

## **Statement to 22 July 2020 B&NES Cabinet**

Thank you chair.

As both a citizen and sustainable development professional, last February I welcomed the Council's mould-breaking 4 year Corporate Strategy and integrated Corporate Delivery Programme and budget.

I similarly welcome, and find much to support, in the Corporate Strategy update later in today's agenda evaluating the impacts of Covid-19 on its robustness and deliverability, and it is in this context would like to make some observations on the key issues and actions it identifies.

1. In further developing 'quick and easy online engagement', please be beware that from the perspective of one wanting to constructively engage with the council, this can be frustratingly uninteractive, time inefficient and shallow -- a complement rather than substitute for the sort of collaborative working that resulted in the Community Engagement Charter.
2. Whilst references are made to the need to address adverse equality impacts in the Corporate Strategy update, there seems to be little in the renewal workstreams to ensure that this permeates the activities of those delivering it, or providing assurance that the perspectives, interests and insights of those bearing the brunt of economic recession (such as the growing numbers of precarious workers, and the disproportionately affected BAME, female, and young) are taken into consideration in creating the desired green, resilient economy in which all citizens and communities thrive.
3. The recently formed [Bath & North East Somerset Economic Renewal Partnership](#) seems to be largely composed of senior representatives of established Bath based institutions in currently dominant sectors of the B&NES economy. Given that the Council's renewal vision will require systemic change in our economy, surely a broader membership would be advisable (including for example champions of innovative purpose-led not-for-profit businesses and of excluded groups)?

***Nicolette Boater, B.A.(Oxon.), M.Phil.***

*Delivering lasting value to Government, Business, and Communities.*

