

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Community, Transport & Environment Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	21 May 2018	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 9999
TITLE:	B&NES Environmental Sustainability Partnership (ESP) – Vision Statement (and Motion to Council in July 2018)	
WARD:	All [or list specific wards]	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix : Draft ESP Vision Statement (Motion)		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Consideration of a new B&NES Environmental Sustainability Partnership (ESP) Vision Statement prior to this statement being taken as a Motion to full Council in July by the lead Cabinet Member, Cllr Mark Shelford, in his role as Chair of the ESP Board, and seconded by Cllr Paul Crossley of the Board, with cross-party support from the other Councillors on the ESP Board. The purpose of the new Vision Statement is to re-affirm the Council's position on, and commitment to, sustainability and to recognise the importance of sustainability to everything the Council does.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to;

- 2.1 Note the draft B&NES Environmental Sustainability Partnership Vision Statement (which will be taken as Motion to full Council in July 2018);
- 2.2 Provide comments and feedback on the content.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 None. The Vision Statement and Motion is a high level statement of intent in order to reaffirm the Council's position on and commitment to sustainability and to recognise its importance to everything the Council does. The actions that will enable the Council to deliver on this commitment in partnership with others are contained in range of enabling partnerships, strategies and action plans listed in the Appendix.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The B&NES Environmental Sustainability Partnership's Vision Statement is, in part, a statement of the Council's intent in response to the Climate Change Act 2008 (and subsequent international climate change agreements to which the UK is a signatory, such as the Paris Climate Agreement 2015), which places legally binding carbon reduction targets on the government, with local government being key players for delivery. It also encapsulates the Council's position in relation to the role of the environment in health and well-being (see B&NES Health and Well-Being Strategy). And it is also relates to the government's recently published UK Clean Growth Strategy (part of the UK Industrial Strategy), which places the pursuit of a low carbon economy at the centre of UK industrial strategy and future economic growth, and the government's 25 Year Environment Plan, also published in late 2017, covering a range of environmental issues from air pollution to waste management and much else besides.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The B&NES Environmental Sustainability Partnership was formed in 2010 to provide strategic community leadership to help lead Bath and North East Somerset to an environmentally sustainable, low carbon future. The ESP is convened by the Council and consists of a Board with representatives from a range of organisations, expert advisors and Councillors representing each political party.
- 5.2 The ESP Board has overseen the development of the B&NES Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy, the first from 2012 to 2015 and the current Strategy, which runs from 2016 to 2020.
- 5.3 The ESP's Strategic approach to leading and supporting action follows three principles:
- (1) Partnership Working: Bringing together the right people to make things happen.
 - (2) Community Enablement: Enabling residents and community groups to achieve their sustainability aims.
 - (3) Leading by Example: Bold action from the Council and our partners.
- 5.4 Good progress has been made in terms of delivery. Highlights include:
- (1) An increase in community owned renewable energy in B&NES by 154% between 2011 and 2015;
 - (2) More energy efficiency public buildings, such as new developments at the two universities achieving BREEAM Excellent and the Council's new Keynsham Civic Centre winning the RIBA SW Sustainability Award 2015;
 - (3) Dispersed £800k grant from government for home energy efficiency works, improving the comfort and reducing the bills of 300 local homes;
 - (4) Gained the Bronze Sustainable Food City award for our Local Food Partnership and strategy;
 - (5) Seen the rapid introduction of electric vehicles in public sector fleets and the beginning of electric vehicle public charging infrastructure;

- (6) Were the first local authority to switch main highway street-lighting to LED, saving £200k pa;
- (7) Made it easier for local people to reduce waste and recycle more;
- (8) Improved links between the natural environment, tackling climate change and improving health & well-being through work on the river and energy, the Water Space Strategy and other projects;
- (9) Improved the planning framework to facilitate low carbon in the Place Making Plan, Informal Guidance on Renewable Energy in the Green Belt, for example.

5.5 However, in the light of increasing urgency to achieve a step change in tackling climate change, following the historic global agreement in Paris in 2015, combined with new government strategies, the Clean Growth Strategy (putting the low carbon economy at the heart of UK industrial strategy) and the 25 Year Environment Plan and greater awareness and alarm over issues like air quality and plastic pollution, the Board felt it was time to articulate a more up to date Vision to encourage greater action by all partners, led by the Council.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 The new updated B&NES Environmental Sustainability Partnership Vision Statement is designed to re-affirm the Council's position on, and commitment to, sustainability and to recognise the importance of sustainability to everything the Council does, in order to fulfil its leadership role, along with its partners across all sectors of the community, to lead B&NES to an environmentally sustainable, healthy, low carbon future.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None.

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 The members of the B&NES Environmental Sustainability Partnership Board and officers from across the following change of services: Corporate & Community Sustainability; Environment & Design (Planning); Planning Policy; Public Health; Public Protection and Health Improvement (Air Quality); Transport and Highways; Waste Management.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

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

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

