas or across the whole of BANES.</p>	3
C4.2	<b>Create a dedicated Council webpage on the ecological emergency, and use this as a hub to communicate the work we are doing to address the ecological emergency and how residents can contribute towards nature recovery.</b>	<p>Action completed.</p> <p>A number of webpages were published in 2023, providing residents with more accessible information on the ecological emergency.</p>	<p>Maintain and add to webpages as required to ensure information on how we are tackling the ecological emergency is kept up-to-date.</p>	5
C4.3	<b>Embed tackling the ecological emergency within the Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan, explore opportunities for celebrating our natural environment as heritage, and better integrate the ecological emergency within communications related to heritage.</b>	<p>The Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan was published in June 2025, with nature recovery recognised as a key priority and having accompanying actions.</p>	<p>Progress actions for nature recovery included in the Management Plan.</p>	5

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Access and Engagement 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C4.4	Work with partners to establish a social prescribing network within B&NES and make available grants for providers of nature-based activities to build their capacity.	<p>A BANES Social Prescribing Framework is being drafted, which will inform an Action Plan and investment case to support delivery of the shared vision and approach.</p> <p>The Somer Valley Rediscovered (SVR) wellbeing offer has provided a programme of green social prescribing activities in the Somer Valley.</p>	<p>Publish BANES Social Prescribing Framework, and progress identified actions.</p> <p>Identify funding to continue and expand the green social prescribing offer in the Somer Valley.</p>	4
C4.5	Incorporate actions to improve people's access to nature within the developing Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset.	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy published in 2023.	Explore opportunities resulting from the Strategy to improve people's access to nature.	5
C4.6	Create apprenticeships, work placements and/or other opportunities for work within the GI & Nature Recovery team, land management and/or ecologists within B&NES.	We explored a number of opportunities to create apprenticeships this year, but a lack of resources has meant this has not been possible.	Explore opportunities with universities for student placements or projects, which would be less resource intensive.	2

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Evidence and Monitoring

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C5.1	<b>Produce a ‘State of Nature’ framework for B&amp;NES, including an ‘ecological baseline’ and wildlife index for B&amp;NES to measure progress against, and targets for nature recovery.</b>	<p>We have baselined land managed for nature both across the district and on our Estate.</p> <p>We are working in partnership through the West of England Environmental Data Group to develop a regional wildlife index, which could be refined for B&amp;NES, and to develop a regional monitoring framework for nature recovery.</p>	<p>Continue to update our monitoring with new data as it becomes available.</p> <p>Continue to work with the West of England Environmental Data Group to create a Wildlife Index by the end of this year.</p>	4
C5.2	<b>Trial repeatable techniques for monitoring wildlife populations (such as insect traps or standardised bird counts) on sites owned or managed by B&amp;NES Council, to help evaluate of the effectiveness of interventions for nature.</b>	No progress in this year.	Explore opportunities for trialling novel monitoring solution such as acoustic monitors, perhaps through the council's pathfinder sites in conjunction with community groups.	2

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Evidence and Monitoring 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C5.3	Continue to monitor change in tree canopy cover across BANES, updating the figure at least every three years based on a baseline of 16.5% in 2020.	Baseline for BANES district established and published.	Continue to use agreed West of England approach to monitor tree cover in BANES.	5
C5.4	Survey the condition of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) within BANES to identify those that lack management plans or are in unfavourable condition and use this evidence to prioritise improvements in management, with an initial focus on SNCIs under B&NES Council ownership.	<p>Woodland and grassland surveys are being done through Landscape City project. Further surveys of Council-owned SNCIs managed by tenants are being done by Land Management Advisor.</p> <p>Funding being secured at the West of England level for surveys of priority SNCIs (i.e. not just council-owned).</p>	<p>Complete remaining surveys of B&amp;NES Council-owned SNCIs and bring them into good management.</p> <p>Work with Combined Authority to survey priority SNCIs within BANES</p>	4
C5.5	Combine access to green space mapping with data on multiple deprivation to identify priority areas for improving access to green space.	The developing Greener Places Strategy has mapped access to green space across the district and using this information alongside data on multiple deprivation to identify priority areas.	Publication of Greener Places Strategy, which is expected later this year.	5

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Evidence and Monitoring 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C5.6	Include questions in the Council's Voicebox survey from 2023 onwards that monitor people's interest in and engagement with nature.	Questions regarding people's engagement with nature and green spaces include (Question 5) and concerns about the ecological emergency (Question 33) included in Voicebox 2024. The findings from this report can be found online.	Voicebox being discontinued in 2025. Planned to use a dedicated climate and nature survey in its place.	5
C5.7 Page 140	Develop and implement a single corporate reporting approach that aligns reporting to government on the implementation of the enhanced NERC duty on Local Authorities with internal reporting on delivery of the Ecological Emergency Action Plan.	Working with neighbouring local authorities to develop templates for reporting and ensure comprehensive reports.	Complete report for the first reporting period by April 2026.	3

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Working in Partnership

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C6.1	<b>Produce guidance and a template to support parish and town councils in producing Local Nature Action Plans, and ensure these are linked with Avon Wildlife Trust's Wildlife Champion Network.</b>	<p>A number of Parish and Town Councils are working on Nature Action Plans (NAPs).</p> <p>Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership has secured funding to extend a model for Community Climate and Nature action into BANES, which we are supporting.</p>	<p>Continue to support Parish and Town Councils in producing NAPs as required.</p> <p>Support identification of communities and development of approach for Community Climate and Nature action.</p>	5
C6.2 page 141	<b>Support the Forest of Avon Trust and Avon Needs Trees in delivering the 'Great Avon Wood' within BANES, providing a new woodland for nature and people, and in their work to establish more trees and woodlands across BANES.</b>	<p>Planting at Great Avon Wood completed.</p> <p>Work on the nearby, larger 'Lower Chew Forest' at Wick Farm is ongoing, led by Avon Needs Trees.</p>	Provide support to Forest of Avon Trust and Avon Needs Trees as required.	5
C6.3	<b>Engage with the Beaver Management Group to identify opportunities for restoring biodiversity, re-naturalising waterways and delivering nature-based solutions to flooding, as well as potential challenges, related to the beaver population in BANES.</b>	Avon Wildlife Trust has now secured funding to reestablish the Beaver Management and Advisory Group, which we will be represented on, and to offer on-the-ground advice to farmers, landowners & communities. We have also joined the National Beaver Infrastructure Group to share best practice and learning etc in terms of risks and opportunities for infrastructure.	Relevant members of staff to Receive training from Avon Wildlife Trust on beaver-related subjects.	3

## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Working in Partnership 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Page 342	<b>C6.4</b> With partners, agree and implement robust measures to sustain and enhance the bat populations of our European-designated sites, including securing a long-term plan for Combe Down Stone Mine and finalising the bat SAC guidance for B&NES.	No progress made this year.	Secure funding to update and publish guidance as part of the emerging Local Plan	2
	<b>C6.5</b> Work with National Trust and local residents to establish a nature-rich, accessible wildlife corridor from Bath to Bathampton Meadows.	National Trust has conducted community engagement to develop plans for the site, including creating wildflower meadows and wetland habitats. Some habitat improvements have begun, including hedge laying.	Continue to support and engage with National Trust in improving management for nature and improving access to Bathampton Meadows for residents.	4
	<b>C6.6</b> With partners, ascertain the need and capacity for a sustainable strategy for long-term restoration and management of key grassland sites across BANES or the wider West of England region.	<p>The West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has identified priority areas for grassland restoration.</p> <p>We are now working with other Local Authorities to develop sustainable approaches for managing grasslands for nature.</p>	<p>Continue work with Local Authorities and trial new/improved approaches, potentially including grazing and cut and collect.</p> <p>Work with WENP to develop the Grassland Connections Priority Programme and secure investment.</p>	3



## Progress on Actions – Ecological Emergency – Working in Partnership 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
C6.7	<b>Enable and support partners in engaging farmers and landholders on managing land for nature in strategic locations and directing them to funding to do so, focusing initially on the Somer Valley and the River Avon corridor.</b>	The West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has now been published, which provides farmers and landholders with a tool to ascertain how they can best help nature in strategic locations, and links to funding and guidance.	Continue to develop and improve LNRS resources for farmers and landowners.	4
		Avon Wildlife Trust's pollinator pathway projects is engaging farmers in the Somer Valley (and elsewhere) on grassland creation and management.	Scope out engagement in Avon Corridor with BART and Natural England through Waterspace Connected.  Develop funding case for next phase of Somer Valley Rediscovered, which could include working with farmers and landowners.	
C6.8	<b>Support farmers in creating farmer clusters within BANES, enabling us to engage with farmers and landholders at a landscape scale; and work with the Duchy of Cornwall, FWAG SW and other partners to spread good practice from exemplar farms.</b>	The Chew, Cam and Wellow Farmer Cluster has been set up, with 56 farmers already signed up. Grants are being awarded for projects to improve the water environment and biodiversity.  We have recruited a land management advisor, which will provide us with internal capacity to engage with farmers and landowners on land management for nature.	Continue engagement with Chew, Cam and Wellow Farmer Cluster; and support creation of any other clusters in the district.  Secure longer-term funding for land management advisor.	4

## Progress on Actions – Economic Strategy – Greener Economy

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
<b>Build local energy generation capacity and demand for energy saving measures.</b>				
D1.1	<b>Promote the Energy@Home service to residents on low incomes to increase take up of grant support and advice.</b>	Carried out an audit of existing website with a view to simplify and improve the user journey and co-ordinate with the Community Energy Network project	Go live with new Community Energy Network offer and materials	2
D1.2	<b>Work with Bath and West Community Energy to increase awareness of their renewable energy projects and support.</b>	The new Community Energy Network is a grant funded partnership between the Council and Bath and West Community Energy alongside other partners, and is exploring opportunities for new generation projects working with communities in BANES who would like to host and receive benefits from renewables.	Identify 3-6 sites to take forward as part of Community Energy Network project with a target total capacity of 5MW by 2030.	3
D1.3	<b>Scope community green bonds to help local residents to invest in local projects across our city, town and rural centres.</b>	<p>Scoping exercise undertaken to confirm other Local Authority use of community green bonds and its suitability in BANES.</p> <p>Good examples of engaging with communities to raise funds for renewable energy projects, however in BANES, we have well-established community energy organisations and a commitment to support these via co-operation agreements.</p>	Via Climate and Nature Strategy development, identify different opportunities to develop a community green bond scheme.	4

## Progress on Actions – Economic Strategy – Greener Economy 2

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Build local energy generation capacity and demand for energy saving measures.				
D1.4	<b>Explore the development of a Local Area Energy Plan, working with sector and regional partners, to ensure our electricity grid supports electrification and decarbonisation</b>	As a partner to the Mission Net Zero project led by Bristol City Council, we have participated in the creation of a Regional Climate Investment Plan and Pipeline which fulfils some elements of Local Area Energy Planning at a regional level. Have collated and submitted information to the DFES process and the newly formed Regional Energy System Planner to inform strategic investment in networks.	Translate the outputs for the Regional Climate Investment Plan and pipeline into an actionable plan for BANES to accelerate the clean energy transition. Secure additional resource to embed LAEP+ tool into Council processes and engage stakeholders to inform local energy planning	3

## Progress on Actions – Economic Strategy – Greener Economy 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Support businesses to deliver net zero and nature positive in Bath and North East Somerset.				
D2.1	<b>Promote WECA's free carbon surveys for SMEs and Green Business grants to help businesses invest in improving the energy efficiency of their premises.</b>	In 2025 council officers have supported 5 additional local SMEs to access Green Business Grants, with a further 7 outstanding enquiries prior to the grant programme closing in October. Over £2m has been funded since the programme commenced in 2019.	While Green Business Grants are set to finish in October 2025, Low Carbon Surveys will continue. B&NES Council's Carbon Reduction Accelerator scheme remains live, and officers will work with WECA on new green grant schemes for businesses.	4
D2.2	<b>Develop and promote BANES as a location for leading sustainable businesses (e.g. with B Corp status).</b>	<p>Two funded bootcamps supported B&amp;NES SME's on their journey to achieve BCorp accreditation, with 5 in a position to apply following the programme.</p> <p>A separate series of workshops were funded to support pre-start and early stage social enterprises in B&amp;NES.</p>	<p>Continuation of social enterprise support programme.</p> <p>Re-evaluation of BCorp bootcamps to identify demand for further cohorts in 2026.</p>	3

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## Progress on Actions – Economic Strategy – Greener Economy 3

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Create opportunities for residents to train and upskill for future green economy jobs.				
D3.1	<b>Work with WECA's Retrofit Academy to help local people access training for careers in retrofit.</b>	<p>WECA hold trainer days locally that we have helped to promote for local tradespeople.</p> <p>Business and Skills Engage and Support form an employability point, connecting through our We Work for Everyone team as part of our Skills Connect Project</p>	<p>Continue to promote quality training for installers.</p> <p>Wider and more consistent engagement with WECA Green Skills Lead, looking at pathways from existing and upcoming construction/green skills projects into retrofit, promoting and supporting the academy</p>	2
D3.2	<b>Develop an apprenticeship programme for routes into nature and environment jobs</b>	<p>Action intention is to develop an internal B&amp;NES Council pathway into Green Jobs within the Council.</p> <p>Working group established and options developed. Review included broader options than apprenticeships.</p>	Identify budget and preferred pathways for delivery.	2

## Progress on Actions – Economic Strategy – Greener Economy

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
Create opportunities for residents to train and upskill for future green economy jobs cont.				
D3.3	<b>Work with our education providers – including schools, Bath College, independent training Providers and universities’ - to promote awareness of green jobs and green skills to the current and future workforce (such as through the FWD project).</b>	<p>FWD delivered activities focused on planned development and delivery of modules where sustainability and net zero are fundamentally integrated into teaching, short course/skills offerings, innovation schemes and business/employer-led projects.</p> <p>FWD delivered sustainability short course modules and integrated sustainability themes into Innovation and Research business support programmes.</p> <p>As well as this a Makespace Lab was created at the University of Bath Innovation Centre, providing access to 3D printing and prototyping for sustainable product development.</p>	<p>Utilising learnings from FWD to continue to develop Green Skills Provision over 25/26 including:</p> <p>Utilise Hubs and Community Outreach, as well as partnerships to build awareness of Green Skills in B&amp;NES including employment pathways</p> <p>Identify opportunities for entry level green skills training to support residents to access the higher technical qualifications/modules offered by HE/FE (a barrier identified from FWD)</p> <p>Build opportunities to get Innovation and Talent into the same space, with a focus on green skills, sustainability and innovative green technologies</p> <p>Greater engagement with WECA Green Skills Lead</p>	2

## Progress on Actions – Economic Strategy – Greener Economy

No.	Action	Progress Update	Next Steps	Progress Rating
<b>Develop Bath and North East Somerset to be a broad green economy.</b>				
<b>D4.1</b>	<b>Continue the role out of the council's climate literacy training, and develop ecological literacy modules, to increase understanding of climate and nature issues.</b>	<p>All new employees continue to undertake a climate literacy module as a part of their initial induction training.</p> <p>A half day climate and nature training course is available for all teams to access.</p> <p>Development of ecological literacy modules being taken forward at regional level</p>	Support the Combined Authority in the development of a nature literacy package and roll this out within the Council.	2
<b>D4.2</b>	<b>Work with WECA and regional partners to capitalise on the opportunities of the regional green economy.</b>	B&NES Council is working in partnership with the WECA to develop a Local Growth Plan. This plan will develop sectoral and geographical areas of focus. One of the sectors of focus for this strategy will be Clean Energy Industries.	Development of the Strategy with the WECA. One published promote internally and externally. Work with the WECA on the detailed implementation plan.	2
<b>D4.3</b>	<b>Support the work of Retrofit West in developing the business supply chain for retrofit within the district.</b>	Retrofit West are being promoted through Invest in B&NES team via website and engagement.	Support the market for retrofit by encouraging uptake of retrofit and access of retrofit west support as is available.	2



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# Climate & Nature Survey Report

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Summer 2025

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Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

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Improving People's Lives

# Executive Summary

The Climate & Environment Team at B&NES council conducted a survey to understand residents' views on climate and nature. Here's what residents told us:

- ▶ **Top Priorities:** Water and rivers, restoring nature, the way we travel and the energy we use.
- ▶ **Most common actions taken:** Carrying reusable items, planting pollinator-friendly plants, and repairing broken goods.
- ▶ **Strongest motivation:** To help nature.
- ▶ **Actions residents want to take but can't or don't:** Making energy efficiency improvements at home, installing water-saving measures, and taking no action
- ▶ **Biggest barrier:** It's too expensive
- ▶ **Most common perception of the council's climate and nature efforts:** Residents don't know what B&NES council is doing or think B&NES council is doing too little.
- ▶ **Top suggestions for council action:** Improving public transport, protecting and enhancing green spaces, and supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- ▶ **Observed local changes:** Experiencing hotter, drier days and fewer insects.
- ▶ **Trusted sources of information:** Environmental charities and groups were most trusted, while social media influencers were the least trusted.
- ▶ **Key themes from free text comments at the end of the survey:** The way we travel, how the council works, and how we restore nature.
- ▶ **Next steps:** The council needs to engage those not represented in the survey responses. There is also a need to improve communication around existing council work relating to climate and nature and to help our communities take action.

# Introduction

## Background and objectives

Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergencies is a core priority for Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) Council. We are at the mid-point of our 10-year plans for climate and nature and are currently reviewing them to bring them together into a single strategy and action plan.

From May to June 2025, B&NES council ran a survey open to all residents in Bath and North East Somerset (BANES). The purpose of the survey was to better understand public views on climate change and nature-related issues, and to use these insights to help inform current work.

## Approach

The survey was made available online via the council's consultation webpage. Paper copies were also distributed at all three B&NES libraries and the Climate Hub.

To ensure broad participation, the survey was promoted through multiple channels:

- ▶ The council's social media platforms
- ▶ The e-connect newsletter
- ▶ Direct outreach to community groups for wider dissemination
- ▶ Email communications
- ▶ Promoted within Libraries with paper copies available to complete
- ▶ Flyers at events and various locations

As an incentive, all participants were offered the opportunity to enter a prize draw for a £50 voucher, for a supermarket or local vendor of their choice. The draw took place on 18 June 2025, and winners were contacted via email to arrange their prize.

# Survey Design

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This survey was designed and run by members of the Climate & Environment team at B&NES council. Input and guidance were provided by several other teams, including Equalities, Communications, Web, Community Engagement, and Business Intelligence.

The survey used simple language and kept the responses broad to be accessible for all. We are not calculating emissions based on these responses.

As the survey aims to help shape the new climate & nature strategy many of the questions were based off the emerging themes of the strategy. The aim of the 'individual action' questions were to understand what actions people are taking, what motivates them and what the barriers are to individual action.

In addition to questions focused on individual action, the survey asks for residents' views on what the council is or should be doing to address climate change & nature loss. The aim of these questions is to gauge public perception of the work the council is doing and identify gaps where the public would like to see more action.

# Who We Heard From: Age

- ▶ Overall, we heard from 833 respondents.
- ▶ Over half of respondents (56%) were aged 55 and over (see Figure 1). In contrast, we heard relatively little from residents aged under 25, despite this being the largest age group in B&NES<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>[ONS Estimates of the population for England and Wales](#)  
[Strategic Evidence Base for Bath and North East Somerset](#): The large population of residents under 25 is largely driven by the high number of university students attending the two campus-based universities in the area.

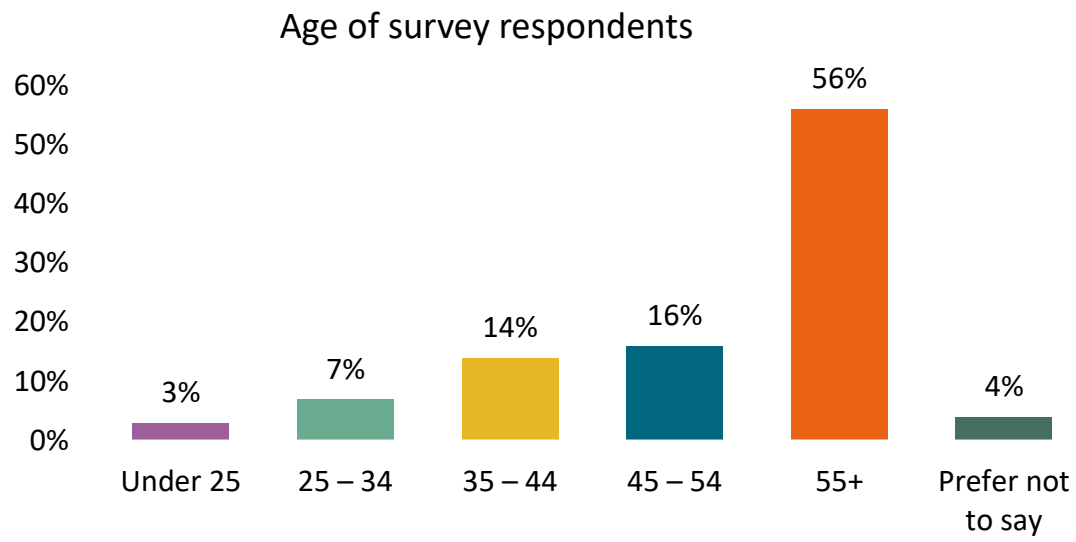


Figure 1 – Table showing the age of respondents to the Climate and Nature survey 2025

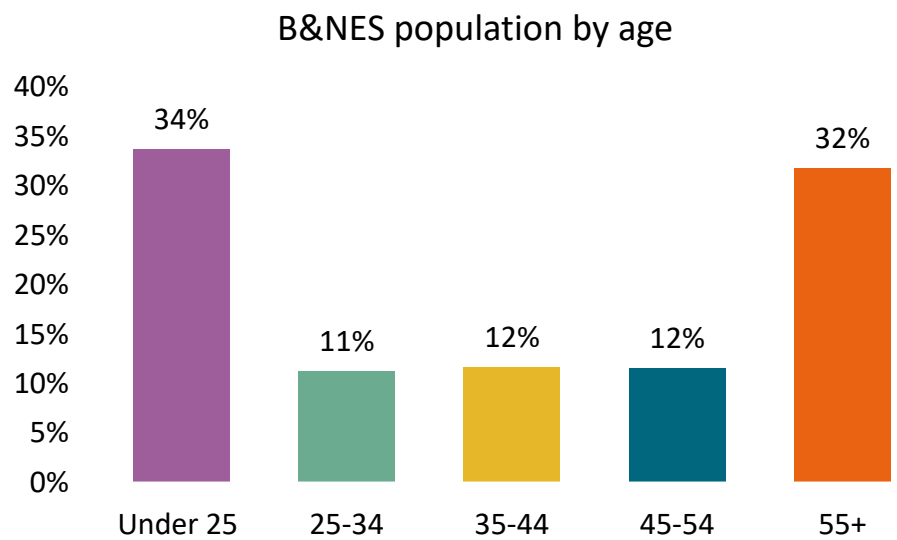


Figure 2 – Bar chart of BANES population by age from 2019 census data

# Who we heard from: Living Situation

- ▶ A significant majority of respondents (86%) identified as homeowners (see Figure 2). ONS data shows that 65% of households in BANES own their house meaning that while they make up a large proportion of the population, they are overrepresented in this survey <sup>2</sup>.
- ▶ In contrast, private and student renters accounted for just 7% of responses, despite making up 19.3% of B&NES households<sup>2</sup>. Social housing tenants were similarly underrepresented, comprising only 2% of survey participants compared to 14.3% of the population<sup>2</sup>.
- ▶ These differences will guide our next steps to speak to groups underrepresented in responses.

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<sup>2</sup> [ONS Data. Household characteristics by tenure, England and Wales: Census 2021.](#)

Which of these best describes your living situation?

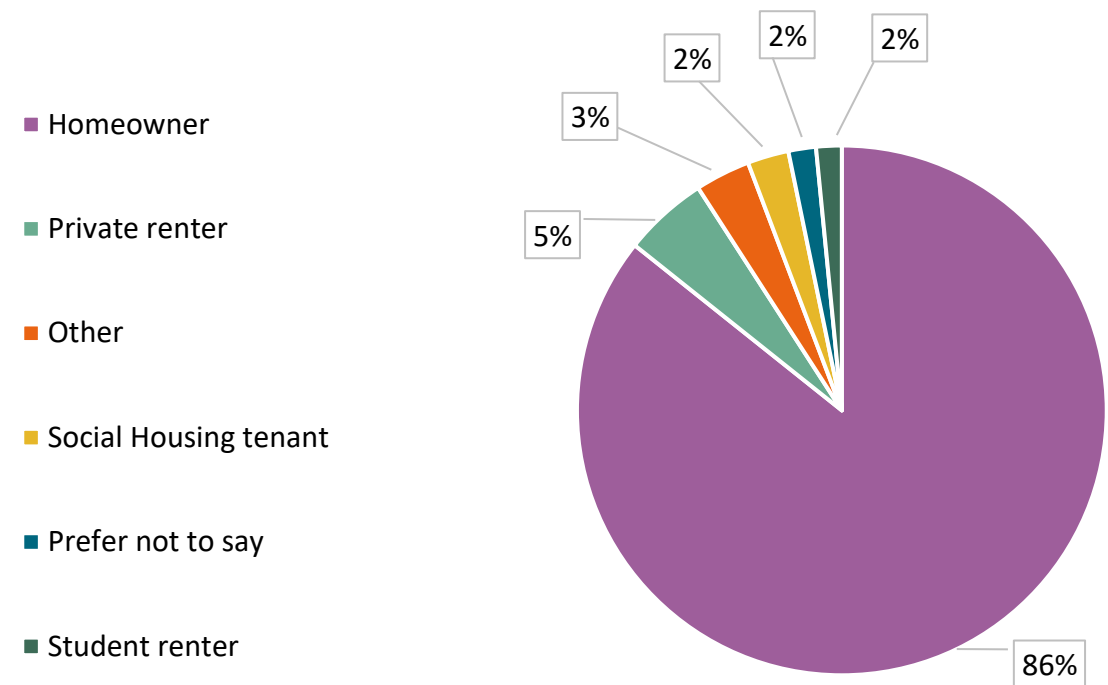
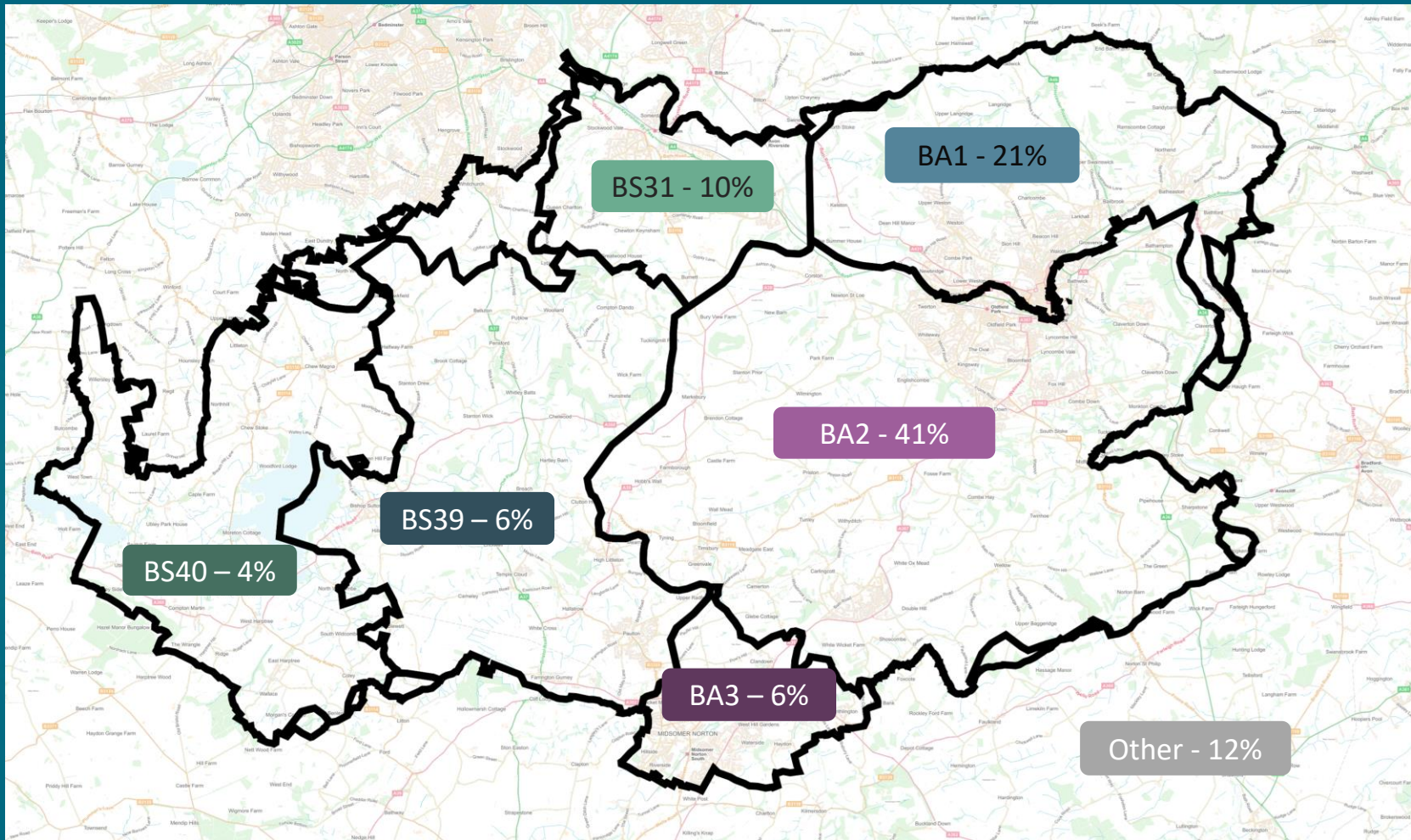


Figure 3 – Pie chart of living situations for respondents to the Climate and Nature survey 2025



# Map of Respondents by Postcode



- ▶ Geographic Spread: While responses were received from across B&NES, the majority (62%) came from the BA1 and BA2 postcodes, which cover Bath and its surrounding areas. This is expected given that 56% of residents live in Bath and Bathavon <sup>3</sup>.
- ▶ 12% of responses consist of those who selected 'prefer not to say', responses with typographical errors and postcodes outside the B&NES area. While these responses are excluded from the map, all answers to other questions have been included in the overall analysis.

<sup>3</sup> [B&NES Strategic Evidence Base](#)

Figure 4 – Map of B&NES postcodes and percentages of respondents to the survey

# Key Priorities

- ▶ The first question of the survey asked respondents to select up to three themes they considered most important from a list aligned with the key areas of the Climate and Nature Strategy. Figure 5 shows the percentage of respondents who selected each option [\[Footnote 1\]](#).
- ▶ 'Water and rivers' and 'how we restore nature' were the most popular responses demonstrating the importance of nature to people in B&NES. This was followed by 'the way we travel' and 'the energy we use' which are two of the highest sources of carbon in B&NES. 'The right jobs and skills' was the lowest scoring.
- ▶ Respondents had the opportunity to answer 'Other' to this question. Themes emerging from this included transport, specifying the need for low carbon alternatives and more access for cycling, local planning, and biodiversity.
- ▶ Several responses in 'Other' also highlighted the interconnectedness of all these options, while others shared frustration at the council spending time on Climate Change.

Thinking about climate change and nature loss, which of the following are most important. Select up to 3.

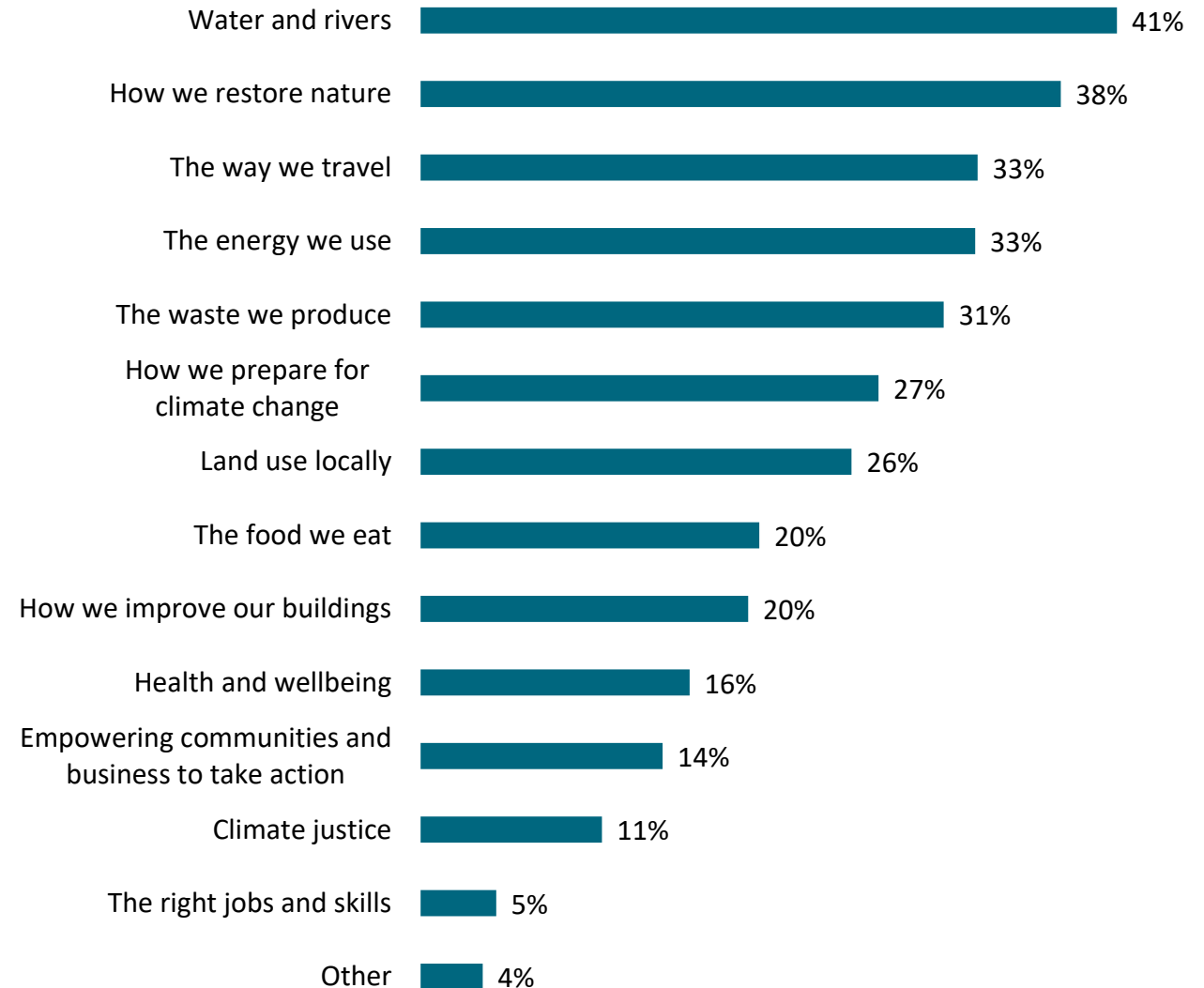


Figure 5 – Bar chart showing respondents priorities relating to key themes

# Resident Actions by Theme

- ▶ The survey asked residents about actions they have taken in the past 5 years, their motivations and barriers. The next five slides set out these responses.
- ▶ Figure 6 on this slide shows the actions grouped into themes.
- ▶ The data shows that residents are most engaged in actions related to nature and waste & resource management. In contrast, there is less activity around water use, personal finance and resilience.

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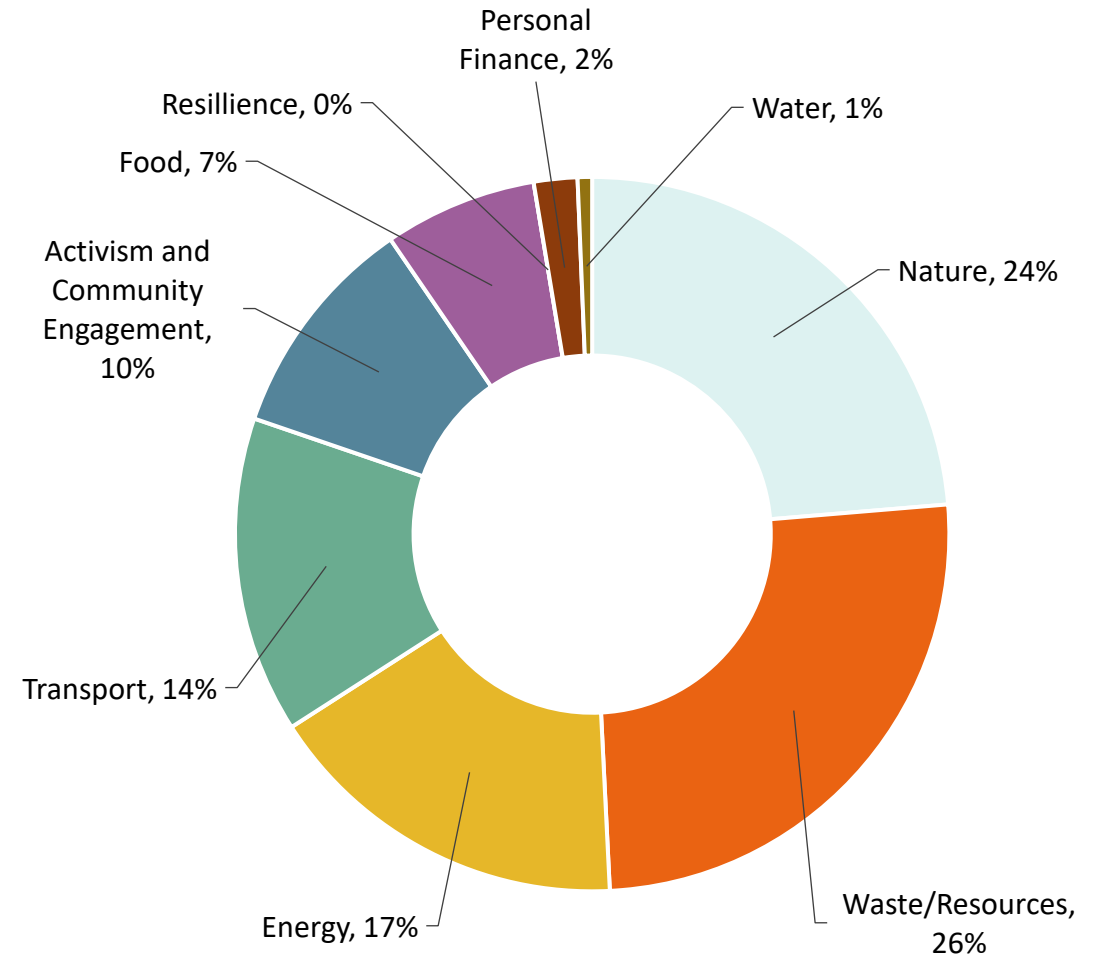


Figure 6 – Pie Chart showing residents actions that have been done in the last 5 years by theme in percentages

# Actions Residents Have Taken

► The survey asked BANES residents to select from a list the actions they had taken over the last 5 years. The most popular responses were linked to reducing waste, for example carrying reusables, repairing broken items and shopping second hand as well as nature-related such as planting pollinator friendly plants and making space for nature (see figure 7).

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► Of the 8% of responses under “Other” the most common themes were practical sustainability actions such as switching to an EV, community engagement, and advocacy.

## Top 10 actions done in the last 5 years

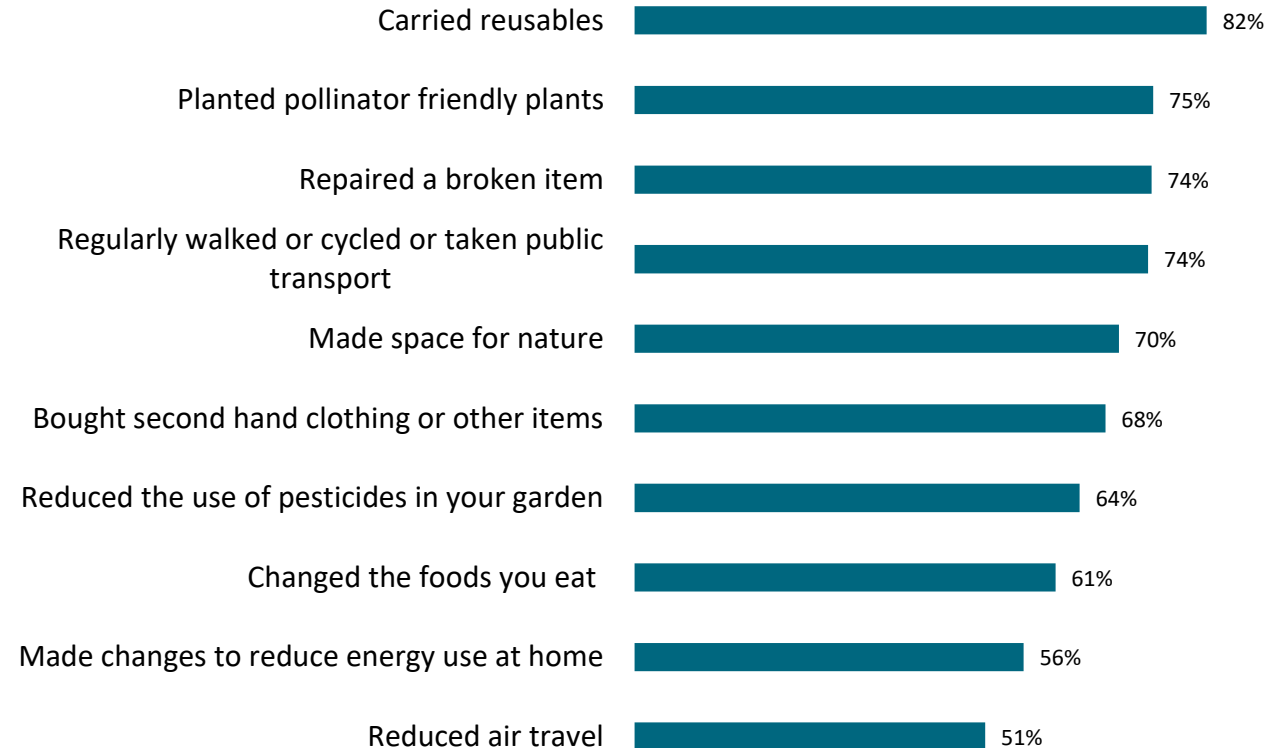


Figure 7 – Graph showing top 10 actions residents have taken relating to climate and nature in the last 5 years



# Motivations for Action

- ▶ We analysed the links between actions taken and motivations selected. The most common motivation across many actions is to help nature, with actions like planting pollinator-friendly plants, reducing pesticide use, and making space for nature identified.
- ▶ Health and wellbeing is a strong motivator, especially for actions like walking or cycling and changing food habits.
- ▶ Actions like making energy efficiency improvements and switching to renewable electricity are frequently linked to saving money and reducing emissions.
- ▶ Many actions are driven by both concern ('I am worried about climate change and nature loss') and optimism ('I am hopeful and want to contribute to positive change'). Air quality is a less common but still notable motivator in relation to reducing air travel and walking/cycling.
- ▶ Responses under 'other' highlight personal values, habit, or a sense of responsibility as a motivation to take action. Several participants also mentioned a desire to act in the interest of future generations.

What motivated you to take the actions in the previous question?

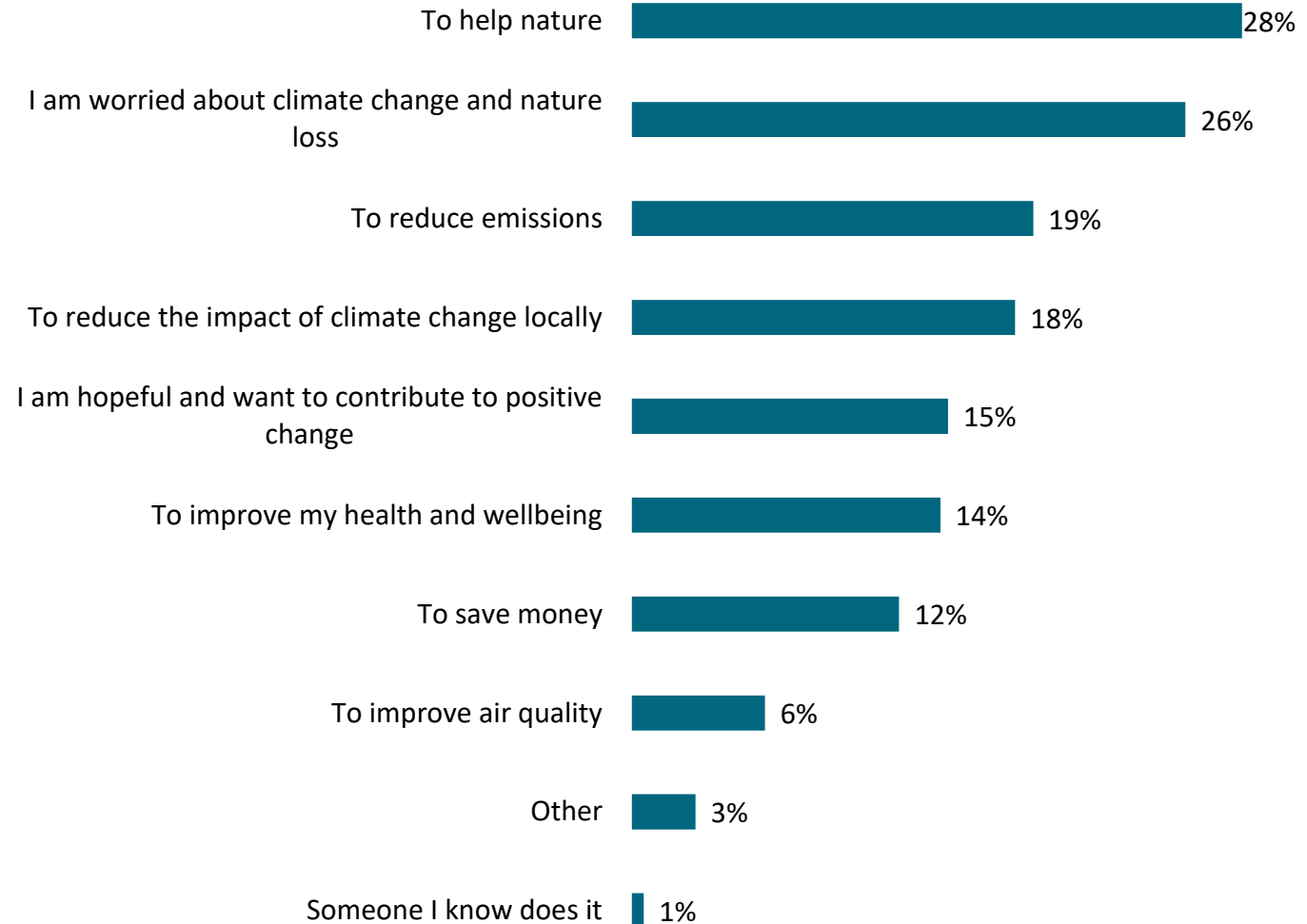


Figure 8 – Graph showing which motivations were the main drivers for actions taken relating to climate and nature in the last 5 years

# Actions Residents Would Like To Do

- ▶ The survey then asked residents whether there were any actions they would like to take but currently cannot or do not. The most common responses related to making improvements around the home, such as installing energy and water efficiency measures, fitting shutters or reflective blinds, and making changes to reduce energy consumption. A significant number of respondents responded 'none' to this question.
- ▶ Of the 6% of respondents who answered 'other', the most frequent responses focused on specific energy-related actions, such as installing solar panels and heat pumps.

Top 10 actions residents would like to take but currently cannot or do not

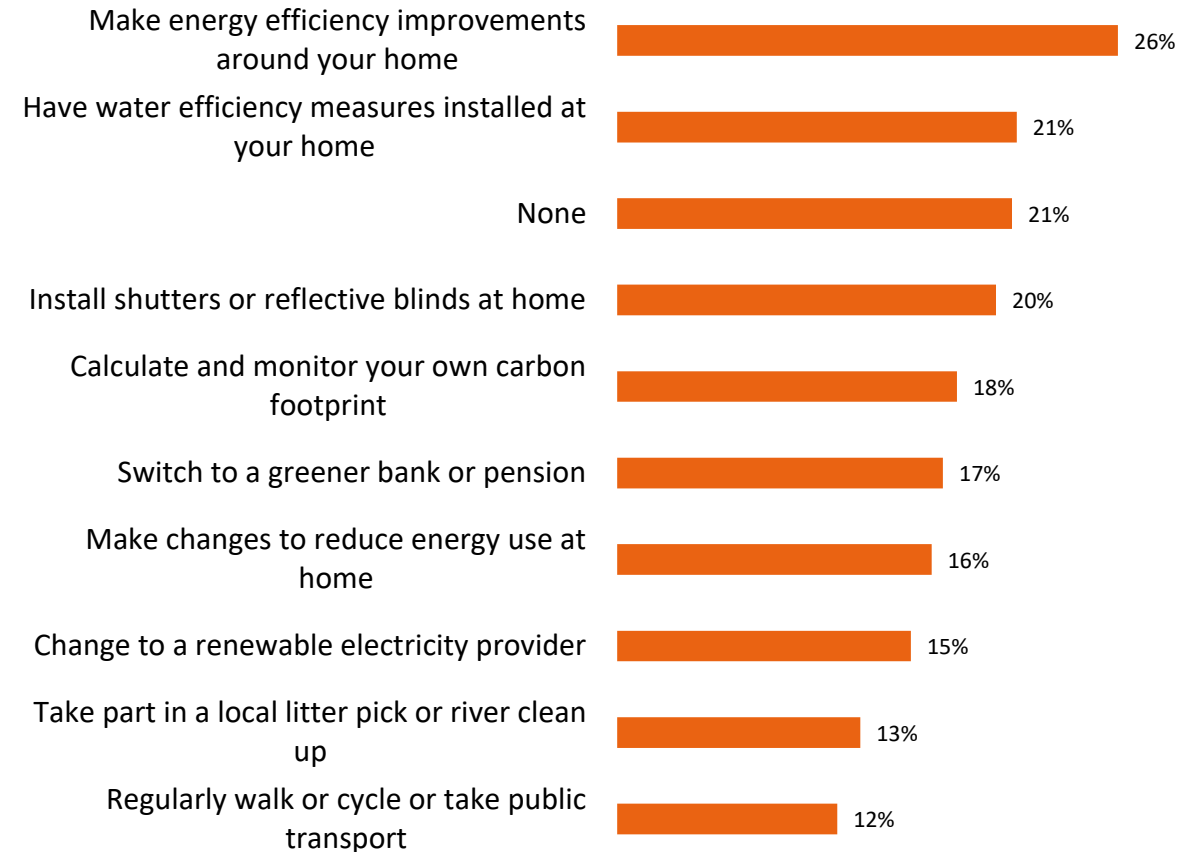


Figure 9 – Bar chart showing top 10 actions residents would like to take but currently can't do

# Barriers to Action

- ▶ The most common barriers to all actions were 'It's too expensive' followed by, 'I don't have the right information'. These barriers were most strongly associated with making changes at home such and improving energy and water efficiency, and installing shutters or reflective blinds. This highlights an opportunity for the council to better communicate relevant information and to better promote available funding.
  - ▶ Responses under 'Other' frequently highlighted planning restrictions, especially in relation to listed buildings, as a significant barrier.
- Another recurring theme was the lack of adequate public transport and active travel infrastructure, which make sustainable travel options unsafe, time-consuming, or not possible. A smaller number of respondents cited health conditions and disabilities as limiting factors, while a few indicated a lack of interest or willingness to take action.

What has stopped you taking the actions that you would like to?

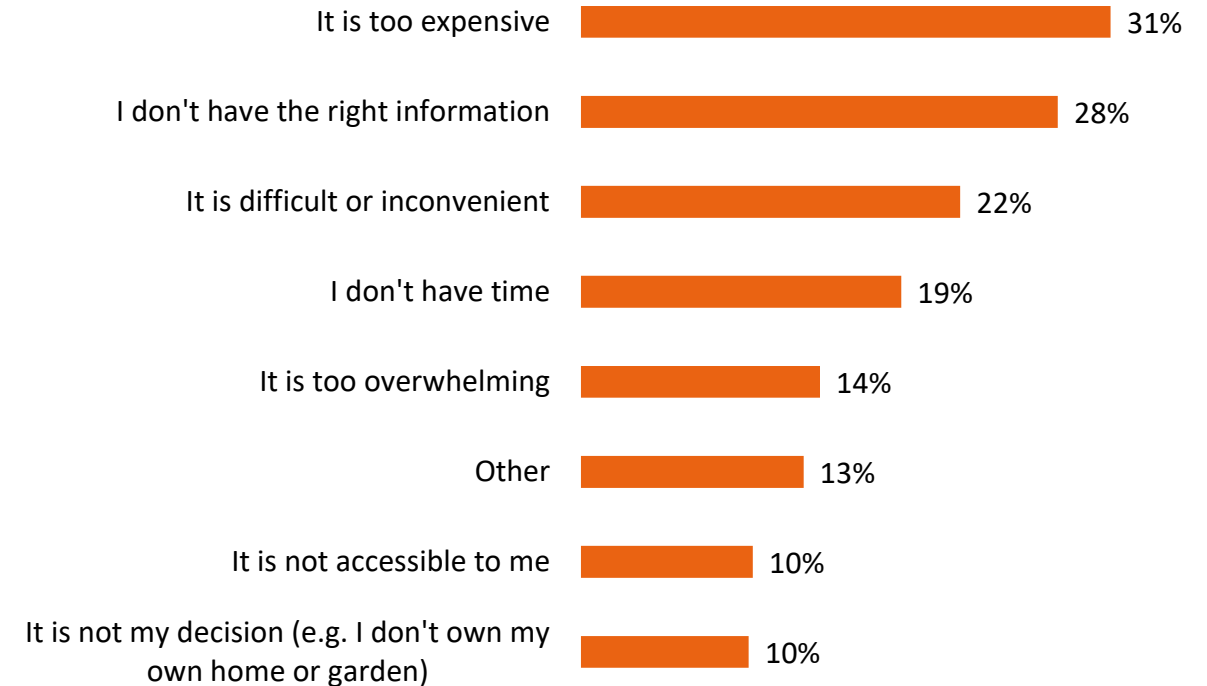


Figure 10 – Bar chart showing which barriers stopped respondents from taking the actions that they would like to take for climate and nature



# Comparison of Actions

- ▶ Figure 11 shows a comparison of the percentage of respondents who have taken specific actions in the past five years, alongside those they have not taken but would like to.
- ▶ There is a link between some of the actions least done in the past 5 years and ones that people would like to do such as installing shutters. Understanding and addressing gaps and barriers is essential for the council to enable more residents to take action.

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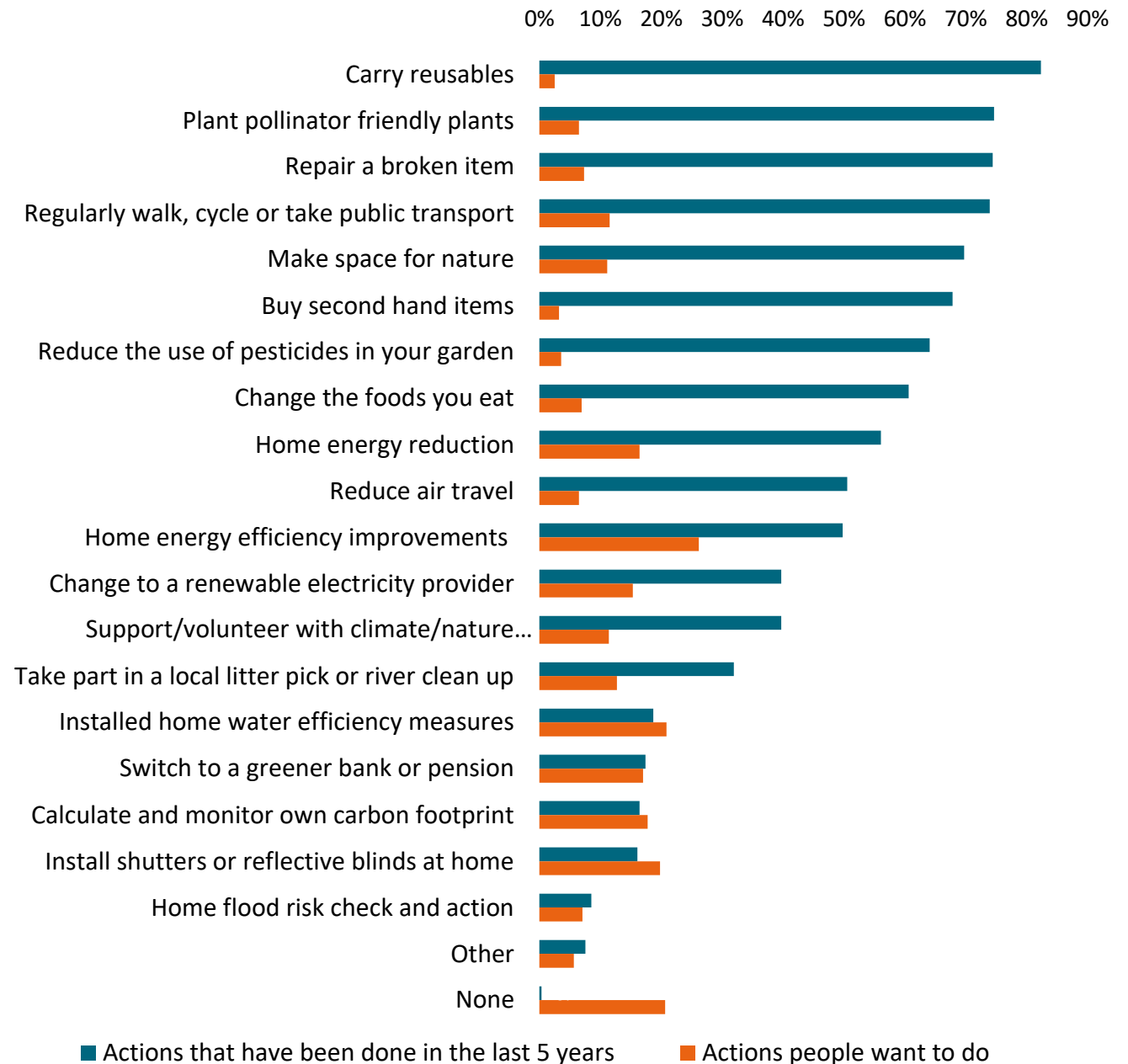


Figure 11 – Bar chart comparing actions taken in the last 5 years and the actions people would like to do.

# Local Changes

- ▶ When asked about changes in their local area related to climate change or nature loss, 73% of residents reported experiencing 'Hotter, drier days', while 65% reported seeing 'Fewer insects'. These responses highlight the visible local impacts of climate change on both weather patterns and biodiversity.
- ▶ Common themes emerging from the text responses provided under 'Other' included concerns about environmental degradation due to property development, a decline in local wildlife and biodiversity, deteriorating river health caused by pollution and sewage, unpredictable weather patterns, and the emotional impact of these changes, such as increased stress and anxiety among residents.

What changes, if any, have you seen in your local area relating to climate change or nature loss

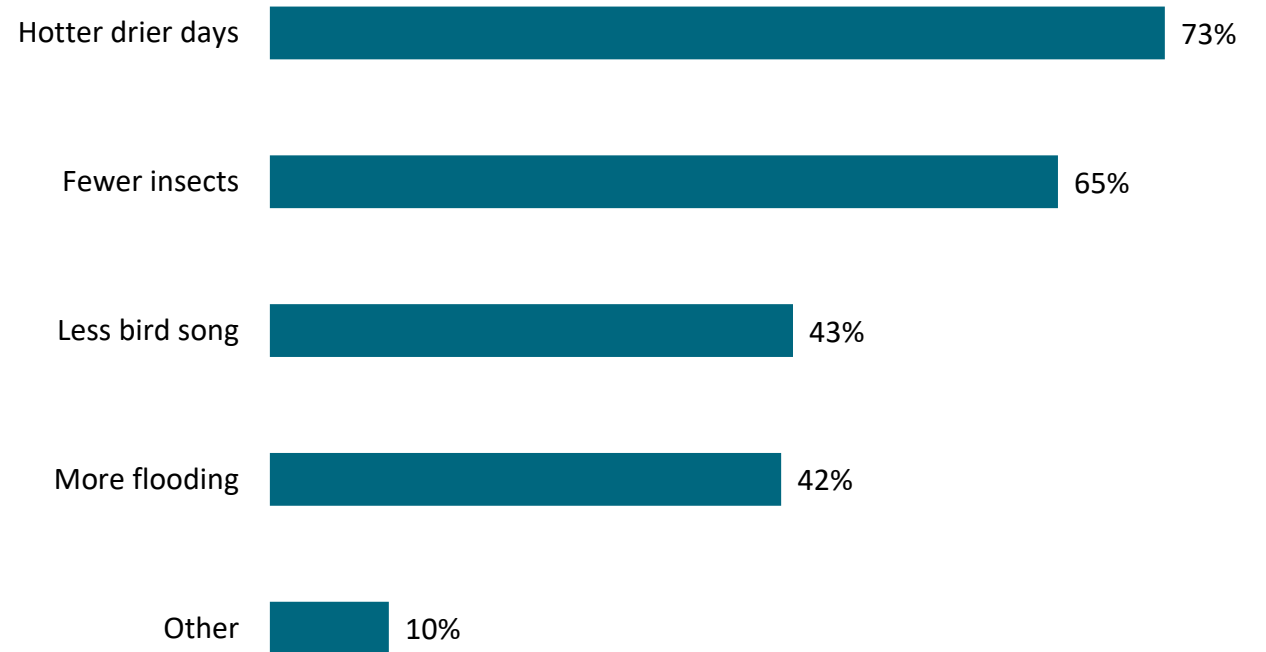


Figure 12 – Graph showing responses to what local changes to nature and climate they had noticed locally.

# Views on B&NES Council's Action

- ▶ When asked their views on how much B&NES council is doing to combat climate change and nature loss the most common response was 'I don't know what B&NES is doing' (41%), followed by 'Too little' (38%). This presents an opportunity for the council to promote its work on climate and nature and engage more with residents on this topic to deliver and enable action.

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In your opinion, how much is B&NES Council doing to combat climate change and nature loss?

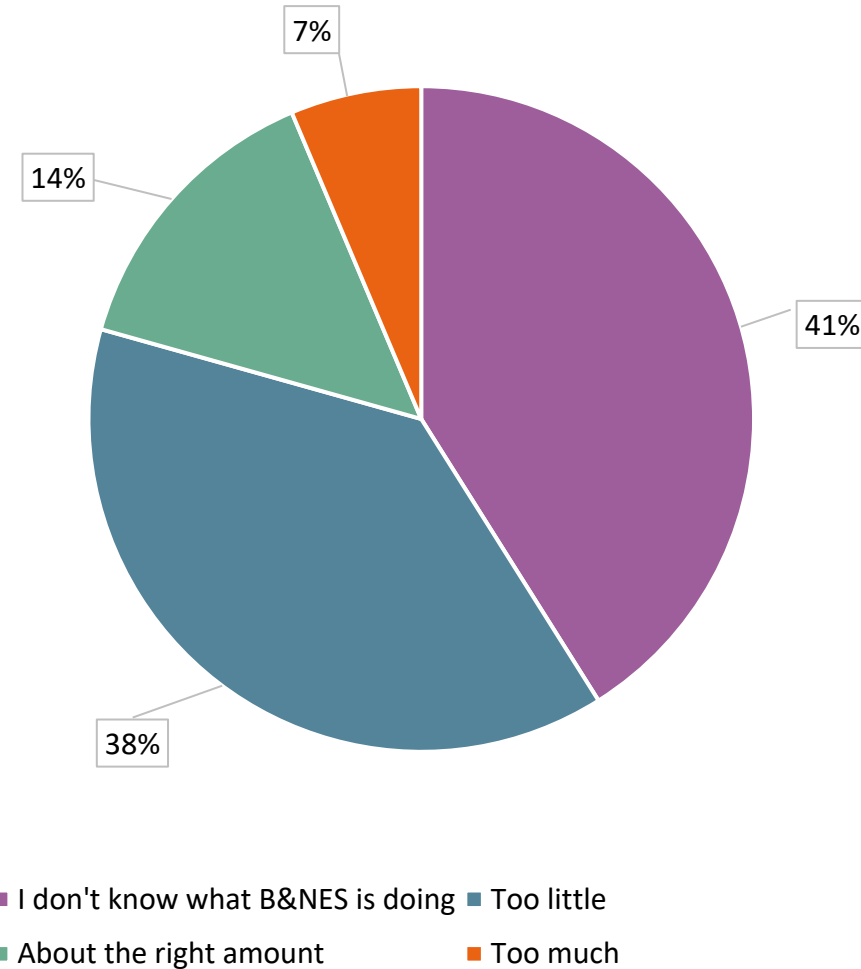


Figure 13 – Pie chart showing respondents views on B&NES council's actions on climate change and nature loss

# What More Could B&NES Council Do?

When asked what more B&NES Council should do overall respondents want the council to be more ambitious, visible, and practical in its actions. In order of most frequently mentioned, key themes highlighted were :

- ▶ **The way we travel** - requests for better public transport, promoting more active travel including safer walking and cycling routes as well as measures to reduce car use and congestion.
- ▶ **How to improve our buildings** - Requests for sustainable housing, restrictions on building on greenfield/greenbelt, better planning policies including faster decision making, and energy-efficient homes.
- ▶ **How we restore nature** - Emphasis on protecting and increasing green spaces, tree planting, restoring habitats, and wildlife corridors.
- ▶ **Policy and governance** - Suggestions for stronger policies, enforcement, leadership, and lobbying higher government.
- ▶ **The energy we use** - Support for solar panels in particular on public buildings, heat pumps, energy efficiency, and local renewable projects.
- ▶ **Water and rivers** - Concerns about river pollution, flood prevention, and water management.
- ▶ **Empowering Communities** - More public education, awareness campaigns, engagement with residents and support for local initiatives
- ▶ **The waste we produce** - Improvements to recycling, composting, and reducing waste.

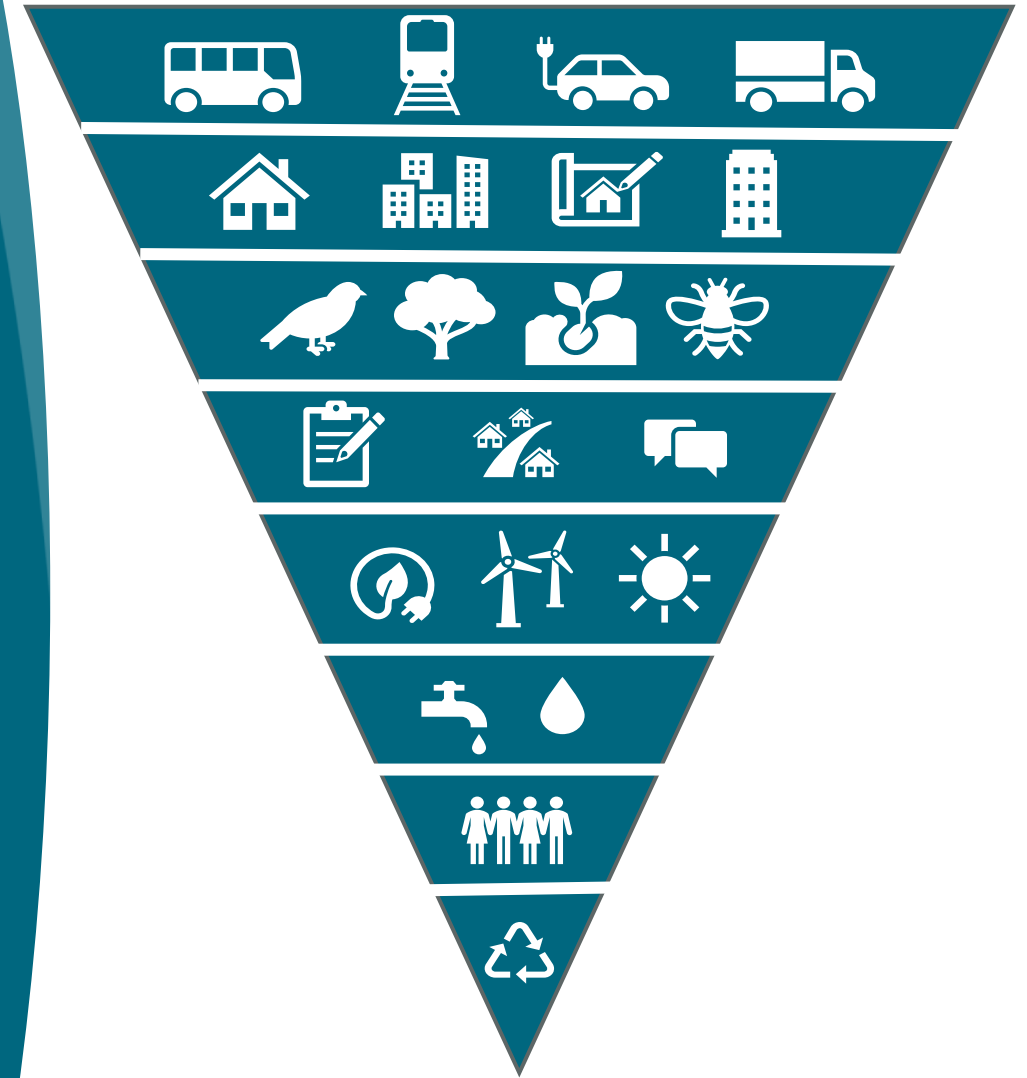


Figure 14 – Infographic showing the frequency of which different themes were mentioned in the responses to 'what more could the council do?'



# Trusted Sources

- ▶ The most trusted sources that were noted were 'Environmental charities' at 66% and 'Environmental groups' at 64%, followed by 'Universities or colleges' at 53%. This suggests that the council could explore opportunities to collaborate with the most trusted sources when communicating with residents on climate & nature.
- ▶ Social Media Influencers' are the least trusted at 4%, which in part could be due to the age range of respondents. A next step for the council is to engage further with younger audiences.
- ▶ For those who responded 'Other' themes included academic journals, personal and professional networks.
- ▶ Several responses in 'Other' also demonstrated scepticism or mistrust of many sources for example "I use all sources - carefully" and "I don't trust any, they all just give facts that suit their agendas."

Which of these sources do you trust to provide information and advice about climate change & nature loss?

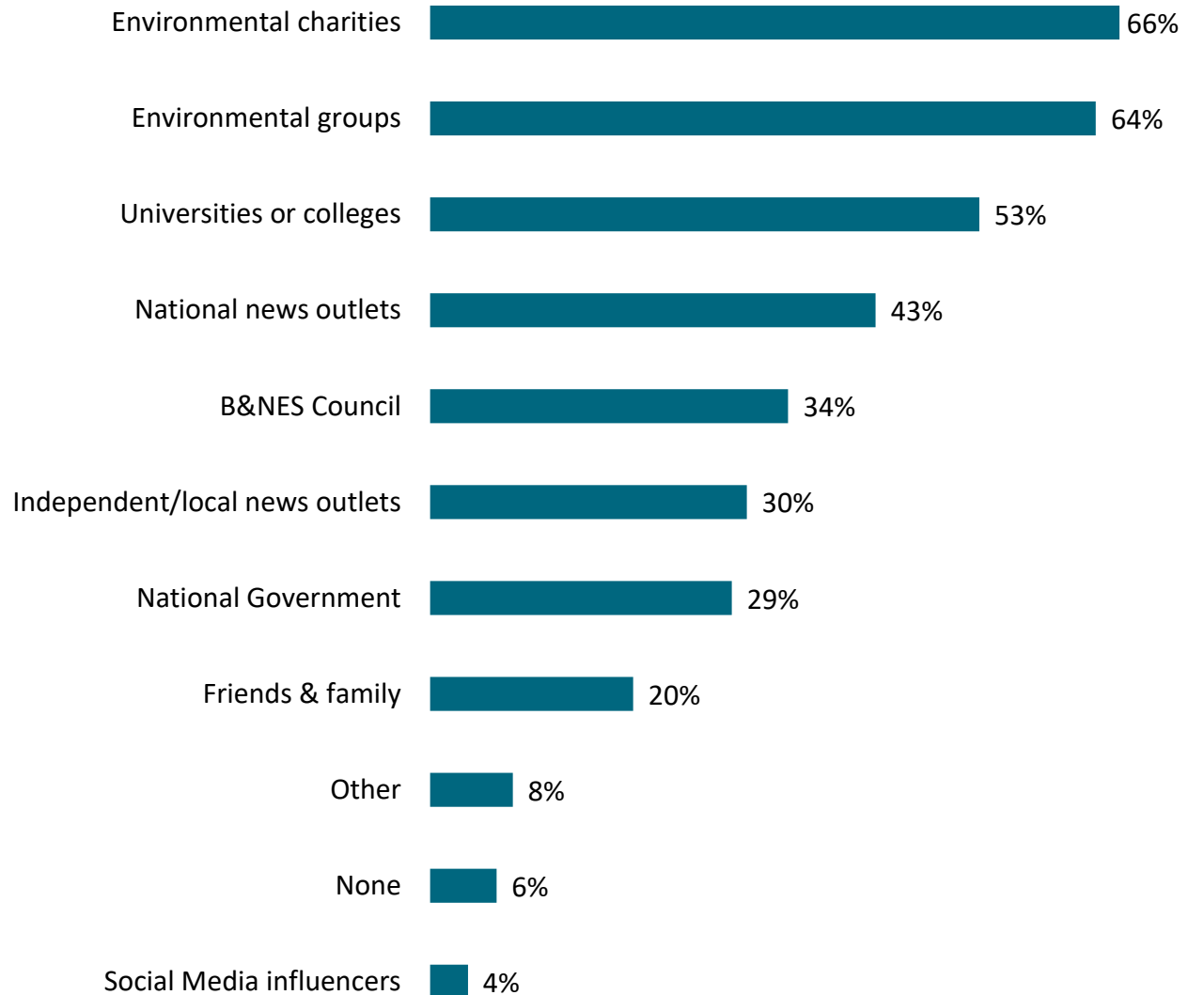


Figure 16 – Bar chart to show which were respondents preferred trusted sources



# Additional Comments Provided by Respondents: Key Themes

The final survey question gave the opportunity to provide any additional feedback or comments. Here is a summary of the key themes which emerged from the 343 responses we received, listed in order based on how frequently they were mentioned:

**The way we travel** - Many respondents highlight the need for better public transport, safer cycling and walking routes, reduced car use, and concerns about congestion and road safety.

**How the council works** - Calls for stronger leadership, clearer policies, more effective consultation, and greater transparency from the council. Some express frustration with perceived lack of action or follow-through.

**How we restore nature** - Emphasis on protecting and enhancing green spaces, planting more trees, supporting wildlife, and maintaining biodiversity. Concerns about loss of green areas due to development.

**How to improve our buildings** - Requests for sustainable housing, better planning to avoid building on greenbelt land, and more support for energy-efficient homes. Some mention issues with listed buildings and planning restrictions.

**The waste we produce** - Suggestions for improving recycling, reducing litter, and providing better waste services. Some want more education on waste reduction and tackling consumerism.

**Water and rivers** - Concerns about river pollution, sewage, and the need for better flood prevention and water management.

**Empowering Communities** - There's a desire for the council to enable and support local groups and residents to take action themselves. Calls for more public education, awareness campaigns, and community involvement, especially in schools and local groups.

**The energy we use** - Support for solar panels, heat pumps, insulation, and other renewable energy initiatives. Some want more council support for home energy improvements.



# Additional Comments Provided by Respondents: Feedback to the Council

Many respondents want to see more tangible action and less consultation. There are also calls for more integrated approaches across departments. Several responses also expressed that local action is limited without stronger national policy, but still want the council to lead by example.

Some respondents express distrust in the council or call for more openness about decisions and actions, while some show pride in local leadership but warn against complacency.

In addition to comments relating to recommendations or suggestions for the Council, a significant portion are personal reflections or responses or general views on the topics of climate and nature, in particular comments reflecting broader anxieties or existential concerns (e.g., about global threats).

There were also positive mentions of specific services and community groups and action including:

- ▶ “Just to give praise where due—I think B&NES does a brilliant job with its kerb side recycling collections.”
- ▶ “I think Somer valley rediscovered is doing a good job.”
- ▶ “I think the Climate Hub is great and hope it thrives.”

# Final Note and Next Steps

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Climate & Nature Survey. The purpose of the survey was to better understand residents' views on climate change and nature-related issues, and to use these insights to inform our current work. We are grateful to the 833 people who took part.

The survey has provided valuable insights that will help shape the upcoming refresh of our Climate and Nature Strategy and Action Plan. Residents identified travel, buildings, and nature as key areas where they would like to see more action from the Council and these priorities will be built in.

The results also highlighted a need for clearer communication from the council, both about what we're doing, and about the actions residents can take themselves, along with the support available to help make those changes easier. One example is planning restrictions, especially for listed buildings, which were frequently mentioned as a barrier to action. This underlines the importance of promoting our Green Heritage Homes project, which supports the retrofit of listed buildings.

A next step is the need to engage those we did not hear from in this survey. In

particular, young adults and non-homeowners.

Finally thank you to those who have taken action to tackle climate change & nature loss, however big or small that may be. The council has a big role to play but our collective response alongside communities and businesses will have greater impact when tackling these issues. There's so much great work happening already across the district which we hope continues to grow. If you have anything you would like to share with us, please do get in touch.

# Thank You and Contact Information

- ▶ If you would like to keep in touch about our Climate and Nature work you can get in touch via email at [Sustainability@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Sustainability@bathnes.gov.uk) and follow us on social media via:
  - ▶ Instagram: [@Greenbathnes](https://www.instagram.com/Greenbathnes)
  - ▶ Twitter [@Greenbathnes](https://twitter.com/Greenbathnes)
- ▶ If you would like to stay up to date with weekly news & information from B&NES Council, sign up to the newsletter here: [B&NES Council E-Connect](#)

# References & Footnotes

## References

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<sup>1</sup> ONS Data. Estimates of the population for England and Wales:  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/estimatesofthepopulationforenglandandwales>

<sup>2</sup> ONS Data. Household characteristics by tenure, England and Wales: Census 2021:  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/householdcharacteristicsbytenureenglandandwalescensus2021>

<sup>3</sup> B&NES Strategic Evidence Base: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/strategic-evidence/document-library/population>

## Footnotes

[1] The first 85 responses for this question were removed in order to account for the fact that 'The way we travel' and 'How we restore nature' were added after the launch of the survey due to them being missed off the list due to human error.

These were added as they are important themes, that had not been intended to be missed off.

## Note on branding guidelines

Within corporate guidelines, BANES is used to refer to the district and B&NES council is used for the council as an organisation.

## CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

This Forward Plan lists all the items coming to the Panel over the next few months.

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 Forward Plan is updated regularly and can be seen on the Council's website at:

<http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1>

The Forward Plan demonstrates the Council's commitment to openness and participation in decision making. It assists the Panel in planning their input to policy formulation and development, and in reviewing the work of the Cabinet.

*Should you wish to make representations, please contact the report author or, Democratic Services (). A formal agenda will be issued 5 clear working days before the meeting.*

*Agenda papers can be inspected on the Council's website.*

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
<b>23RD OCTOBER 2025</b>				
23 Oct 2025	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Local Plan	Richard Daone Tel: 01225 477546	
23 Oct 2025	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Movement Strategy	Louise Morris	Executive Director - Sustainable Communities
23 Oct 2025 20 Nov 2025	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel  Council	Climate Annual Report	Jackie Clayton	Executive Director - Sustainable Communities
<b>27TH NOVEMBER 2025</b>				





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