

**Bath and North East Somerset Council  
River Corridor Report - Scrutiny Inquiry Day**

**Economic Community Development Policy  
Development and Scrutiny Panel**



**Panel Steering Group members:**  
**Councillor Robin Moss (Chair)**  
**Councillor Ben Stevens (Vice Chair)**  
**Councillor (Patrick Anketell-Jones)**

**Project Officer: Donna Vercoe (Lead Policy Development & Scrutiny Officer)**

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## 2. Background

### 2.1 How we have got to where we are now

The River Corridor Group (RCG) was set up in 2010 as a voluntary advisory Group to the Council with a purpose to:-

*“advise the Council over a period of years on changing the present situation in Bath Avon River Corridor within the Councils area from making no or even a negative contribution to the economy, to one with a wider ranging, positive sustainable and regenerative contribution”*  
(RCG –Terms of Ref 2010)

Over a 12 month period the River Corridor Group, (voluntary advisory group) produced the Bath Avon River Economy Report (2011)<sup>1</sup> that evaluates the river economy, identifies potential improvements and outlines recommendations. Within the report the RCG have tried to describe how in their view the river Avon has become in the condition it is in today and how significant it could become over the next three decades if the challenges and opportunities it represents are seized and recognised. The report also highlights what hurdles need to be overcome to make the vision of the river a reality.

The report highlights that a solution to these issues will not be found by the Council and the River Corridor Group alone. The improvement of the river environments is a complex issue and will be a long term process. The various agencies, organisations and stakeholders associated with the river create a complex scenario moving forward. Therefore a pragmatic approach is needed to integrate organisations and individuals together to create an agenda to revitalise the river.

The RCG report set out its recommendations that could initiate change to the river environment. It requested a commitment by the Council and other statutory organisations to realise the challenges and opportunities that the river presents and to explore in more detail what the river corridor can do to change the economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of the District.

### 2.2 What happened next?

The RCG reports recommendations were taken to the Strategic Divisional Group in late 2011 and informal Cabinet in January 2012. Cabinet requested that the preferred pathway was to refer the recommendations to a Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel (PDS) for the purposes of a Policy development review and feedback to Cabinet.

This was referred to the **Economic & Community Development PDS Panel in May 2012**. The Panel agreed to undertake its review in its policy development role to advise the cabinet on future decisions (if any) on how to move this forward.

The Panel were asked to consider:-

1. What role the Council could take along with other agencies and organisations to address the issues raised in the RCG report and ensure that these are aligned with the Corporate Agenda and the roles of the different council departments affected by the report.
2. the proposals from the RCG as to its future
3. to provide outcomes from discussions as feedback to cabinet.

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<sup>1</sup> River Corridor Report: <http://www.rivercorridorgroupbath.co.uk/latest-news/10-bath-avon-river-economy-first-report-summer-2011>

### 3. Review Process

#### 3.1 The Steering Group

The steering group made up of three councillors from the ECD Panel, were formally appointed at the May 2012 ECD Panel meeting. Robin Moss (Chair), Ben Stevens (Vice Chair) and Patrick Anketell-Jones.

The steering group received officer support and guidance throughout the review process from various departments within the Council. This helped ensure that the steering group acknowledged the key stakeholders currently engaged in the River Avon and have provided factual Information when needed.

Edward Nash (Chair of the River Corridor Group) and who presented the River Corridor Report report to Cabinet back in 2010, has also provided regular support to the steering group, particularly regarding the findings and Recommendations contained within the River Corridor Group Report.

#### 3.2 Terms of Reference

At the May 2012 ECD Panel meeting it was agreed that the best approach would be to defer the panel's response back to cabinet on the best ways to move forward until a special meeting **(Scrutiny Inquiry Day)**- See Appendix 1, was arranged which invited all of the interested and key stakeholders to the meeting to develop a shared approach which will take the River Corridor Report from a conceptual idea to a reality:

Objectives of the Scrutiny Inquiry Day (Terms of Reference) – See Appendix 2

1. *highlight who needs to be involved and engaged with the process to help focus established interest and to understand the broader corporate implications / priorities in delivering the recommendations*
2. *to inform the Cabinet of the best options/ models available to achieve the RCG Reports recommendation's through building a body of evidence which demonstrates the current and future demands from the community/businesses/other local authorities/quangos etc. to move this forward.*

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was completed as part of the scrutiny process. Adverse impacts were identified and have been justified/mitigated in the following ways.

1. *Ensuing that the scrutiny Inquiry Day was circulated to a wide audience and as many stakeholders were identified and invited to attend or input into the Panel's recommendations to Cabinet.*
2. *Through consultations with external partners and advisors we were able to identify the differing needs and requirements of some of the key stakeholders relating to the river in preparation for the SID in October.*
3. *Clear instructions and the request for specific requirements from participants and consultees were sent out in all paperwork and publicity material and feedback on this was requested as part of a roundup of the day's events.*

### **3.3 The Scrutiny Inquiry Day**

Through various methods of invitation, including a local press release, people with an interest in shaping the future role of the River Avon were encouraged by Bath & North East Somerset Council to give their views on how economic regeneration might be achieved along the River Avon by attending a Scrutiny Inquiry Day on October 31<sup>st</sup> 2012.

Contributors were also asked to discuss the recommendations contained within the River Corridor Report

The day focused on:-

- 1. identifying the best sustainable and regenerative ways of taking forward the options and ideas suggested by the River Corridor Group's report*
- 2. developing a joint and consistent approach that is shared and understood between key stakeholders.*
- 3. Informing the vision for a future Council River Strategy which places a higher social, environmental and cultural value to the river.*
- 4. ensuring that key stakeholders together with the Council are at the centre of the reshaping of the river corridor.*

The day consisted of various workshop discussions where people were able to share their views on what the best options and models are for developing the River Avon and provided the opportunity to share what work has already been achieved both within the local community and around the country. There was also a mix of interesting guest speakers.

On the day we received a large number of contributors such as ward Councilors, Service Officers, Local residents, Private business, English Heritage, Kennet & Avon Canal and from some of the creative organisations' and institutions in Bath, Members of the River Corridor Group and from those with an interest in the River.

The Scrutiny Inquiry Day helped to raise some important questions about the way forward and the decisions, which if made now, may have repercussions for years to come. This report captures the key findings from discussions on the day and helps shape the PDS Panel's recommendations for Cabinet to consider as a way forward.

## 4 Findings and Recommendations

4.1 The Panel found strong evidence from all of the involved stakeholders, that the vision proposed by the River Corridor Group report, for a thriving economically active and culturally contributing river, was a vision that everyone could support and see a common purpose for the future. However, in order to deliver the promise of a vision, a clearly articulated strategy for the direction of travel, key milestones and community leadership must be in place.

It was acknowledged that whilst a number of organisations have discreet responsibilities for aspects of the river management and operations, the Council in its community leadership role, should be considered to have pivotal role in leading the development of such a strategy.

### Recommendation 1

**The Panel recommend that Cabinet should lead and implement a strategy which uses the river corridor groups report as an initial evidence base, and at the heart should be the Council with a wider key stakeholder buy-in.**

This recommendation is supported by the following findings:-

#### 4.2 What would the River Strategy look like?

The River Strategy would facilitate:-

- the community to lead development or manage some sites along the river and work with private owners to help them maximize the value of potential developments.
- a co-ordinated and consistent approach to development on and around the river and across the whole district.
- a shared vision which would enable the delivery of funding between the Council and key developers
- develop new opportunities for innovative and sustainable development

Testing the concept of the River Strategy against the Councils corporate ambitions, will find both aspects of an evaluation needing to be addressed but also areas of opportunity for which the River Strategy can be a delivery portal for developing our corporate ambitions of:-

1. Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone
2. Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live
3. Building a stronger economy

#### 4.3 Themes of the River Strategy

##### 4.3.1 What work has already been completed or underway?

Before the development of a future vision of the river, further research and coordination is needed to identify all of the good work that is already underway or completed. This would help to

build a better knowledge base with the aim of identifying how existing work already links to the river and to avoid duplication of effort.

*Any future strategy would need to draw upon the existing and planned work under way such as:-*

1. The Bath Transport Strategy

2. Initial plans developed to restore the historical transport link used between Keynsham train station and the use of freight along the river.

3. The recent Green Park redevelopment plans in Bath for a new Sainsbury's store and other facilities, is one large scale example of the consideration by planners, to include careful consultation with the local community on its redevelopment plans.

4. Avon Frome Valley Partnership have been undertaking a number of projects alongside local authorities, Sustrans, Schools and the community, such as the walkways Strategy alongside the River. This work has helped to facilitate and fund other river projects in the local area, such as the River Avon trail along with Sustrans and Cycle city, River Clean Ups and River Discovery & Education Days 2011, which is a good example of where partners have joined their ideas together.

5. The Catchment based approach to managing the river (DEFRA). This has happened at a local level, bringing together stakeholders, including statutory organisations, businesses, the voluntary sector and interest groups & residents, who then need to work together collaboratively to develop a shared vision for the future of their waterways. The government started this process in 2011 by supporting a number of pilot projects to trial run a catchment based approach to management, of which Bristol Avon was one. The pilot has commissioned the 'River Story' project and innovative media project which aims to capture how local communities are involved connected and feel about their watercourses.

6. Bath Western Riverside Development

#### **4.3.2 How can we Improve the public perception and knowledge of who does what along the River**

It's important to recognise what work has already been developed or planned, but equally any River Strategy will also need to consider the coordination between the various bodies and organisations along the river which help to shape the public perception of the River.

The future River Strategy would aim to improve the public perception of the river by developing a network management of the river which includes a code of practice, and a clear indication of the legal rights, roles and responsibilities and opportunity that currently exists between different organisations, charities and bodies of the river. This could then be publicised to the local community.

### 4.3.3 Using cultural events to articulate the river and raise awareness

Encouraging people to use the river is a huge task however it was agreed at the Scrutiny Inquiry Day that having a strong creative input is a fundamental part of the river as cultural events can help to articulate the river and raise awareness of how the community can benefit from using their local waterways.

There are many smaller and bigger projects of opportunity that any River Strategy would need to explore further, such as;

- developing further project schemes that include the involvement of schools and increasing the knowledge of the younger audience. For example, there is a desire to utilise the social media to raise awareness about the river and try to engage with a younger and wider audience.
- Communities are encouraged to go into the forgotten areas of the river and explain the value of the river. This would involve identifying potential sites of undervalued and derelict land which could be used for event space or workshops and/or other social and cultural activities

Other projects identified (Educational/ Social/ Cultural) include:-

- Floating venues: which could be used for Educational, Social and Cultural events to showcase the river?
- Explore ideas with the local Community of how we can 'Green up the River' i.e. – floating habitat, enhance the bio-diversity of the River?
- Development of a permanent visitor centre or office along the riverside
- Development of a strap-line or logo for the River Strategy
- Travelling roadshows: could be used to increase the community's knowledge of the river and raise support.

### 4.3.4 Consider the needs of the local people

Any future River Strategy would have to consider the needs of the local people and the river. Further investigation to identify and consider where improvements could be made to make the river more accessible and user friendly would need to be tackled.

The key priority for the River Strategy would be to evaluate the community safety implications of the River Avon in order for people to use the river and feel safe.

Areas identified as requiring further investigation and consideration include:-

- Improved surveillance
- improved lighting
- Improving the footpaths and walkways (segregated) along the river
- improved Environmental quality

Additional issues may also be identified after a full Community Safety Assessment has been developed



- An investigation into the community safety methods and plans used by other cities in developing a safe and user friendly River could provide best practice ideas for any future River Strategy.

#### 4.3.5 How can we capture the assets of the river and create spaces for new development and economic regeneration?

At the scrutiny Inquiry day we started to think about how we can make sure that we capture the assets of the river and create spaces for new development and economic regeneration alongside our river whilst developing this into a long-term view.

Identifying potential development sites alongside the river would enable a more tangible focus to economic regeneration. This approach can be evidenced through the success of the Community Coin Street Builders<sup>2</sup>, which demonstrated the success of a site based approach rather than trying to tackle the whole of the River in the first instance.

This would require the River Strategy to consider and address the following:-

- **Private realm: Encourage public & private partnership and ownership.** The Council would need to look at their Riverside properties and/or ownership of land and lead by example to show how we are generating the maximum opportunity of our properties whilst safeguarding our heritage.
- Further work is needed to identify potential sites along the river, which could be developed into **attractive workspaces for businesses** to come, such as encouraging start-up businesses, or developing a forum for traders/ commercial interest or private sector sponsorship business plan alongside the river.
- Ensure that any plan that comes forward **is integrated into the local plan** for the area.
- Allow a **seamless process for developers to proceed with planning projects**. Such as producing a supplementary planning document, which is specific to the river Avon and adjoining land, which sets out clear guidelines to the planning process, '*more of what you can achieve rather than can't*', which many stakeholders believed holds future innovation back.
- There is opportunity for **greater connectivity/ integration between the river and transport networks if there is greater flood resilience, a fast flow river with good access points (North/ South of river)**, although it was recognised that there are also constraints to the level in which the river could be used as a transport facility.
- Addressing catchment based issues such as **flood management/ resilience and contamination issues** which could free up possible future riverside sites for future development.
- **The Core Strategy (2000-2011)** recognises the importance of the "**Green infrastructure Strategy**" and developing the linkages to this within the strategy. However there are issues to overcome if the River Corridor recommendations are to be bought forward, such

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.coinstreet.org/>

as issues surrounding the Green belt as the core strategy does not allow any changes to this and avoids any potential development near to flood risk areas.

- **Neighbourhood Plan**- Demonstrates a good way of bringing together Riverside developments which should be considered as part of the River Strategy
- Any future '*River Strategy*' (and associated projects including 'perception changing easy wins'), should have a **fully integrated engagement process** which consults with the local community on future regeneration plans. This would ensure that concerns raised by local residents such as those that we have received from the Norfolk Crescent Green Residents Association (NCGRA) are heard and addressed at every stage of proposed River Regeneration.

#### 4.4.1 How should we deliver the River Strategy?

4.4.2 Bath & North East Somerset Council is an organisation with responsibility for shaping development and regeneration opportunities within its geographic area, so some sort of body covering the above proposals is needed, principally as a way of becoming the key community interface between the Council the River and stakeholders.

There are many tried and tested ways to deliver a strategy so the Council needs to be clear about which mechanism they would like to use to achieve this.

There are already a number of river charities that exist, therefore any model will need to be tested and be different to other bodies to avoid reinventing existing work, although it is acknowledged that there will be some obvious overlap, hence the mix of skills needed to develop the initial River Corridor Group Report.

## Recommendation 2

**The panel expects the Council to support the appropriate delivery mechanism in managing the river. The Cabinet should consider as part of developing a model, to develop a 'trust', or 'similar model', which will provide the vehicle to drive these ideas forward.**

Supported by the following evidence and questions from the Scrutiny Inquiry Day:-

4.4.3 Further questions will need to be explored before deciding on the best delivery mechanism for managing the river, these include:-

1. Could we **develop a 5 year operational model**? The Council assigns a chief officer with a co-ordination role who over a 6 month period would review the risks, costs, undertake consultation and further investigations and provide a report (*draft strategy & business plan*) to be considered by Cabinet. Where would this officer come from? (*Environment Agency, Rivers & Canals Trust, River Corridor Group?*)

2. **What role should the Council play in its governance? (Will it be more responsive and strategic than the council operating on its own?)** The governance of the proposed Trust will be critical to its success, in particular to ensuring that it adds value and increases the sustainability of this crucial natural resource. However developing effective, and representative, shared governance of the local river corridor will not be a simple or straightforward process. For example; some would like to see the Council act as an 'enabler' of this process rather than just a 'regulator'. The majority agreed at the Scrutiny Inquiry Day that it would need a single Cabinet Member with lead responsibility to take this forward but with cross party buy-in.
3. Would the **membership of the River 'Trust'/ Model** contain a mixture of skills to reflect the river and/or make links with existing River charities/ organisations? A good example would be to develop a clear working relationship with the current and local River and Canals Trust or fund the River Corridor Group to deliver the future Vision.
4. **How would this be funded?** Careful consultation and consideration would need to be given as to how this would be funded to identify suitable sustainable financial sources i.e.; *would the plan be self-funding? Not for profit? Would we need service level agreements with defined roles & responsibilities? Identification of where we can gain returns on investment, or private sector funding for events?*

Previous models have been set up when public funding was made available through the Regional Development Agencies. Now we need to create a sense of social, cultural, economic and environmental value from the bottom up, which has both the confidence in good outcomes and in investment to secure Grant Aid and more diverse funding or to simply grow the value naturally.

Furthermore, it is not one proposed development but a series of many spread over many years. The restoration of the Kennet & Avon Canal took 50 years and cost in excess of 50Mil. Most of the funding will be within private sector development, some of which have already occurred but several more of which are in the planning stages and there will be others in the future. Any trust model would also need to ensure that these developments address the river and make their contribution to the blueprint and vision of the Council.

## 5. Conclusion

If the Council decided to not develop a River Strategy or a mechanism to deliver this strategy then there would still be many corporate ambitions that have a bearing on the river which the Council would need to see progressed, principally through the provision of normal planning policy, place making plans, land allocations, urban design and Public Realm Strategies and supplementary planning guidance leading to a requirement for planning obligations on works etc. In this scenario some other aspects of broader Council policy would probably be applied involving green infrastructure, community and social policy but, there would not be the coordinating drive, less of the setting of targets and many of these things would eventually slip down the agenda.

The report produced by the River Corridor Group alongside the evidence collected at the Scrutiny Inquiry Day has provided sufficient evidence to support the Councils ambitions of; *promoting independence and positive lives for everyone, Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live, and building a stronger Community*, and has demonstrated the huge opportunity along our main river for economic regeneration and economic infrastructure, which if adopted by the Council, could have potentially long standing implications for the future of Bath & North East Somerset.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1:- Basic information about the Scrutiny system in Bath & North East Somerset

#### Where does Policy Development & Scrutiny fit within the Councils Decision-making structure?

The main decision making powers in Bath & North East Somerset Council lie with **seven Councillors** who sit on the **Cabinet**. Overview and Scrutiny is the name in legislation given to the system of checks and balances implemented by the rest of the Councillors as they monitor the activity of the Cabinet and also assist them in developing policy. In Bath & North East Somerset Council, it is known as **Policy Development and Scrutiny**.

Different Councils Structure this in different ways, here in B&NES there is a clear division between the **roles and responsibilities** of these two functions:-

- The **Cabinet** is intended to create clear leadership and clear accountability for service delivery.
- By contrast, **Policy Development and Scrutiny** is intended to review the work of the Cabinet and to enhance the performance of services. It is also designed to provide a forum through which policy review and policy development can be extensively examined before consideration and decision by the Cabinet and/or Full Council.
- There are **6 Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels (PDS)** who oversee a specific broad area of work, generally matching the executive portfolios. These include the following Panels:
  - **Early Years, Children and Youth**
  - **Economic and Community Development**
  - **Housing and Major Projects**
  - **Planning, Transport and Environment**
  - **Resources**
  - **Wellbeing**
- They meet approx. 6-7 times per year.
- In addition to **regular meetings, Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel's** in Bath & North East Somerset carry out **reviews**. These involve undertaking a mixture of "Overview", "Scrutiny" and "Policy Development" on a selected subject, which may be a review of a policy or an investigation of an issue of local concern.

#### How do Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels operate?

- All Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels are initiated and led by councillors and have a Chair & Vice Chair. Membership consists (non-executive) councillors of all parties, and may also include co-optees from voluntary organisations, and other outside agencies.
- Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels achieve their impact and effect change through making recommendations to the Cabinet, Executive Members, Full Council or partnerships.
- Policy Development & Scrutiny formal meetings are open to the public, and have a slot on the agenda for public statements. Their agendas and minutes are available to the public. Scrutiny Inquiry Days are often informal and may not be open to the public, although their final reports and recommendations will be a public document.
- It is standard practice for Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels to invite people with relevant experience or knowledge to give information, expert opinion or advice. Such experts may be Council officers, outside agencies, academics, voluntary organisations, community or campaign groups, local residents, service users etc. This brings a wider expertise to bear on the examination and discussion of issues, and enables a more thorough exploration.

### **What is a Scrutiny Inquiry Day?**

This is a mechanism for a short single topic scrutiny, for use where a formal Panel meeting may not be effective or appropriate, or to review progress in an area which has already been the subject of scrutiny work.

The aim is to develop a greater understanding of an issue that involves many organisations (in addition to the Council) and then develop ways forward/recommendations in an inclusive manner, in a workshop-style setting.

In an inquiry like this, it is on-the-day assessment of findings, and development of conclusions and recommendations (in conjunction with other interested parties) that differs from a traditional “contributor session” in more complex PDS reviews.

### **How will the Scrutiny Enquiry Day achieve an impact?**

Recommendations from the day will be submitted to Cabinet Member Cherry Beath (Sustainable Development), Paul Crossley (Leader of the Council), David Bellotti (Community Resources), and also Tim Ball (Homes & Planning) David Dixon ( Neighbourhoods). It is possible that some of the joint recommendations will not require a Cabinet response, and these will be submitted to the appropriate Council or partnership bodies.

Since scrutiny methodology often involves bringing together practitioners and strategic-level staff from different sectors and Council departments to act as expert witnesses, scrutiny activities may have a lasting beneficial effect beyond their immediate aims, in terms of facilitating communication and co-operation.

## **Appendix 2:- Terms of reference for the Scrutiny Inquiry day**

### **THE RIVER CORRIDOR REPORT -SCRUTINY INQUIRY DAY**

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October ,Room: The Guildhall, Banqueting room

#### **Background**

In late 2010 the Council, acting through the Cabinet member for Economic Development at the time, Councillor Terry Gazzard and the Strategic Director, Development & Major Projects John Betty invited several people with relevant skills and experience interested in the future role of the River Avon to advise the Council on how its potential as a force for regeneration might be achieved. The River Corridor Report was completed in June 2011 by the River Corridor Group (*comprising of people with related professional disciplines, such as ecology, sustainability, regeneration, transportation, or decades of experience in managing or using waterways, together with Council Member representation from the two main political parties.*) The report covers a whole range of issues relating to the river but is primarily focused on how a range of agencies can work together to improve the river and increase employment along the river corridor in B&NES

The report and findings were taken to the Economic & Community Development Panel meeting in May 2012 (*as the nominated lead PDS Panel for the report*) and asked to undertake its review in its Policy Development role to advise Cabinet on future decisions (if any) with regard to the River Corridor Group Reports recommendations. At the meeting it was agreed that the best approach would be to defer the response to Cabinet on the best ways to move the recommendation's forward until a special meeting (*Scrutiny Inquiry Day*) was arranged which could thematically condense the report so the Panel could give adequate scrutiny to each theme and invite all of the interested and key stakeholders to the meeting.

An informal meeting was then held at the beginning of July with key service officers and the Chair & Vice Chair of the ECD Panel and the Chair of the River Corridor Group to help shape the form of the Scrutiny Inquiry Day.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the scrutiny inquiry day will be to review the recommendations contained within the River Corridor Report which focus on the potential of the River Avon to unlock the economic activity and wealth compatible with elements of cultural, social and environmental value.

#### **Outcome**

The outcomes of the day will be to:-

1. identify the best sustainable and regenerative ways of taking forward the suggested options and ideas contained within the report
2. develop a joint and consistent approach that is shared and understood between key stakeholders.
3. inform the vision for a future Council River Strategy which places a higher social, environmental and cultural value to the river.
4. ensure the Council and key stakeholders are at the centre of the reshaping of the river corridor.

#### **Key Objectives**

To develop a shared approach which will take the river corridor report from a conceptual idea to a reality which would:-

3. highlight who needs to be involved and engaged with the process to help focus established interest and to understand the broader corporate implications / priorities in delivering the recommendations
4. to inform the Cabinet of the best options/ models available to achieve the RCG Reports recommendation's through building a body of evidence which demonstrates the current and future demands from the community/businesses/other local authorities/quangos etc. to move this forward.

### Scope

The River Corridor Group will condense its recommendations down into 5 thematical groups which will be evaluated and discussed at the meeting. This will help focus the meeting and manage the large stakeholder engagement on the day.

The focus of the day will be to identify:-

1. What work has the River Corridor Group already done and what were the issues raised?
2. Identify the river stakeholders/ organisations (including the Council) and their roles
  - i. now and for the future. ( Including key developments/ projects)
  - ii. What obligations/ interest do they each have to offer?
  - iii. Note: The Panels prior knowledge of recent issues of River safety will be considered
  - iv. Examine whether the report aligns with the Councils Corporate agenda and Service delivery plans?
3. The future/Strategy and how it can be delivered (in light of the Council and partners role)
  - i. Consideration will be given to each of the options/ models identified and are available such as establishing a River Corridor Trust or Community Enterprise body to take ownership of moving the recommendations forward.
  - ii. Examination of the funding options available for each

### Approach

The ECD Panel will take the lead in co-ordinating the Scrutiny Inquiry Day, however it has been recognised that the subject area under investigation overlaps within other Panel remits, particularly the Housing & Major Projects Policy Development Panel and Planning Transport & Environment Panel. The ECD Panel will therefore keep these Panels regularly informed of developments and will also be invited to attend the Scrutiny Inquiry Day.

The Panel will request for written submissions at least 5 days before the event to try to avoid duplication and to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to engage in the event.

### Exclusions:

The primary purpose of the day, as stated, is to look at the economic regeneration of the river and therefore while the day will give consideration to many of the wider elements of the River Avon it will not be an opportunity to discuss detailed issues such as:-



- detailed environmental and climate change issues such as; water quality / catchment area issues, and flooding of Bath
- The SID will not be an opportunity to raise individual planning issues or rules and responsibilities of the river but about the Economic opportunities & benefits that it creates
- Those individuals who live on Boats and the rules and regulations surrounding this

### Outline of the Day (draft)

- What work has already been done on this? Presentation by the River Corridor Group Report on key findings and issues (set the scene)
- Best Practice examples: Presentations/ Speakers and good practice/industry experts, with Q&A opportunity (confirm these)
- What work has already been developed since the production of the River Corridor Group Report was produced.
- What's the role of Key stakeholder's: Facilitated workshops to:-
  - A. Examine the roles/ interest/ obligations of the different stakeholders and organisations in relation to each of the recommendations ( Can be broken down into 5 individual round table sessions)
 (Including: Brief on written submissions/ roaming mic)
- *Networking lunch*
- Round up of First Session Findings
- What future options are available and achievable?: Facilitated workshops to:-
- Identify the recommendations the council would like to take forward:-
  - A. Examining the different models and options available to achieve the above and
  - B. Formulate a joint approach to be delivered to Cabinet
- Round up and next steps

### Attendees

*(Please note a full communications plan will be developed therefore the below only provides a draft list of some of the key stakeholders that will be invited to engage at the Scrutiny Inquiry Day)*

#### *Members of the ECD /HMP/ PTE Panels*

*Cabinet Members, Cherry Beath (Sustainable Development), Paul Crossley (Leader of the Council), David Bellotti (Community Resources)*

*Service Directors Officers from relevant departments within Council (Developmental & Regeneration, Planning & Transport, Tourism Leisure & Culture, Environmental Services, Property Services) will also include an open invite to the Chief Executive and all Strategic and Divisional Directors to help to identify what each department are currently working on to link with the Councils Corporate objectives.*

#### *Relevant stakeholders include;-*

The River Corridor Group

West of England LEP

Statutory & Regulatory Bodies ( Environment agency, Natural England, British Waterways, Inland Waterways, Wessex Water etc)

Regional & local Business Community (Buro Happold, Residents/ Residents Associations, Arts & Culture, local University's

Special Interest Groups ( Bath Preservation Trust, World Heritage Site Consultation Committee, Bath renewables Group, Transition Bath, Bath & Britsol Initiative.

Best practice examples: Thames/ Kennet, Avon Canal Trust, Avon Valley Park/ Limpley Stoke Marina, Minerva and/or other examples to be identified.

Waste: Severn Waste Recycling Company Mead – Broadmead lane

Major landowners/ Developers (Town & Parish Councils, Neighbouring Local Authorities, Sainsbury's Green park (New Development Plans) Bath Western Riverside Developers, Bath Quays South

### Draft Timescales

The planning and preparation for the Scrutiny Inquiry Day will take a minimum of 3 months looking at an event date to be agreed around the end of October or beginning of Nov. This would allow for a report of findings/ outcomes to be delivered to the ECD November Panel meeting and to Cabinet in December-January.

### Enquiries

For further information, contact:

Chair of ECD Panel-	Councillor Robin Moss	
Vice Chair of ECD Panel	Councillor Ben Stevens	
Policy Development & Scrutiny	Donna Vercoe	<a href="mailto:Donna_Vercoe@bathnes.gov.uk">Donna_Vercoe@bathnes.gov.uk</a>
Policy Development & Scrutiny	Lauren Rushen	<a href="mailto:Lauren_Rushen@bathnes.gov.uk">Lauren_Rushen@bathnes.gov.uk</a>