

Cabinet Member update from Councillor Warren

Green Transformation

Energy

- LEAD project (Green Heritage Homes) has delivered training with Council conservation and planning officers on retrofit of historic buildings and heat pumps in historic buildings. Pre-planning application visits are now being undertaken by heritage planning officer with Bath and West Community Energy- 6 completed so far. Landlord support offer to be launched soon, recognising the high levels of fuel poverty in private rented properties. webinar for owners of historic properties – taking place on 15 May <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/bathwestcommunityenergy/1190612>
- We are working with colleagues across the Council to progress a Power Purchase Agreement for the solar PV at BWCE's Fairy Hill site in Compton Dando, subject to planning approval. This will help to fill a significant gap in generation on the Council's estate to meet our 12MW target for our corporate electricity use.
- Mission Net Zero (Bristol Innovate UK project) – includes a regional Local Area Energy Plan which will provide evidence to underpin strategy for 300MW by 2030. We're working closely with colleagues in Bristol and across West of England to ensure this supports BANES' needs. Work has already begun and should be finished by end 2024.
- Bath Sports & Leisure Centre is set to benefit from energy saving measures with the installation of rooftop solar PV, with £173,166 from the government's Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF). We expect up to 212 kilowatt peak (kWp) capacity. An estimated 124kWp is required to provide the electricity needed for the swimming pools with the additional array potentially providing electricity for future air source pumps that may be installed as part of a longer-term decarbonisation plan for the building.

Climate & Engagement

- Friends of the Earth
 - Friends of the Earth have recently released an updated State of Environment Report, which presents environmental data at a constituency level.
 - Areas assessed include environmental jobs and the green economy, energy security and climate change, health, and transport.
 - Across the three constituencies covered by Bath & North East Somerset, concern about climate change and the environment remains high. In Bath, 79% of voters report that these policies will be important for them in the next general election.
 - The report is aimed primarily at the next government, and includes recommendations for increased investment into green industries, household insulation programmes, public transport, active travel and increased action on air quality.
- Funding for rural communities on climate & nature projects
 - Nine parishes have been awarded the money from the West of England Rural Fund.

- o Farmborough - grant funding to install an air-to-air source heat pump heating system and hot water system in a refurbished community building to reduce energy consumption.
- o Westfield - funding for a new footbridge to enhance and encourage public access to Grove Wood, Haydon Batch and Waterside Valley
- o Retrofit for village halls: East Harptree, and Bishop Sutton will have solar panels installed on the roof, Peasedown St John will benefit from solar panels and roof insulation and Compton Martin will have insulation added to the vaulted roof of the hall.
- o Chelwood – repairs to village hall roof and insulate the building
- o Chew Magna - retrofitting an emergency room to help adapt to flooding events creating a place of safety with facilities.
- Community Conversations
- o Plans for our pilot community climate conversation are underway. An initial Steering Group meeting including representatives from Grow Batheaston and local Parish Councils took place on Friday 19th April.
- o The meeting demonstrated that there was clear support for a conversation of this type combining discussion on climate and nature. Based on feedback, we are now seeking a date for the conversation later in the year and will set up further Steering Group conversations to discuss and agree the details.

Nature

- Our Charlcombe Meadows BNG Pathfinder site has had its first grass cut in 10yrs to support the creation of a wildflower meadow and a new community group has been formed to help with the site management and monitor species recovery.
- We submitted successful Green Recovery Fund to WECA and have secured £225,827 to further the work of Bathscape to support the delivery of the ecological emergency action plan
- We have submitted a change request to WECA to secure further funding to deliver more for nature in the Somer Valley as part of Somer Valley Rediscovered.
- We are working closely with Bristol Water (now SW Water) in the Chew Valley to deliver phase 2 of Chew Valley Recreational trail and have developed the Chew Valley Reconnected Partnership which bring together community, town & parish and NGOs working together to deliver more for nature
- For the second year in a row, Bathscape’s Footprints podcast has been nominated for a prestigious ARIAS award – the radio BAFTAS. The industry awards for radio and podcasts are national, and Footprints is nominated in the ‘best local show’ category.

Sustainable Transport

- E-scooter trial – we will shortly be introducing painted parking bays at 10 locations we have identified as being long term on-pavement parking spots (i.e. squares, very wide pavements). We have funding from WECA later this year to introduce a further 10 on-road spaces, with ambitions

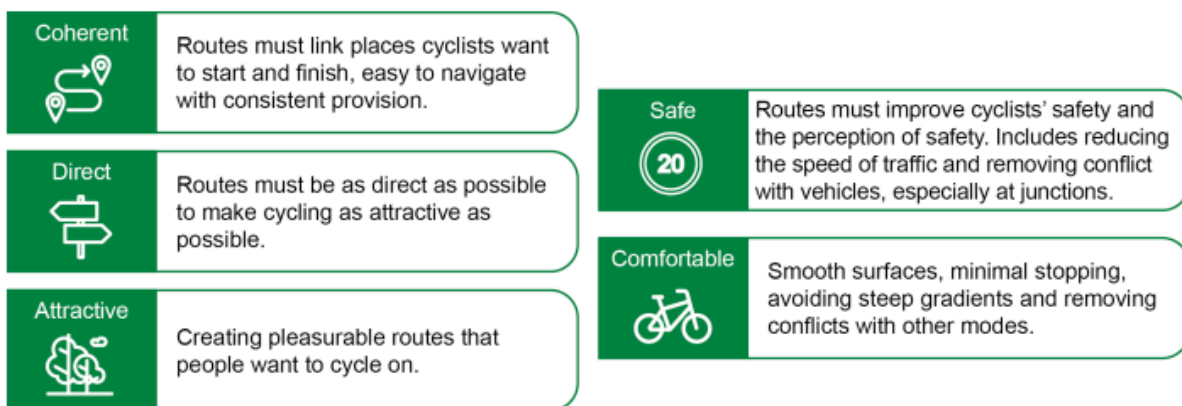
to expand this further as funding becomes available. This will enable us to expand the service south and east.

- **Bike hangars** – we are finalising a shortlist of 20 locations to receive a hangar, with installation planned later this year.
- **Travel to Work Survey** – over 14,000 people completed the survey across B&NES with a number of businesses taking part who will receive a bespoke report with the findings. We are already planning for next year to help increase the numbers further.
- **Just approved a single member decision to move to FBC on Somer Valley Links sustainable transport corridor (part of City Region Sustainable Transport Fund) and we can expect release of the consultation findings on the A4 Bristol Bath on 13th May.**

We are preparing transport strategies for our towns to set out the vision for the transport system for the next 20 years. Each plan looks to the long term and includes proposals needed to provide a transport system that is fit for purpose for those living, working and visiting the area, enabling more travel via sustainable modes.

Also an Active Travel Masterplan, a comprehensive plan that sets out the existing and future network of active travel infrastructure. The plan will be for all types of active travel whether for commuting, leisure, business or every day journeys such as travelling to a local shop, school or doctor's surgery. We have developed the Vision & Objectives which set the framework for the plan and have been asking people to share their insight, identify priorities and help shape the Masterplan.

Our work has been underpinned for 5 core principles:



Consultation and opportunities to engage: we have been out across the district at public events talking to people about their current levels of connectivity and the issues they face and anticipate ore consultation this Summer before publication of a draft in the Winter 2024.