Bath & North East Somerset Council

Council Website



Making Bath & North East Somerset an even better place to live, work & visit





The Council uses 36 channels of communication- to serve

- 180,000 residents
- 65 Councillors
- 10 million visitors to the Bath & North East Somerset area
- Potential worldwide audience via the net and social media

It also serves some specific sectors

- 6,000+ businesses in the Bath area alone
- UK Jobs market –responsible for the majority of job applications to the Council
- Shop window to support economic development and investment



Somerset Council's website and Digital media

Digital media is one of the most used and fastest
growing forms of communication.

☐ However all other non electronic communications are also important

Key facts

- Currently 1.5 million individual visits a year
- 5 million page visits a year
- Majority of local homes have internet access
- Up to 95,000 local people use social media every week

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Objectives

- ✓ Meet rising expectations:- easier to use and faster
 - Improved Interactivity
 - More intuitive to access information- no more than 4 clicks
 - Simplifies repetitive tasks- form filling
 - Personalised
 - Improved customer experience
- √ Improves and encourages greater community engagement
 - Provides a virtual meeting place
 - o Supports increased use of social media
 - Supports localism and transparency to help people do more in their own community
- ✓ Drives and supports Channel shift (on-line transactions)
 - Encourages repeat usage
 - It provides value for people
 - Platform for online transactions supporting Customer Services

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Top Improvements to the site

- No more than 4 clicks to find any content
- Content will be restructured to be citizen focused
- Quality of the content will be improved
- Design based on previous "eye tracking" tests
- Improved navigation
- Improved postcode search with more content
- Support greater engagement, and better use of social media
- Interactive events calendar
- It will be iPad friendly and there will also be a mobile phone version in due course
- Site will be faster than before on all browsers
- Site will be much more secure
- Easier to develop

Benefits of the site

- ✓ Much faster
- ✓ Easier to find content
- ✓ More opportunities to use on line transactions
- ✓ Based on a business case it saves the Council over £200,000 over 4 years



Key Developments in the pipeline

- ✓ Mobile phone version of the Site- for all formats
- ✓ Extending access to information for community and public information including demographics- localism and transparency
- ✓ Invest In Bath & North East Somerset- content aimed specifically at investors and developers to Market the site
- ✓ A tourism portal providing shortcuts to all the information for tourists on the website
- ✓ Youth Zone. Move B-Active onto the site and work with young people to design this part of the site
- ✓ Extend virtual schools section for Looked after Children



Testing and Accessibility

- The site will always comply with the latest Accessibility Guidelines
- The views will be sought of local disability groups
- Performance will be rigorously tested for resilience, speed, security and functionality
- Staff and Councillors will have access to the Alpha site before go-live, for their views (anticipated Mid May)
- Customer feedback by online questionnaire's and page rating

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Questions