

Corporate Strategy 2023 to 2027

End of Year Review
2024 to 25



**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Improving People's Lives

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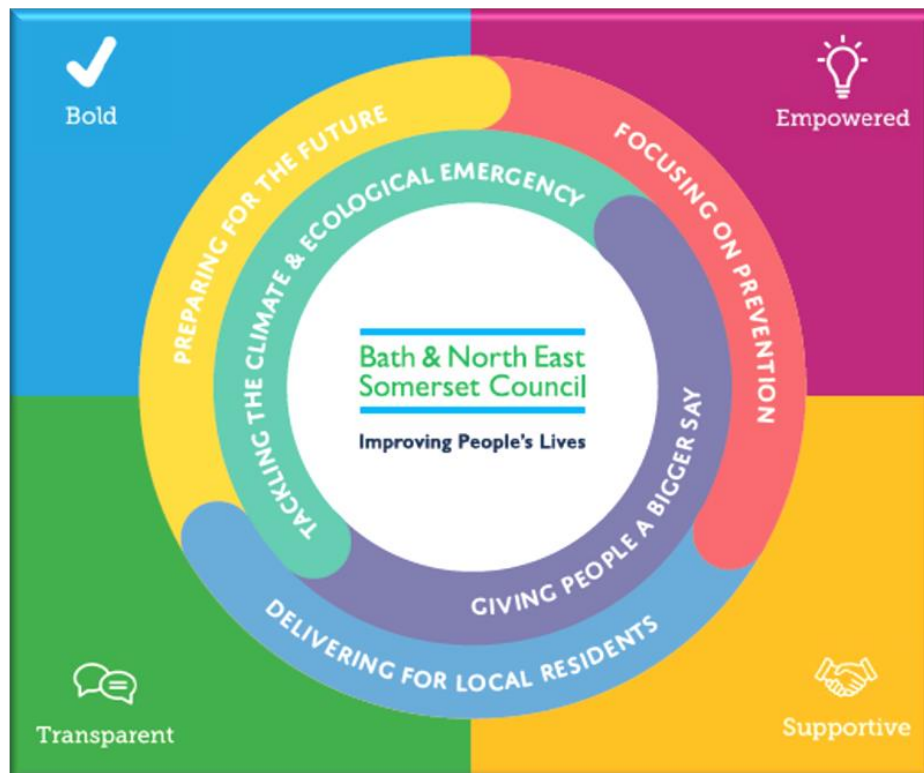
1. Introduction and Context

2024 to 2025 marks the second year of the council's Corporate Strategy adopted in July 2023. This review highlights how we have improved peoples' lives through the delivery of the commitments set out in it.

The [Corporate Strategy 2023 to 2027](#) is the council's overarching strategic plan and guide to future changes. It was adopted by Full Council on 20 July 2023, and retains the purpose, policy and principles set out in our [previous strategy](#):

1	Overriding purpose - To IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES
2	Core Policies - Tackling the climate and ecological emergency, Giving people a bigger say
3	Principles - Delivering for local residents, Focusing on prevention, Preparing for the future
4	Values that underpin all our work - Bold, Empowered, Supportive, Transparent

These elements shape everything we do:



Our Corporate Strategy to 2027 builds on our achievements and reflects the ambitions and priorities of the council's administration elected in May 2023. It provides a **clear and ambitious framework for delivery** and sets out how shared outcomes will be embedded through partnerships such as our Future Ambition Board, and Health and Wellbeing Board.

Here are some of the key achievements from 2024 to 2025



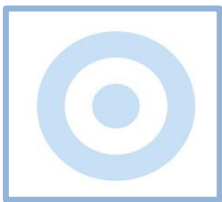
Tackling the Climate and Ecological Emergency

Bath & North East Somerset Council partnered with Bath and West Community Energy, Bath University and the Community Wellbeing Hub to successfully bid for £1.5m funding from The National Lottery Climate Action Fund. This will fund a programme of community-led action on energy across B&NES.



Giving People a Bigger Say

We began a series of Community Conversations in Bath and continued with our Area Forums and community consultations on specific topics. We have also held Climate Conversations so that residents can tell us what climate emergencies mean for them. This helps us to work in partnership with communities, to identify what matters to them and tailor solutions to local needs.



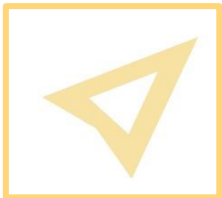
Delivering for Local Residents

Planning permission has been approved to deliver a new Bath Recycling Centre for residents in the city. The plans underwent a programme of public engagement including a dedicated website to provide members of the community the opportunity to provide comments. Construction is due to start in Autumn 2025 and the hub is expected to open in Summer 2026. This will complement the recently opened Keynsham Recycling Hub.



Focusing on Prevention

The Lifelong Links programme secured additional funding from the Department for Education to further develop the service so that more children in care can maintain relationships with important people in their lives. Support was extended to children in care who need it most including care experienced young people and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children.



Preparing for the Future

With our partners, we have adopted a 10-year Economic Strategy. The strategy will be delivered through six strategic pillars: Good Work, Inclusive Innovation and Creativity, Greener Economy, Resilient Businesses Housing Affordability, and Stronger Places.

Bath's P&R schemes ranked 2nd best in country

Excellent reports for Crematorium, Children's Service and Youth Justice

The Roman Baths generated more surplus return to the Council than

Ranked first on climate action for buildings and heating

Restored over 23ha of grassland since 2021

Early Years Foundation Stage Achievement Gap reduced by over 7%

6 of Bath's heritage attractions awarded for contribution to tourism

Completed 25 resurfacing schemes, covering over 103km²

To read more please visit our [newsroom](#)

2. Delivering our Priorities

Our core policies help translate our purpose into commitments and ambitions which set out how we will improve people’s lives.

Our core priorities, established in July 2023, are framed by the three principles which we adopted in 2019. They set out how we will improve people’s lives over the next four years. This report reflects our work to deliver these priorities. Our core priorities and how they relate to our core policies are outlined below:

Delivering for local residents	Focusing on prevention	Preparing for the future
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The right homes in the right places• More travel choices• Clean, safe and vibrant neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for vulnerable adults and children• Delivering for our children and young people• Healthy lives and places	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good jobs• Skills to thrive• Cultural life

For each of these elements, we have highlighted key achievements and progress made in 2024 to 2025 in this review. We have also included some methods we have used to measure performance. These strategic indicators are drawn from the indicator set agreed upon by Cabinet in July 2024. Throughout this report, they will be referenced to provide a clear and comprehensive overview of our achievements and highlight any areas for improvement. They will be rated as follows:

	On or above target
	Behind target
	Off-target and identified as requiring additional activity

↑ Up	Figures are increasing
↓ Down	Figures are decreasing

	If the box is green, it is trending in the right direction. If it is red, it is trending in the wrong direction.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency

Over the last year:

We have launched our Carbon Reduction Accelerator, a 12-week pilot programme to help SMEs reduce their carbon footprint and increase energy efficiency.

We have planted new trees. We are working in partnership with the Western Forest project which aims to create at least 2,500 hectares of new woodlands and other habitats created across Bath and North East Somerset over the next five years.

We have continued investing in green initiatives, with over £5.435 million to be allocated to capital schemes, including renewable energy projects, active travel and nature recovery projects such as the Chew Valley Recreational Trail. Additionally, we are working to decarbonise our corporate estate.

We have supported community led-action on energy by securing over £1.5 million in grant funding. We also helped open a **new base of operations for Climate Hub B&NES**, a climate group set up by local residents to engage the community and advise on the climate crisis.

We have improved and created Green spaces across the area. These aim to improve biodiversity and conserve the landscape. We have completed a **wild meadow footpath in Somer Valley** and started work on a 10km linear park alongside the Avon called the **Bath River Line project**.

We received national recognition on our work tackling the climate emergency. We were awarded a B by the Carbon Disclosure Project for progress on tackling the climate emergency and were ranked 7th on Climate Action for all UK councils. Additionally, 6 of our parks have received Green Flags of excellence.



Here are some ways we have measured our progress:

Number of air quality monitoring locations exceeding the targeted level of Nitrogen Dioxide	Current 3 Mar 23	Previous 7 Mar 22	Trend ↓ Down
Indicator update This indicator has been rated as amber because 3 locations exceed the local objective target of 36µg/m ³ - Bath New Rd, Radstock (37) & Walcot Parade 2 Bath (38). The UK national objective target of nitrous dioxide (NO ₂) levels set by Government is 40 µg/m ³ . We want to be aspirational in further protecting public health and reducing pollution. In 2022, in a Cabinet Report, we referenced an ambition to create our own local target for NO ₂ of 36µg/m ³ . In the 2024 Air Quality Annual Status Report , we monitored air quality at over 169 locations. At all these sites, all but one monitoring result was below the national objective, with two other sites exceeding our own local objective of 36µg/m ³ .			Amber

What we are doing

Whilst air quality has improved significantly in recent decades, we still aim to take the actions needed to protect people and the environment from the effects of air pollution:

- We continue to deliver the Clean Air Zone in Bath, which has seen NO₂ concentrations fall by 32% within the zone since 2019.
- We have formed the Environmental Improvement Plan that sets out actions to improve air quality.
- We have consulted residents for feedback on the new Air Quality Action Plan for Bath, which is designed to reduce nitrogen dioxide.

CO ₂ or equivalent emissions (ktCO ₂ e) for B&NES (district)	Current 717 Jan 22	Previous 760 Jan 21	Trend ↓ Down
Indicator update This indicator has been rated red because, whilst emissions have fallen, we are not on track to achieve 2030 net zero targets. Total greenhouse gas emissions across the Bath and North East Somerset area have fallen by 43% between 2005 and 2022, returning to a falling trajectory after the temporary increase recorded in 2021. Despite significant progress in reducing these levels, we are currently not on track to achieve 2030 net zero targets, in common with most other local authorities.			Red

What we are doing

We recognise it is crucial to continue working to reduce our emissions as much as possible.

- We have allocated over £5.435 million of investment in capital schemes to support renewable energy, active travel and nature recovery over the next five years.
- £39.316 million of schemes are in the pipeline including renewable energy projects and more tree planting.
- We have provided funding to decarbonise our fleet by replacing it with electric vehicles and allocated £4 million for a programme to decarbonise our corporate estate. For instance, we have just been awarded grant funding to install air source heat pumps at Keynsham Civic Centre and Carrswood Day Centre, and have installed solar panels in multiple locations.

Total installed renewable energy capacity B&NES district (MW)	Current 30 Dec 23	Previous 27 Mar 22	Trend ↑ Up
Indicator update This indicator has been rated as green because it has increased significantly over the past 3 years. We have seen a 50% increase in installed capacity during this period, with a known pipeline of 80MW in development that will help us to achieve our interim targets at a district level.			Green

What we are doing

Further work is needed to confirm the pipeline beyond 2027, however progress to date, along with new large-scale investment programmes being developed at a regional level, give us confidence that this target can be achieved. Some of the investment programmes include funding to make the council net zero through:

- Decarbonising the fleet and corporate estate to make the council net zero.
- Installing heat pumps and solar panels.
- Investing £45k of revenue funding to continue supporting a Renewable Energy post to help deliver this priority.

EPC Score A-C for B&NES residential	Current 35% Sep 24	Previous 31% Sep 23	Trend ↑ Up
This indicator has been rated green because it is on target. Through the enforcement of minimum energy efficiency standards (MEES), we have seen improvements in more than 70 privately rented homes, enabling a saving of more than 125 tonnes CO ₂ .			Green

What we are doing

Funding has been granted from the National Lottery Climate Action Fund of £1.5 million, which we are using to help drive community-led action on sustainable energy. This will allow the creation of a network of Energy Champions, individuals within communities who can support residents with home energy, retrofitting and renewables. The council is also working closely with WECA on the Retrofit West programme, which provides grant funding and free advice to residents and the second phase of Solar Together West of England, a group buying scheme offering residents and local businesses an easy way to invest in solar panels and battery storage.

% of water bodies in B&NES with good ecological status	Current 11% Jan 22	Previous 11% Jan 21	Trend
Indicator update This indicator has been rated red because not improved. In May 2024, government reports indicate that only 16% of assessed surface waters achieved good ecological status nationally. Improvements to the water quality ratings for whole water bodies are immensely challenging and require significant long-term investment and changes to land management practice from many stakeholders.			Red

What we are doing

We are currently drafting a new Climate and Nature strategy to create better joined working practices that will allow us to meet our climate and nature goals.

4. Giving People a Bigger Say

Over the last year:

We have consulted local communities on where to allocate funding. We used public consultation to help inform where to allocate the funding for the Bath neighbourhood portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), leading to eight new projects sharing over £325,000 in funding. Some of these projects include extra activities for young people, playpark improvements and a new pedestrian crossing.

We began new Community Conversations to provide avenues for residents and community organisations to discuss topics and address concerns. At the 9 events held from November 2024 to March 2025, we heard from more than 130 people, with over 150 issues raised.

We have invested in improved communication services. This will ensure that all individuals are able to easily access and use our services. Over £251,000 in funding is being invested to enhance customer contact services by replacing outdated telephony and contact centre systems. This is part of our Unified Communications strategy, which will see us move to a single phone number to help residents get their issues resolved first time.

What have we done?

30 public meetings and events

92 partners involved

660+ people actively engaged

1,600+ people kept informed

£325,000 funding secured for partnership goals

£372,063.63 funding granted to community projects

Key Consultations

Trial Liveable
Neighbourhood
schemes

Improvements
to Queen
Square

CIL funding
allocation

Implementation
of a new Air
Quality Action
Plan for Bath

Long-term
transport
strategies

Changes to
parking
charges

Speed limit
changes on the
A368

Bath Active
Travel

Budget 2025 fo
2026 proposals

There were over 10,600 submissions across 30 online consultations.

Consultation Case Study: Changes to parking charges

Residents participated in a four-week consultation on parking charge proposals. The consultation received over **4,322 individual responses** and two signed petitions. Over **77%** of respondents expressed concerns about air quality and its impact on health and **58%** emphasised the importance of improving it.

Following the consultation, the council adjusted its proposals to include two hours of free parking at Midsomer Norton and Radstock, lowered the hourly rate of parking in these towns and withdrew plans for emission-based parking charges for motorcycles.

Here are some ways we have measured our progress:

Percentage of residents who feel they can inform decision making	Current 11% Dec 23	Previous 20% Dec 22	Trend ↓ Down
Indicator update This indicator has been rated red because the figure has fallen, although comparative data with other councils is not readily-available.			Red

What we are doing

Work has taken place to enhance and drive opportunities for public engagement. We are:

- Continuing our Community Conversations forums to give residents a chance to voice concerns and influence decision making.
- Creating explainer videos to outline ways for people to get involved such as our video around the [Local Plan](#).
- Investing £50k to trial new approaches to communications and engagement with residents.
- Exploring use of different engagement platforms, including digital services, to reach a wider variety of individuals and make engagement more accessible.
- Continuing to consult on our key projects.

5. Healthy Lives and Places:

Over the last year:

[We have equipped people to save lives.](#) We have installed twelve emergency first aid kits in Bath and Keynsham , providing the tools needed to care for someone suffering a life-threatening injury.

[We have provided healthier options for smokers.](#) Swap to Stop is a campaign designed to help individuals quit smoking. We offer a free vape kit from our Stop Smoking Service, allowing residents to swap cigarettes for vapes, which are less harmful than smoking.

[We have set-up plans to help tackle the increasing challenges of food insecurity.](#) To help mitigate its damaging consequences, we launched [Tackling Food Insecurity in B&NES: Rising to the Challenge](#). Alongside this, we are producing a Local Sustainable Food Resilience Strategy.

We were shortlisted as a finalist in the MJ Achievement Awards in the “Innovation in Public/Private Partnership” category for our [Community Wellbeing Hub \(CWH\)](#).

Established during the COVID-19 pandemic to help respond help support residents seeking help, it has since evolved into a model of integrated, multidisciplinary care. Its vision is to provide a collaborative approach for prevention and early help support for residents across Bath & North East Somerset. In 2024, the partnership grew to 37 partners who deliver over 85 services.

They celebrated their 5th anniversary this year, here are some of the successes they have had so far:



Over
15,000
helped



Over
32,000
referrals



Supported more
than 1,200 people
discharged from
hospitals

We have continued to deliver the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#). The Bath and North East Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2023-2030 aims to improve the overall health and wellbeing of residents by addressing inequalities and promoting healthier lifestyles. It sets out four priorities:



Here are some ways we have measured our progress:

% of mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery	Current 7% Dec 24	Previous 8% Dec 23	Trend ↓ Down
Indicator update This indicator has been rated green because it is falling, in line with target goals. This number has been decreasing since 2021, where it was 9%. B&NES out performs regional and national statistics which are 8% and 7% respectively.			Green

What we are doing

We have launched campaigns such as Swap to Stop which provides vaping alternatives to help people quit smoking.



6. Delivering for Children and Young People

Over the last year we have:

We have provided additional support to our Lifelong Links programme. We have secured additional funding to ensure children in care have access to a positive support network. The service currently works with 20 children and young people, and this funding will enable the service to be extended to more children who desperately need support.

We have been recognised for the support we provide to young people. Our Children's Services were praised by Ofsted for their support and commitment to care-experienced young people, noting that children are well supported and “benefit from enduring relationships with people who care for them and about them”. A **HM Inspectorate of Probation report**, highlighted the outstanding work of Youth Justice Service staff, rating the service as “Good” overall.

We have secured funding for more facilities and activities for young people. The **Lux Youth Project**, a charity that works with young people from Bath, Peasedown St John and Timsbury, was awarded community funding of over £52,389 to help deliver more activities and improve their facilities. Its services include breakfast clubs, 1:1 mentoring, a street dance academy and a food pantry.

Here are some ways we have measured our progress:

Key Stage 4 Average Attainment for all pupils	Current 49.2 Jul 24	Previous 49.7 Jul 23	Trend ↓ Down
Indicator update This indicator has been rated green because it is on target and above regional and national statistics. <u>KS4 attainment remained strong in 2022/23</u> ; pupils in B&NES achieved a higher proportion of grades (9-5) in English and Maths (51%), compared to the South West (45%) and England (45%). Nationally, we have one of the highest performances outside of London.			Green

What we are doing

The council continues to collaborate strategically with schools and partners to enhance educational outcomes for its Key Stage 4 students.

Child Protection Plans stepped down or closed	Current 80% Mar 25	Previous 70% Mar 24	Trend ↑ Up
Indicator update This indicator has been rated green because it is performing well. The number of child protection plans , which are made when a child is judged to be at risk of significant harm, ending per quarter with a reason for 'plan end' or risk reduced has dramatically improved.			Green

What we are doing

Our performance on this target is due to the work of our social workers who have been working effectively to de-escalate risk in the child protection process. This effort was recently recognised by [OFSTED](#), who highlighted the quality support provided to our care leavers.

Early Years Foundation Stage Achievement Gap	Current 32% Jul 24	Previous 39% Jul 23	Trend ↓ Down
Indicator update This indicator has been rated green because it has improved significantly over the last year. B&NES has a long-standing attainment gap between the educational outcomes of disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils. This gap starts in the early years and is particularly concerning in Key Stage 2 (year groups 3-6). This indicator is improving with the current gap falling from 39% seen in July 2023.			Green

What we are doing

Given the importance of continuing to narrow the attainment gap, the council implemented a coordinated, whole-systems approach, including a draft action plan led by Public Health. Specific schemes in place include:

- Three key projects with St John's Foundation and the Big Education Trust to support the performance of our early years.
- Auto-enrolment for free school meal eligible children, which will attract pupil premium and provide further opportunity to address the attainment gap.

The Children and Young People's Plan

To help deliver the Health and Wellbeing Strategy's first priority of "ensuring that Children and Young People are healthy and ready for learning and education", we have created the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). This sets out how children and young people will be supported to achieve the best possible outcomes by focusing on the following four objectives:

- Strengthen family resilience to ensure the best start in life
- Improve timely access to appropriate family and wellbeing support
- Reduce the existing educational attainment gap for children and young people
- Ensure services for children and young people who need support for emotional health and wellbeing, from early help to statutory support services, are needs-led and tailored to respond and provide appropriate care and support.

7. Support for Vulnerable Adults and Children

Over the last year we have:

We have set up plans to open new schools for vulnerable children in Bath and North East Somerset. These include proposals to redevelop the former site of the Bath Community Academy School into a school to support children with SEND. There are also plans to develop a new special residential and day school in Keynsham that would cater for young people aged 11-17 with special complex educational needs. Additionally, we have hosted events to raise awareness of the local support available for SEND individuals and their families.

We have developed the first ever co-produced carers strategy. The plan was created with the help of more than 380 adult carers, identifying what is and isn't working for them and how support for carers can be made as effective as possible in the future.

We have continued to run the Community Contribution Fund, launched in March 2021. This gives residents the chance to contribute to good causes that help local charity, community and voluntary groups to reduce health inequalities in the area. To date, residents have donated more than **£44,000** to the fund. The scheme is continuing for 2024 to 2025. Full details of previous successful applicants can be found on the council's website.

Support for refugees in Bath and North East Somerset

Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Council has been actively involved in supporting refugees through providing support, securing safe housing and collaborating with local organisations like Bath Welcomes Refugees and Julian House.

To date, **48** people have been resettled in B&NES through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and over **74** people have been resettled through the UK Resettlement Scheme.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, residents in Bath and North East Somerset have welcomed **400** Ukrainian guests since March 2022, with over **250 residents providing host accommodation** through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. **84 households (201 people)** are now renting their own accommodation in B&NES

Here are some ways we have measured our progress:

Mental health: Adult service users in employment	Current 11% Mar 24	Previous 9% Mar 23	Trend ↑ Up
Indicator update This indicator has been rated green because in line with national averages. Our adult service users in employment dropped significantly from 13% in December 2019 to 7% in September 2022. However, it is currently rising.			Green

What we are doing

We have undertaken significant work to bring more people back into employment. Our [Employment Support Services](#) assist individuals with mental health challenges in the workplace, helping them find and maintain employment.

% of adults at home 91 days after reablement service	Current 77% Dec 24	Previous 76% Dec 23	Trend ↑ Up
Indicator update This indicator has been rated green because it is on target. It shows sustained improvement in performance by the reablement service .			Green

What we are doing

The [reablement service](#) which provides short term therapy and support by working with adults in their own home or care home to prevent, reduce or delay the need for longer term support. This sustained improvement is in response to a detailed robust improvement plan to increase productivity in the service.

In our 2025-2026 budget, we recognise the increasing costs and demand for adult and children's social care. We have allocated over £5 million in additional funding to address the pressures on adult care packages and to expand placements for children and young people with special needs. Our goal is to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our society and their families.

8. Clean, Safe and Vibrant Neighbourhoods

Over the last year:

[We have worked to make our streets cleaner and greener.](#) We have introduced a [chewing gum littering task force](#) and to help make recycling easier a new trial for [reusable red bags](#) has been established across five hundred households. We are also investing an additional £1 million in neighbourhood services.

[We have also invested over £251k for demand-led rapid response teams](#) to tackle weeds, graffiti and litter in the 2025-26 budget to keep our streets cleaner and greener

[We have developed a new streets strategy](#) to help manage and support outdoor trading and events whilst ensuring that streets remain safe and accessible for highway users. This strategy will detail how we use our outdoor spaces, including permissions for street trading, events and filming and what items can be placed on the highway.



Here are some ways we have measured our progress:

% of household waste reused, recycled, composted or recovered	Current 94% Dec 24	Previous 96% Dec 23	Trend ↓ Down
Indicator update This indicator has been rated green because, even though the trend is decreasing, it is still on-target.			Green

What we are doing

The council adopted its new waste strategy, [Towards Zero Waste 2030](#), on 16 March 2024, which placed an escalated priority on the climate emergency and working with residents to continue to deliver against our ambitious recycling targets. The delivery of the [Keynsham Recycling Centre](#) has been instrumental in achieving this high performance, and the council proposes to grow its investment as part of its 2025-2026 [budget](#).

Road traffic collisions resulting in personal injury	Current 228 Dec 24	Previous 275 Dec 23	Trend ↓ Down
Indicator update This indicator has been rated green because the number of road traffic collisions has been falling consistently. There was a small rise to 275 in 2023, but this is likely to be due to the increase in traffic following the easing of COVID-19 measures.			Green

What we are doing

We have undertaken several projects designed to address this increase such as our Liveable Neighbourhoods programme, which aims to divert traffic away from residential streets. We have also installed crossings across the area to improve the safety of pedestrians.

9. More Travel Choices

Over the last year:

We have invested in extending our Park and Ride hours. This service will now run until 11:30pm from Monday to Saturday on a trial basis until 31 August. This aims to help support local businesses and offer greater opportunities for tourists and workers. The National Highways and Transport Network Satisfaction survey saw us rated 2nd for our Park and Ride services out of 96 local authorities.

We have launched a Transport Action Map. Over the next three years we are planning to deliver an unprecedented number of transport schemes. This interactive tool allows people to view over 200 of our current and future transport projects.

We have approved funding for improvements to walking, cycling, wheeling, public transport infrastructure across the region. The Somer Valley Links scheme aims to improve links and reduce congestion along the A37 and A367. The next steps including a full business case, further consultation and detailed designs are set to go ahead.

We have been recognised for the excellent work of our staff. The National Highways and Transport Network Satisfaction survey ranked 1st for the speed and quality of response from our staff.

We have improved roads across the area. We have completed our annual resurfacing programme for another year. This has seen:



Over 103,000m2 of highways resurfaced



5,149 potholes repaired



Over 21km of highway brought back to a high standard



9,130m2 of footway resurfaced

Here are some ways we have measured our progress:

Traffic volumes	Current 601,502 Dec 24	Previous 635,437 Dec 23	Trend ↓ Down
Indicator update This indicator has been rated red because traffic volumes are higher than our target. This is reflected nationally. In 2023, <u>overall traffic levels</u> in Great Britain were higher than in 2022 although still 2.3% lower than 2019 pre-pandemic levels. B&NES has a similar <u>profile</u> to the national one.			Red

What we are doing

We are currently delivering an extensive programme of investment in walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport improvements across the district, making alternative forms of travel more accessible to reduce transport emissions. We have plans in place, such as the **Journey To Net Zero**, to promote sustainable alternatives and add to the 3.6 billion miles cycled nationally on public highways and the paths next to them.

10. The Right Homes in the Right Places

Over the last year:

We progressed the delivery of the council's Housing Plan 2025-30, which outlines commitments over the next five years to provide affordable, safe and high-quality homes. This plan sets the strategic direction for meeting future housing need and outlines how the council will use council land resources, new land acquisition opportunities and partnering arrangements to unlock and deliver homes that meet local housing needs and priorities.

We have increased the availability of affordable homes. Construction of 18 new affordable homes for social rent is underway at the Argyle Works site. They will be energy-efficient apartments, three of which will be set aside for young people.

We have received planning permission for homes in Bath city centre for the development of 96 energy-efficient homes, located in Bath Quays North.

We have begun work on Bath's Western Riverside Development to develop over 900 quality, sustainable market and affordable homes, as well as a riverside park. This will transform a 12.4-acre redundant brownfield site into a new landmark place to live in the centre of Bath.

We have developed plan to provide much-needed accommodation for adults with learning disabilities at Englishcombe Lane. We have approved the construction of 16 community housing units which are designed to support adults with learning difficulties and autism.



Here are some ways we have measured our progress:

Housing delivery targets – net new homes	Current 712 Mar 24	Previous 511 Mar 23	Trend ↑ Up
Indicator update This indicator has been rated amber because, while the number of homes built is progressing, it is not in line with the new extended Government targets. Our past delivery of homes has comfortably exceeded targets set by central government. However, in December 2024, the National Planning Policy Framework was updated. It now outlines a target of 1.5 million homes.			Amber

What we are doing

To reach these extended Government targets, B&NES must double the current goals outlined in its Local Plan from 717 homes built per year, to 1466. We have started the process of [resetting the Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan](#) and are developing a District Wide Spatial Strategy to help deliver these new ambitious housing and infrastructure developments.

Households in temporary accommodation	Current 85 Mar 25	Previous 58 Dec 24	Trend ↑ Up
Indicator update This indicator has been rated amber because the numbers have risen slightly, but based on 2024 data, the council is in the top 30 th percentile of national authorities. Demand for temporary accommodation remains high locally and nationally with no sign that demand is decreasing.			Amber

What we are doing

Through the [B&NES Homes programme](#), we aim to develop support and social housing by repurposing our own accommodation and surplus land. We have built a range of high-quality temporary accommodation, which means that we do not need to place families in hotel or bed and breakfast accommodation. Not only is this cheaper, but it also significantly benefits vulnerable people by allowing them to access support from our Housing Service to find appropriate onward accommodation.

11. Cultural Life

Over the last year:

[We have secured funding for Fashion Museum Bath](#), one of the leading fashion collections in the world. This grant will see a prototype developed for an online catalogue, allowing people to engage with the collection while plans for its new home remain undecided.

[We have renovated Midsomer Norton’s town centre](#). In February 2025, we successfully completed a £2.39m project to make the centre more easily accessible and usable for hosting events. The revitalisation of this central area is integral to championing a vibrant, successful community, where more residents are encouraged to shop, socialise and visit the town centre.



Our [Heritage Services and attractions](#) have seen unprecedented successes this year:



The Roman Baths generated more surplus return than ever before



Toulouse-Lautrec and the Masters of Montmartre became the most successful paid exhibition in the Victoria Art Gallery's history, with nearly 30,000 visitors



Bath's heritage sites won six awards at the Bristol, Bath and Somerset Tourism Awards



Roman Baths was visited by more than 1 million people

[Bath Christmas market](#) returned this year, here are some of the highlights:



£41.5 million turnover for businesses



Over 444,000



73% of visitors said the market was their reason for visiting the city



More than 500 jobs supported



More than £60 million in additional spending to the city

The Heritage Services Business Plan

The Heritage Services Business Plan sets out the strategic priorities for the next five years to achieve its vision “Learn from the past, understand the present, and shape the future.”

It focuses on:

- Adapting to economic challenges
- Developing the Fashion Museum
- Investment in new research to strengthen the council’s visitor attractions
- Opening a new learning and community engagement space at Victoria Art Gallery
- Improving environmental sustainability

12. Skills to Thrive

Over the last year:

We have launched a new early years careers workforce recruitment and careers website. Shape Your Future aims to increase the number of early years education and childcare practitioners so that our children will have the support they need.

We have provided specialist skills training support to Bridges Electrical Engineers to upskill staff and create new jobs. So far, Skills Bootcamp funding has seen more than 70 existing staff upskilled and 14 unemployed learners going on to gain long-term employment.

We have promoted volunteering activities through our Volunteers Fair. Our Employment and Skills Pods ran this for the second time in Bath, offering opportunities from employers such as Guide Dogs for the Blind and Dorothy House.

Here are some ways we have measured our progress:

Median wage for B&NES residents	Current £40,218 <i>Apr 24</i>	Previous £38,669 <i>Apr 23</i>	Trend ↑ Up
Indicator update This indicator has been rated green because our median wages for B&NES residents have increased over 4% from 2023. This is higher than the national and regional median wages, which are £37,617 and £36,112 respectively.			Green

What we are doing

To support this continued progress, building on the adopted of the Economic Strategy 2024 to 2034, officers have been supporting residents through several programmes:

- Our Employment and Skills Pod has done outstandingly. Since May 2023, they have supported 115 residents into work, with 77 of them going on to get Real Living Wage jobs, despite having medium/high intensity needs.
- Our Future Bright Team have supported 17 people on low incomes increase their wages since March 2024.
- We have been engaging employers to increase awareness of the Good Employment Charter, which encourages the Real Living Wage.

13. Good Jobs

Over the last year:

We have created more job opportunities. The council have secured the future of Jolly’s store on Milsom Street, Bath. This will not only bring a new shopping destination for residents but also new employment opportunities to the local area.

We have helped businesses connect through our Business Show. This two-day event provided opportunities for local businesses to explore new opportunities and network. The show included specialist clinics and talks from organisations such as Radio Bath and Bath & North East Somerset Council’s Invest in B&NES service.

Future Ambition Board

The council local businesses and the local anchor institutions have been working together as part of the Future Ambition Board. This is a voluntary arrangement seeking to deliver a shared ambition for the place and to increase our influence locally and nationally. The Partnership has been working on themes developed from the One vision document published in 2021 and further developed by the Economic Strategy. We have recently appointed a new independent chair to challenge and inspire partners so the partnership can meet its full potential.

Here are some ways we have measured our progress:

Median wage for people who work in B&NES	Current £36,382 Apr 24	Previous £34,945 Apr 23	Trend ↑ Up
Indicator update This indicator has been rated green because it has increased 4.1% over the last year. Our workplace gross full-time pay has increased 4.1% since 2023 and the average pay has increased 8.0% since 2023, now reaching £44,398. We perform well in the region, with the median wage for the South West being £35,634.			Green

What we are doing

We have been working hard to engage with employers to increase their awareness of incentives such as the Good Employment Charter, which encourages the Real Living Wage. We have hosted several workshops for businesses, distributed flyers, utilised social media and working closely with the Combined Authority to raise awareness.

Economic Strategy

Cabinet have adopted a new Economic Strategy - Building A Fair, Green, Creative and Connected Bath with North East Somerset, which will run from 2024 to 2034.

The new Economic Strategy sets out a clear vision for a more sustainable local economy, with a new strategic approach built upon six pillars of Good Work, Inclusive Innovation and Creativity, Greener Economy, Resilient Businesses, Housing Affordability, and Stronger Places.