
South Somerset District Council

Thursday 17th October 2019

7.30 pm

**Council Chamber
Council Offices
Brympton Way
Yeovil, BA20 2HT**

(disabled access and a hearing loop are available at this meeting venue)



All members of Council are requested to attend this meeting.

If you would like any further information on the items to be discussed, please contact the Democratic Services Specialist on 01935 462148 or democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued on Tuesday 8 October 2019.

Alex Parmley, Chief Executive Officer

This information is also available on our website
www.southsomerset.gov.uk and via the Mod.Gov app



South Somerset District Council Membership

Chairman: Paul Maxwell
Vice-chairman: Jenny Kenton

Jason Baker	Henry Hobhouse	David Recardo
Robin Bastable	Ben Hodgson	Paul Rowsell
Mike Best	Charlie Hull	Dean Ruddell
Neil Bloomfield	Kaysar Hussain	Gina Seaton
Dave Bulmer	Val Keitch	Peter Seib
Hayward Burt	Andy Kendall	Garry Shortland
Tony Capozzoli	Tim Kerley	Alan Smith
Martin Carnell	Mike Lewis	Jeny Snell
Malcolm Cavill	Mike Lock	Andy Soughton
John Clark	Pauline Lock	Mike Stanton
Nicola Clark	Tony Lock	Rob Stickland
Louise Clarke	Kevin Messenger	Lucy Trimmell
Nick Colbert	Graham Oakes	Gerard Tucker
Adam Dance	Tricia O'Brien	Anthony Vaughan
Sarah Dyke	Sue Osborne	Linda Vijeh
Karl Gill	Tiffany Osborne	Martin Wale
David Gubbins	Robin Pailthorpe	William Wallace
Peter Gubbins	Clare Paul	Colin Winder
Brian Hamilton	Crispin Raikes	
Mike Hewitson	Wes Read	

Information for the Public

The meetings of the full Council, comprising all 60 members of South Somerset District Council, are held at least 6 times a year. The full Council approves the Council's budget and the major policies which comprise the Council's policy framework. Other decisions which the full Council has to take include appointing the Leader of the Council, members of the District Executive, other Council Committees and approving the Council's Constitution (which details how the Council works including the scheme allocating decisions and Council functions to committees and officers).

Members of the Public are able to:-

- attend meetings of the Council and its committees such as Area Committees, District Executive, except where, for example, personal or confidential matters are being discussed;
- speak at Area Committees, District Executive and Council meetings;
- see reports and background papers, and any record of decisions made by the Council and Executive;
- find out, from the Executive Forward Plan, what major decisions are to be decided by the District Executive.

Meetings of the Council are scheduled to be held monthly at 7.30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month in the Council Offices, Brympton Way although some dates are only reserve dates and may not be needed.

The agenda, minutes and the timetable for council meetings are published on the Council's website – www.southsomerset.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/meetings-and-decisions

Agendas and minutes can also be viewed via the mod.gov app (free) available for iPads and Android devices. Search for 'mod.gov' in the app store for your device and select 'South Somerset' from the list of publishers and then select the committees of interest. A wi-fi signal will be required for a very short time to download an agenda but once downloaded, documents will be viewable offline.

The Council's corporate aims which guide the work of the Council are set out below.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the agenda co-ordinator named on the front page.

South Somerset District Council - Council Aims

South Somerset will be a confident, resilient and flexible organisation, protecting and improving core services, delivering public priorities and acting in the best long-term interests of the district. We will:

- Protect core services to the public by reducing costs and seeking income generation.
- Increase the focus on Jobs and Economic Development.
- Protect and enhance the quality of our environment.
- Enable housing to meet all needs.
- Improve health and reduce health inequalities.

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South Somerset District Council

Thursday 17 October 2019

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes

To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday, 19th September 2019.

3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Council's current Code of Conduct (as amended 26 February 2015), which includes all the provisions relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), personal and prejudicial interests, Members are asked to declare any DPI and also any personal interests (and whether or not such personal interests are also "prejudicial") in relation to any matter on the Agenda for this meeting.

Members are reminded that they need to declare the fact that they are also a member of a County, Town or Parish Council as a Personal Interest. Where you are also a member of Somerset County Council and/or a Town or Parish Council within South Somerset you must declare a prejudicial interest in any business on the agenda where there is a financial benefit or gain or advantage to Somerset County Council and/or a Town or Parish Council which would be at the cost or to the financial disadvantage of South Somerset District Council.

4. Public Question Time

5. Chairman's Announcements

Items for Discussion

6. Chairman's Engagements (Page 6)

7. Environment Strategy (Pages 7 - 31)

8. Presentation from Chief Inspector Sharon Baker of Avon & Somerset Police (Page 32)

9. Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Antisemitism (Pages 33 - 36)

10. Report of Executive Decisions (Pages 37 - 39)

11. Motions

There were no Motions submitted by Members.

12. Questions Under Procedure Rule 10

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.

- 13. Date of Next Meeting** (Page 40)
- 14. Exclusion of Press and Public** (Page 41)
- 15. Wincanton Town Centre Strategy Governance and Finance - (Confidential)**
(Pages 42 - 46)

Agenda Item 6

Chairman's Engagements

17th September

The Chairman attended the NHS Annual General Meeting which was held at Westlands Entertainment Complex.

27th September

The Chairman attended a Marine Society and Sea Cadets presentation at RNAS Yeovilton.

25th October

The Chairman will attend the Yeovil College University Centre Graduation Ceremony which is being held at Westlands Entertainment Venue.

28th October

The Chairman will visit the SSDC offices at Lufton to meet staff.

Agenda Item 7

South Somerset Environment Strategy 2019

Executive Portfolio Holder: Sarah Dyke, Environment Portfolio Holder
Director: Clare Pestell; Strategic Director, Commercial Services
Lead Officers: Jan Gamon; Lead Specialist, Strategic Planning
Vicki Dawson; Lead Specialist, Environmental Health
Katy Menday; Countryside and Recreation Manager
Contact Details: Jan.gamon@southsomerset.gov.uk

Purpose of the Report

1. To invite Members to agree the adoption of the South Somerset Environment Strategy 2019.

Public Interest

2. The Environment Strategy sets out the Council's ambition to be an exemplar local authority in both caring for, and enhancing, our environment. Adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change means changing the way we do things. The Environment Strategy outlines the first phase of our commitments and future direction of travel for the Council.

Recommendations

That Council:

- Approves and adopts the new South Somerset Environment Strategy
- Agrees the identified intermediate actions and next steps

Background

3. In May 2019, a Full Council resolution was agreed to develop a Strategy that sets ambitious targets to protect the environment and ecology; to reduce Carbon Emissions; and for a) South Somerset District and b) the Council to become carbon neutral. The Council agreed to deliver this Strategy by the autumn.

Delivering our Vision

4. The objective of the Environment Strategy is to help us achieve our aim of caring for and enhancing our natural environment and to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change.
5. The Strategy identifies four priority outcomes and how we will deliver our aims. The four priority outcomes are:
 - To reduce our reliance on fossil fuels
 - To reduce emissions
 - To minimise waste and increase recycling;
 - To offset carbon emissions
6. The Strategy sets out our plan to tackle climate change in two clear pathways. One of these is for our own estate and operations and what actions we can take to become carbon neutral; the second

looks at our responsibilities in respect of the wider geography that comprises the South Somerset District.

7. The Strategy identifies a series of actions and targets that are achievable in the short-term. It sets out 26 short-term-tactical actions for change across our own organisation and land holding in a 1-2 year timeframe. In addition, 18 commitments set out how we will support activities which we cannot deliver directly, but which we can enable through others or support others to deliver. The strategy also details how we will develop our longer term plans.

Strategy Development

8. The strategy's development has been led by our Environment Community of Practice (CoP) which comprises internal experts and those with strategic and /or operational responsibility in the areas identified.
9. We have also drawn heavily on the views of a sample of various stakeholders, from within South Somerset and beyond, with whom we have engaged fairly extensively. This includes community engagement activities with:
 - expert local interest and action groups
 - local primary schools
 - Parish and Town Councils
 - elected council Members
 - staff employed by South Somerset District Council.
10. The purpose of this initial engagement activity was to hear what stakeholders feel the key environmental issues are and how we might address these.

Developing our Longer Term Plans

11. The Council has recognised a climate emergency and, in doing so, acknowledges that there is a need to act now to tackle carbon emissions and become carbon neutral. However, we need to balance the need to act, with the necessity to be accountable for the way in which we prioritise the allocation of funds.
12. The Environment Strategy outlines the first phase of our commitments and future direction of travel for the Council, but it is by no means the end of work. The strategy acknowledges that this is only the beginning of the journey and further work is required to develop the optimum portfolio of activity in the future, ensuring a thorough assessment of return on investment (either monetary or environmental or other benefits) and the opportunity cost of the financial commitment has been completed.
13. The strategy identifies some of the possible interventions which will require far more detailed business cases to be put together, and appropriate assessment made. We have identified appropriate expertise from outside the organisation to support this. The consultant will also provide expertise to establish an appropriate baseline and benchmark framework to measure continuous environmental improvement.

Somerset County Wide Climate Emergency Strategy

14. This Strategy precedes a Somerset-wide Climate Emergency Strategy that is currently being developed by a partnership of all Somerset Local Authorities to tackle climate change. South Somerset, through both staff and elected member participation, is fully engaged with the development of that strategy and our expectation is that the County and South Somerset strategies will be aligned.

Next Steps - Developing a Detailed Delivery Plan

15. Once the Strategy is adopted, a detailed delivery plan will be developed along with the next phase of commitments. This will effectively become an Action Plan that sits below this overarching Environment Strategy once approved, detailing what, how and when we will deliver our Priority Outcomes and Vision.
16. The delivery plan will be informed by wider engagement with our communities that is being undertaken later this year as part of evidence gathering for the development of the county-wide strategy. In addition, the Strategy will be presented as part of the agenda for this autumn's Annual Parish Meetings, which are events held for Parish and Town Councils to hear more about and discuss local services and topical issues. We are keen to work closely with our communities to realise our shared ambitions around tackling climate change.
17. The pace of change related to climate change and policy direction is fast and the strategy will therefore be fully reviewed in two years to ensure that our ambitions and actions are aligned to emerging national and global policy and to identify the next tranche of activities.

Financial Implications

18. A sum of money has been identified in order to support our future delivery plans, but it is important that we know where to prioritise our efforts. This requires a stage beyond assessment criteria, to understanding the opportunity cost of pursuing one outcome over another and to understand the full life cycle of any decision we make, and some of the possible interventions will require far more detailed business cases to be put together.

Council Plan Implications

19. Our current Council Plan (2019-20) identifies the environment as one of our five key areas of focus. It specifically details that 'we wish to be a leading Council in developing and adopting a Green Agenda to promote sustainable environment, economy and communities'

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

20. This strategy seeks to help us achieve our aim of caring for and enhancing our natural environment and to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. The Strategy has a specific action to adopt appropriate measurement systems for tracking our reduction in emissions and increased capacity for offsetting and publish our progress.

Equality and Diversity Implications

21. An Equality Impact Assessment relevance check was completed (see Appendix 1) and it is determined that a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required at this stage, but may be required once we develop specific actions.

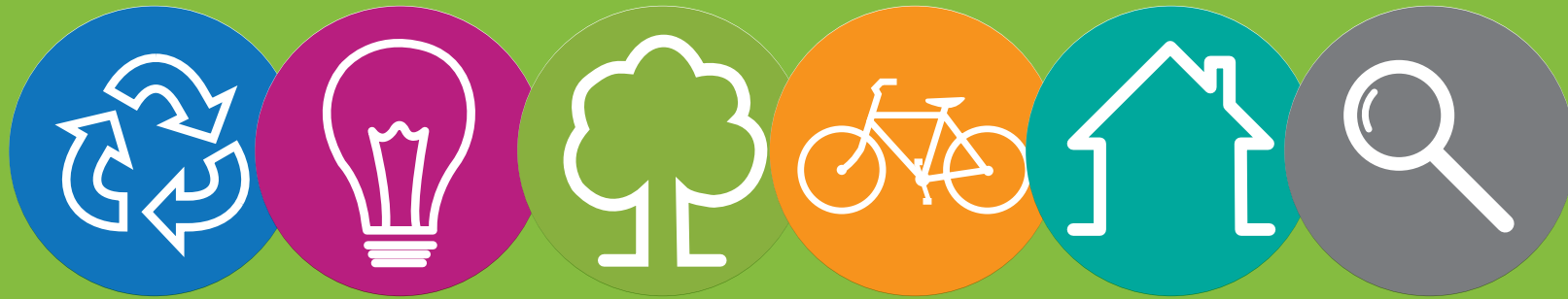
Privacy Impact Assessment

22. A Data Protection Impact Assessment has been completed and identified that the data risk is very low.

Background Papers

SSDC Full Council Minutes, May 2019

South Somerset Environment Strategy



Page 11

October 2019

Our Vision for South Somerset:

'we wish to be a leading Council in developing and adopting a Green Agenda to promote sustainable environment, economy and communities'

South Somerset Council Plan 2019/20



South Somerset
District Council

During 2018 and 2019, many Councils in the UK and Governments around the world responded to public calls to take strong and rapid mitigation measures to reduce carbon emissions and have declared climate emergencies. Many of these declarations are often accompanied by a commitment to accelerate action to achieve carbon neutrality and to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather.

In May 2019 South Somerset District Council formally recognised a climate and ecological emergency through Full Council and agreed to

'develop a strategy by the Full Council meeting in the Autumn of 2019, that sets ambitious targets to protect the environment and ecology; to reduce Carbon Emissions; and for a) South Somerset District and b) the Council to become carbon neutral'.

We are now working in partnership across Somerset to tackle climate change as the neighbouring authorities of Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton and Somerset County Council all made similar declarations. Mindful that a county-wide strategy is emerging, and that many issues are best tackled together, this South Somerset strategy is just one element of a much broader programme of change. We identify here action which we will take locally; but these actions will sit within a much larger plan and align with it.



1. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained#history>
3. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained#history>

Why do we need an Environment Strategy

The release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere from human activity is changing the world's climate and the planet is warming up. 17 of the 18 warmest years ever measured took place in the 21st century and in the last 30 years each decade has been hotter than any previous one on record. Rising global temperatures in the long-term will create more extreme and unpredictable weather changes, rising sea levels, severe flooding and reduced water availability, all of which pose significant risk to human health, wildlife and ecosystems.

The extent of climate change depends on how successfully we, locally, nationally and globally reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit temperature rises.

The Paris Climate Change Agreement (2015) is an international framework that aims to avoid the most devastating effects of climate change by cutting carbon emissions and has set to limit temperature rises to 2°C above pre-industrialisation levels with an aspiration of 1.5°C. The Paris Agreement was ratified by the UK in 2016 and as of May 2019, 194 states and the European Union had signed the Agreement.

The UK Climate Change Act 2008 sets a statutory target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% compared to 1990 levels by 2050. In 2019 the UK government amended the Climate Change Act and set a legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from across the UK economy by 2050.

In 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty. This report highlighted the stark risks and impacts of half a degree difference of warming targets for the world (between 1.5-2°C).

All Local Authorities have a "biodiversity duty" under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, A Green Future (2018), pledges that this will be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it, and pass on to the next generation a natural environment protected and enhanced for the future.

2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Agreement
4. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

Our current commitment



Our current Council Plan identifies the environment as one of our five key areas of focus. We are committed to keeping the beautiful district of South Somerset clean, green, attractive and sustainable. Our expert teams already undertake a huge amount of work to ensure that we honour this pledge and below we give examples of some of the work we currently, and will continue to, do:



Waste, Recycling & Resource Management

- **Recycle More** from June 2020 the types of items that can be collected at kerbside will be expanded to include plastic tubs, pots and trays
- From Spring 2020, none of the waste collected at kerbside in South Somerset will go to landfill; instead it will be used the **generate clean energy**
- Over 90% of all **recycling in South Somerset stays in the UK** and the Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) led the way in providing transparent information about what happens to waste collected for recycling
- **Recycling of waste from house clearances** is used to help residents furnish homes
- We **recycle machinery parts and waste oil** used at our Lufton depot and collected from flytipping
- The **new cremators at Yeovil Crematorium** are designed such that the emissions from mercury fillings will be captured by abatement plant, along with particulate and other emissions
- Any broken bikes or bike parts found abandoned are collected and passed on to a company which **recycles bikes for rural communities**
- We use only **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified timber** wherever possible
- **Rainwater is harvested** to water plants at our nursery
- We have installed a **composting toilet** at Chard Reservoir
- Across our offices we are **'Digital by Default'** and discourage unnecessary printing



Travel and Transport

- We are currently accessing Highways England funding to install three **rapid electric car chargers** at strategic points which are easily accessible from the A303 in South Somerset. These will be at Wincanton, Ilchester and Ilminster
- We operate a **cycle to work scheme**
- We are working in partnership with the transport authority (Somerset County Council) to develop and **cycling and walking infrastructure plan for Yeovil**
- We are developing an **Access Plan for Chard to encourage walking and cycling** as part of the Chard Regeneration Programme
- The Council Plan 2019/20 identifies a priority for South Somerset to be to assess options to **improve community transport** provision. We are activating this project from October 2019
- We operate **agile working**, allowing staff to work from a location that is convenient to them, to minimise unnecessary travel





Built Environment



Page 14

Our adopted Local Plan encourages **sustainability and energy assessment for new planning applications** / encourages new build to be low or zero carbon

- We are currently exploring options to bring forward key housing sites and associated infrastructure and consider how solutions might use **energy sourced at point through air/ground heat source pumps, solar** or other means
- **We consider green infrastructure in all larger scale projects** e.g. Yeovil refresh, through contributions to public open space on- and off-site
- We are working with Highways to deliver a **cycle path on the Eastern side of Yeovil**
- We have an **air quality action plan** for Yeovil
- We secure the **planting of new trees and shrubs** where appropriate, whenever we grant a planning consent



Energy and Renewables

- We are investing **£750,000 in the Yeovil Crematorium** to ensure compliance with environmental standards
- During 2018/19 we developed **one of the largest UK Battery Energy Storage System facilities** (25MW) to support Western Power Distribution and the National Grid to use **clean, renewable energy across the region**. This facility will also reduce currently wasted power generated through solar and wind throughout the UK and store it for use at peak times
- We have **photovoltaics on several SSDC-owned buildings** to generate electricity
- We have installed an **air source heat pump at Ninesprings** for reduced energy usage





Natural Environment

- We are proud of our heritage in creating **award-winning open spaces** – we have been awarded 3 Green Flag Awards at Country Parks and local Nature Reserves – and will continue to work to this standard
- **Natural green spaces are managed to a five-year plan**, these include habitat management, biodiversity enhancement, species specific targets and invasive species control
- We engage the community to manage our countryside sites and run **active conservation volunteer schemes**
- We **plant an average of c.500 trees each year** at our countryside sites
- We run **educational programmes and events** at our countryside sites
- We encourage **biodiversity in our verges and public open spaces** through the use of wildflowers and diverse floral planting, which benefits pollinators
- We have submitted a bid to the Urban Challenge Tree Fund to **plant 2,500 in Yeovil** in phase 2 of the fund



We have developed our plans to tackle climate change in two clear pathways. One of these is to consider our own estate and operations and what actions we can take to become carbon neutral. The second is to consider our responsibilities in respect of the wider geography that comprises the South Somerset District.



Our ambition

SSDC's ambition is to be an exemplar local authority in both caring for, and enhancing, our environment. Adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change means changing the way we do things. This encompasses looking to ourselves and our own operations, taking direct action wherever possible, enabling or supporting others where appropriate and lobbying government for action where we need change that can only be effected at national level.



We recognise

We have recognised a climate emergency and, in doing so, we acknowledge that there is a need to act now to tackle carbon emissions and become carbon neutral. However, we need to balance the need to act, with the necessity to be accountable for the way in which we prioritise the allocation of funds. We will make bold decisions where there is robust evidence that these deliver the right outcomes for our residents, businesses and communities, but we will not commit public money before a thorough assessment of return on investment (either monetary or environmental or other benefits) and the opportunity cost of the financial commitment has been completed.



We will review...

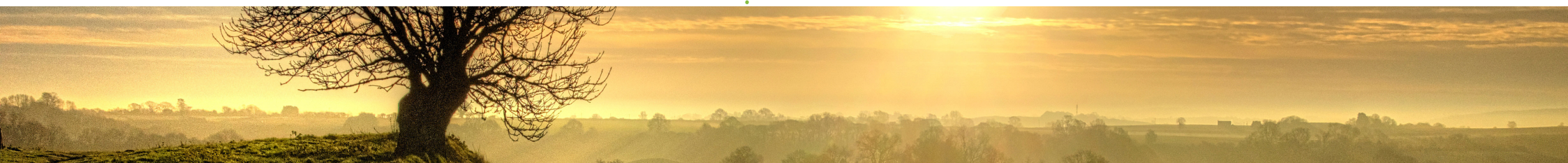
We recognise that the pace of change related to climate change and policy direction is fast and the strategy will therefore be fully reviewed in two years to ensure that our ambitions and actions are aligned to emerging national and global policy and to identify the next tranche of activities.

We recognise the need for a considered and robust approach to nature conservation across the district. At consultation sessions for this strategy it became clear that our residents want to be reassured that this is a high level priority, whether that be on our own land or that of others.

The South Somerset landscape is wonderfully diverse; from the protected landscapes of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in the west and east, to the wetlands of the Somerset Levels further north and distinct heritage monuments like Cadbury Castle and Hamdon hillfort further south. Overall it is of high quality. There is a wealth of wildlife habitats largely integrated to the rolling lowland agricultural landscape. Large parts of the district's countryside are protected by national and international designation (4,968 Ha of AONB, 3,000 Ha of Sites of Special Scientific Interest across 39 sites, 3 National Nature Reserves including Ramsar and Special Protection Areas sites on the Somerset Levels and Moors) together with a greater array of locally declared wildlife sites (5 Local Nature Reserves and 2 Country Parks).

Our Countryside team manages 290 Ha of the Authority's own land, as natural greenspaces for people and nature. The award winning parks and greenspaces retain conservation management principles at their core and the work of rangers and volunteers is to five year land management plans. Hedgerows are laid, dry stone walls repaired, woodlands managed and hazel coppices actively attended. Priority habitats like traditional hay meadows support skylark populations and a new species specific approach to margin management is designed to attract the rare shrill carder bumblebee. Reed beds have been expanded at Chard and marginal plantings on water courses are implemented to improve water quality and enhance the habitats for wildlife. Through the delivery plan of this Strategy the experience of the countryside team will be shared through new public education and engagement programmes.

Existing formal education provision for schools and groups will continue, with curriculum linked sessions available across the key stages. By building capacity in the Countryside and Environment Services teams, groups and communities will benefit from sessions covering a range of practical subjects from gardening for wildlife, tree planting and creating pollinator corridors. The networks of skilled volunteers, who play a pivotal role in habitat management across sites, will continue to be supported, enabling tasks from practical woodland management to species surveying to be completed. Records supplied to the Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC) will help inform and drive the strategies of the County ecological team and Local Nature Partnership (LNP).



Ecology and Biodiversity



We recognise the importance of protecting the existing tree stock of the district; from street trees, woodlands, hedgerows and veteran specimen trees. With South Somerset having below the county and national average for woodland tree cover, tree planting on our own estate will become a priority for us. We will also enable communities to deliver their own planting projects in their parishes through the provision of locally relevant guidance documents and factsheets providing the key elements and attributes needed to grow a successful project. The importance of creating green networks and corridors will feature in the 2020 Open Spaces Strategy and we will strive to reduce fragmentation and isolation of species through the provision of new networks where possible on our land.

We will work with the County ecological team and Local Nature Partnership to ensure the principles of nature recovery networks are understood at a local level and can be translated into action on the ground. By supporting the County Pollinator Action Plan through actions across our own estate and through influencing the management of others, where we can, it is hoped that tangible and lasting differences can be delivered. By feeding into the Local Nature Partnership and supporting its work we hope to enable cross sectional leadership on environmental issues that deliver powerful results.



Visitors choose to come to South Somerset to spend time in the high quality natural environment. Walking on the extensive rights of way network and regional trails, cycling the lanes and droves, visiting traditional craftspeople like willow weavers and cider makers is all dependent on a high quality, well managed and sustainable natural environment. This value is recognised through our Tourism and Economic Development teams and by starting the work to calculate the value of this natural capital we will be better placed to review our position to protect and improve our natural capital. Ensuring that South Somerset truly recognises the value of the natural environment for the health and wellbeing of our residents, visitors and also to the economy. For nature conservation to be truly effective each resident and community must be enabled to make a difference in their garden or parish. This grass roots effort must be linked into county and regional nature networks that will bring the biggest and most powerful outcomes for ecosystems. We recognise that we have a central role to play supporting and enabling our human communities at a local level, whilst staying connected to the bigger picture, with our local and national partners.

Scope of the strategy



As a result of needing to undertake thorough assessments for some activities, this strategy could only ever outline the first phase of our commitments; more will follow. Our focus now is on delivering those actions which we know will deliver a positive impact and where we have the greatest control to take action.

We have followed a number of themes in exploring what we already do, what we currently know and what we might do to reduce our net carbon emissions. Under each theme we have given consideration to what we might do around our own estate to improve environmental performance and what we might do across the wider geography of Somerset to achieve the outcomes and Vision that we committed to. The themes identified include:



Waste, Recycling & Resource Management



Natural Environment



Built Environment



Energy consumption & Renewables



Travel & Transport



Awareness, Engagement & Behaviour Change

This strategy precedes a Somerset-wide strategy that is currently being developed by a partnership of all Somerset Local Authorities to tackle climate change. South Somerset, through both officer and elected member participation, is fully engaged with the development of that strategy and our expectation is that the County and South Somerset strategies will be aligned. There are three themes which are consciously absent from the South Somerset strategy. This is because they are better tackled at county level, where the likelihood of meaningful engagement with some key stakeholders is improved and where the implementation of solutions is more achievable. These are:

- Flood Water and Adaptation to Heatwave and Drought (NB. It should be noted that we already plan for extreme weather events at South Somerset specifically through our business continuity planning)
- Farming and Food (Whilst this is highly relevant for South Somerset, we have better access to the stakeholders and resources needed to move this forward, if we tackle this at county level. We will ensure that any learnings are cascaded into deliverables that are relevant for our district)
- Health and Wellbeing

What do we already know?

We have access to national data (Source: 2017 BEIS Local Authority Emissions dataset) on the level of carbon emissions within South Somerset, split by domestic, industrial and transport emissions. This is a reliable source and will permit us to track progress; however, there is a considerable time lag in the data becoming available and it excludes emission from airports and motorways. In South Somerset, 42% of our carbon emissions emanate from transport, compared with 33% from Domestic activities and 25% from industrial.



42% of carbon emissions are from transport



33% of carbon emissions are from domestic activities



25% of carbon emissions are industrial

Page 20

Over the last ten years

Over the last ten years annual car mileage has been falling nationally, from an average of 8,300 in 2009 to 7,600 in 2018; a reduction of 8.4%.

The percentage reduction has been far more marked in diesel vehicles (19.7%) but, as these form the minority of car types on the road, the overall numbers do not reflect this. We do not have data for Somerset, or even for the South West for most measures; however, we do know that the average annual mileage in the South West is slightly below the national average at 7,292. This may reflect the age profile of the South West, which means that a smaller proportion of the population is of working age.

We know that Somerset County Council has had to reduce subsidies for bus routes, which has resulted in a decrease in bus use since 2010. Many rural communities have now been left with no choice but to cling to the car and we need to offer viable, attractive alternatives to persuade our residents to give up their car or use it for fewer journeys.

Our tree canopy

In South Somerset, our woodland canopy is 4% district-wide, this compares with 12% across England. We know that our current tree stock is able to sequester (net annual removal of CO₂) only a very small proportion of kilotons of carbon emitted; the tree canopy across the county of Somerset is sufficient only to absorb domestic emissions from one district (Sedgemoor). We will need to undertake further work to calculate more precise levels of offset achieved through increased tree canopy in our districts.

We capture air quality data from a number of locations across South Somerset. Air quality across the district is currently good, although NO₂ is high on some of Yeovil's arterial routes and we experience sporadic rises in ozone across the district linked to weather conditions.

We do not currently capture the carbon footprint of our own operations, so a benchmarking measure will need to be taken during this financial year to allow us to track our performance.

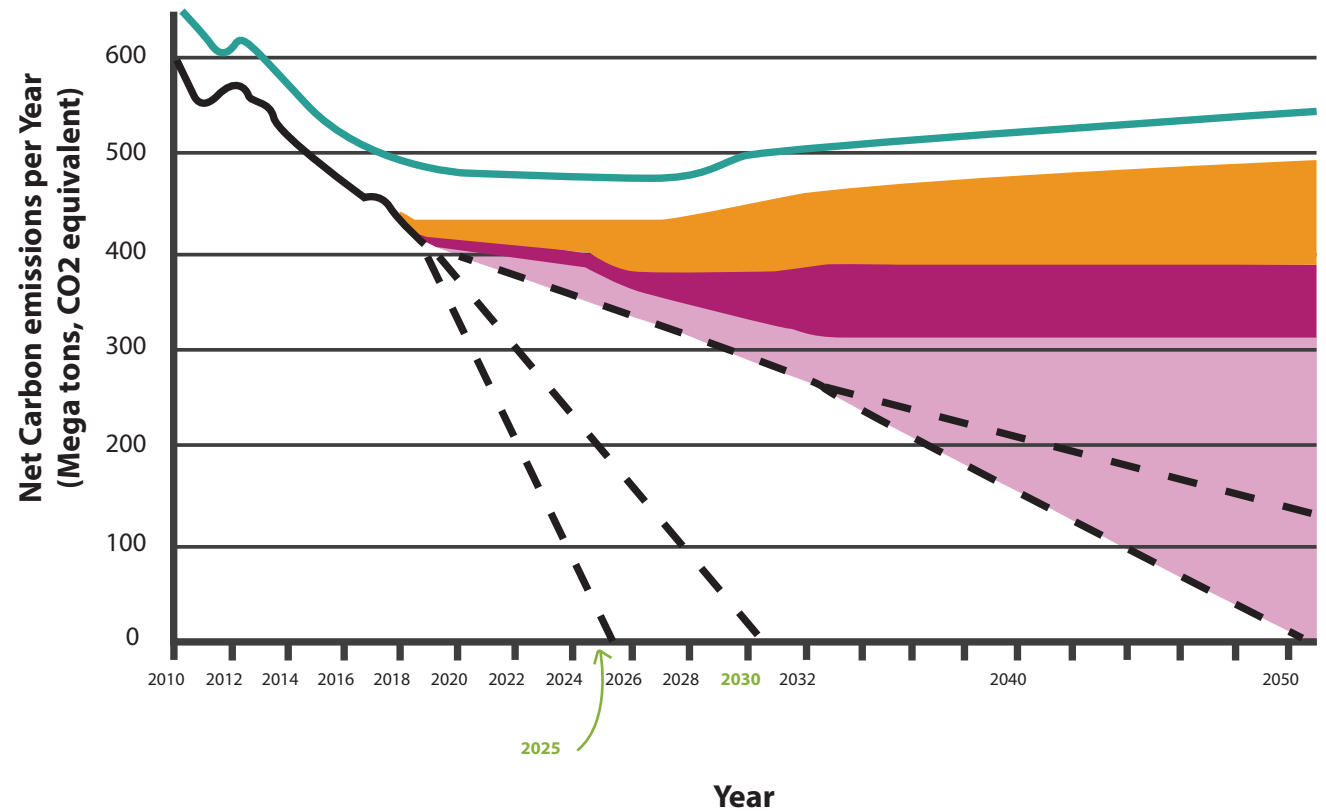
What do we already know?

The chart below shows net emissions of CO2 for the whole of the UK. The lilac shading indicates the policy gap between the high-risk policies and projections to reduce emissions by 80% from the 1990 baseline or to net zero by 2050.

Given the scale and rate of change required, it will be impossible for us to reach our targets of carbon neutrality within the county by 2030 without significant and immediate policy changes in central government coupled with individuals and businesses making major behavioural changes.

What this means that major action from Central Government is required, we have identified some actions that we can take locally as described later. However, this evidences the need to lobby central government for increased policy, funding or powers for Local Authorities.

Chart 1: The scale of the challenge



Key:

- International aviation and shipping
- Medium risk: policies that may not deliver
- High risk: high-level intentions only
- Policy gap: unrealised potential for cost-effective abatement
- - - Cost-effective path
- Historic emissions

This work has been led by our own Environment Community of Practice, which comprises our internal experts and those with strategic and/or operational responsibility for each of the areas outlined above. In shaping next steps, we have also drawn heavily on the views of various stakeholders, from within South Somerset and beyond, with whom we have engaged fairly extensively. This includes community engagement activities with:



Local primary schools



Parish & Town Councils



Elected SSDC Council members



Expert local interest & action groups



Officers employed by SSDC

The purpose of this initial engagement activity was to hear what stakeholders feel the key environmental issues are and how we might address these. We plan wider engagement with our communities in the near future, and further engagement and consultation with stakeholders following adoption of this strategy, to help inform a more detailed delivery plan and shape the next phase of commitments. This will effectively become an Action Plan that sits below this overarching Environment Strategy once approved, detailing what, how and when we will deliver our Priority Outcomes and Vision.

National Policy Development

Whilst there is much that local authorities can do, either themselves or in partnership with others, there are some outcomes that can only be brought about by national policy change.

National Planning and Policy Framework: we need a shift in national planning policy to give local authorities the ability to demand higher environmental standards of developers, such as increased energy efficiency standards, installing electric charging points, solar panels, rain/grey water harvesting solutions. On adoption of this strategy, Elected Members of the Council plan to activate a campaign, through appropriate channels such as the Local Government Association, to persuade government to change Policy.

Public transport: this is arguably the biggest barrier to achieving reduction in carbon emissions. Somerset County Council, as the transport authority, is responsible for provision of bus routes across Somerset. Somerset has a low density, highly dispersed population and this makes providing a meaningful bus service extremely expensive. However, the paucity of bus provision means that we are largely a car dependent population. We need additional funding if public transport provision is to be improved or alternative solutions found, permitting people to desist from car use.

Electric vehicle infrastructure: whilst we are developing plans locally for enhancing electric vehicle infrastructure, we believe that a national, evidence-led approach to determining likely volume, demand, type and location of chargers and associated funding to support roll out, is essential to prevent poorly planned, reactive provision emerging.

Local Grid: we look to central government and Western Power/Scottish and Southern Electricity to deliver improvements to the Local Grid to permit us to harness energy produced locally for local use

Priority outcomes

Although we already undertake numerous activities that underpin our aim of caring for and enhancing our natural environment, we acknowledge that we could do more to achieve our goal of carbon neutrality.

By 2030 we commit to achieving a significant reduction, in the order of 80%, in our carbon emissions. Our ambition is to be carbon neutral across our own operations and land holdings by 2030 at the latest, and ideally by 2023, so any residual carbon emissions will need to be offset.

We will also work to achieve a significant reduction in emissions and improve carbon offset rates across the geography of South Somerset, through direct action, by supporting the communities of South Somerset to meet their ambitions and through the way we do things; ensuring that working towards carbon neutrality is a thread which runs through all of our decision-making.

We will contribute fully to the work of the county-wide Climate Change Group and by working to address issues collaboratively which have county-wide implications, to achieve our county-wide targets.



We will Reduce our Reliance on Fossil Fuels; by

- reducing our energy consumption
- harnessing natural resources, for example by harvesting rain and grey water
- switching to renewable sources of energy
- raising expectations of developers, through our Local Plan policies
- making sustainable procurement choices
- investigating in additional green energy investments



We will Minimise Waste and Increase Recycling; by

- we need to generate less waste, and encourage the use of sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics and other single use items
- we will encourage reuse and recycling and savings in the use of natural resources
- we will explore opportunities to improve our existing housing stock and ensure that new homes are built with recycling in mind



We will Reduce Emissions; by

- reducing our business mileage
- decreasing reliance on the car
- facilitating the growth of electric vehicles for both personal and operational use
- reducing the level of particulates in the district
- facilitating non-motor vehicle modes of transport



We will Offset carbon emissions; by

- increasing our tree canopy through the combined efforts of SSDC, parish and town councils, volunteers and residents
- protect existing hedgerows and tree canopy from the effects of development and reviewing our policy on tree preservation
- protecting existing wetland, marsh and bog and encouraging additional vegetation planting in rivers and ponds
- increasing biodiversity across our own land holdings
- working with local food producers to accelerate the production of environmentally friendly food stuff
- minimising the environmental impact of food production
- investing in offset where we are not able to deliver it ourselves; i.e. as a last resort

How will we deliver our aims?



Together with our stakeholders, we explored numerous activities that we might take in order to meet these commitments. Some of these merit far more detailed investigation, but what we heard during our engagement events was a desire for us to make a start, to commit to a series of actions/targets that are achievable in the short-term and to focus initially on our own estate.

As a result, Section 8.1 below identifies a number of short-term, tactical actions which we believe we can deliver by March 2021 across our own estate, with the majority of these deliverable even earlier, by March 2020. In addition, there are a number of actions which we will put in place immediately for the benefit of the wider South Somerset District.



Interventions for Implementation in 1-2 year time frame

Themes	Action	By when?
Overarching Page 24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have benchmarked the carbon footprint of SSDC's operations, working in partnership with the Carbon Trust and set ambitious targets for carbon neutrality 2. Have adopted a measurement system for tracking our reduction in emissions and increased capacity for offsetting and publish our progress 3. Develop a procurement strategy which attaches social value to carbon reduction, either through reducing emissions or offsetting, using the National Scheme for assessing Themes, Output and Measures (TOMs) 4. Develop a detailed and specific marketing and communications plan, that delivers bespoke materials to and for our communities and visitors. Examples might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water refill points, an eco-business tool kit, green travel and vehicle pollution, householder how to be "green" tool kits, providing information on how communities can make a difference, tree planting tool kits for parishes and communities from "how to" guides and grant funding assistance, preventing water pollution, encouraging use of smart meters, tool kits for schools focusing on the educational benefits of managing for wildlife in their grounds, access to grants and how to run green clubs, calculating your carbon footprint and how to offset it and grant funding opportunities. <p>Shifts in behaviour will only be achieved if the right information is provided in a timely and accessible fashion, by providing high quality marketing materials that tap into national agendas and high profile campaigns and which are also locally engaging.</p>	<p>December 2019</p> <p>April 2020 ff.</p> <p>March 2020</p> <p>March 2020</p>

How will we deliver our aims?

Themes	Action	By when?
 <p>Reduce our reliance on Fossil Fuels</p>	<p>5. Commit to sourcing our energy from renewables and give notice on our current contract if necessary</p> <p>6. Fully energise our 25 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility</p> <p>7. Add a further 5 MW capacity into our BESS facility</p> <p>8. Capture rain/grey water for watering at Yeovil Recreation Ground</p> <p>9. Wessex Water will be installing two water bottle refill units in Yeovil town centre. We will investigate the feasibility of installing a further unit at the Yeovil Recreation Ground</p> <p>10. Provide support, alongside partners, for communities to access existing funding around renewable energy, including the newly launch National Lottery Community Fund, which aims to help people and communities to take the lead in tackling the climate emergency</p>	<p>October 2019</p> <p>March 2020</p> <p>March 2021</p> <p>March 2020</p> <p>March 2020</p> <p>April 2020</p>
 <p>Reduce Emissions</p>	<p>11. All staff have the technology and training to facilitate agile working, thereby reducing our business mileage</p> <p>12. We will investigate piloting a scheme to monitor NO2 at key traffic congestion sites, using Diffusion tubes, married with a campaign to encourage drivers to switch off their engines, with the aim of reducing NO2.</p> <p>13. Develop a green travel plan for each of SSDC's operational sites</p> <p>14. Audit our cycle network to provide evidence to inform future decision-making and improve cycling infrastructure. Complete the development of a cycling and walking infrastructure plan for Yeovil as part of the Yeovil Refresh</p> <p>15. Audit community transport across the district and consider the feasibility of improvements/make recommendations</p>	<p>December 2019</p> <p>March 2020</p> <p>December 2020</p> <p>December 2020</p> <p>June 2020</p>

How will we deliver our aims?

Themes	Action	By when?
 <p>Minimise Waste, Recycle More</p>	<p>18. Target the removal of all drinks for sale in plastic bottles in our canteen, entertainment venues and vending machines; where no alternative exists then ensure recycling facilities for those plastics exist at each site</p> <p>19. Collect paper, card, plastic, cans, glass and food across all of our key sites, including at our entertainment venues, and ensure that whatever waste remains does not go to landfill</p> <p>20. Review the provision and location of public waste bins</p>	<p>December 2019</p> <p>March 2020</p> <p>March 2020</p>
<p>Page 27</p>  <p>Offset</p>	<p>21. Use SSDC-owned land to draw down carbon through planting of 1,000 trees and investigate investment opportunities through the Woodland Carbon Fund</p> <p>22. Protect existing wetland, wet meadows, marsh and bogs and encourage additional planting of water vegetation in rivers and ponds</p> <p>23. Review our policy on tree and hedgerow preservation, to include tree replacement standards</p> <p>24. Progress enhanced mapping to inform Nature Recovery Networks</p> <p>24. Develop and adopt an Open Spaces Strategy which outlines our future direction in respect of conservation management and appropriate tree planting, alongside the need also to be meeting our residents' needs for play and leisure</p> <p>25. Progress enhanced mapping to inform Nature Recovery Networks</p> <p>26. Investigate natural capital schemes and consider approaches to enable SSDC to adopt a system that benefits habitats, wildlife and people</p>	<p>December 2020</p> <p>December 2019</p> <p>December 2019</p> <p>March 2020</p> <p>June 2020</p>

Enabling change through others



There are activities which we cannot deliver directly, but which we can enable through others or support others to deliver. We also commit to:



Awareness, Engagement & Behaviour Change

Work with groups and individuals across the district to develop a tree planting network, invite the Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission to share funding opportunities and build a volunteer group to carry out planting

Improve access to water refill points

Signposting business community to Government/Local Enterprise Partnership and other environment schemes

Producing information on how businesses can help themselves to be greener and reduce their carbon footprint

List funding opportunities on the Economic Development webpage as and when they become available

Clarify the government offer/regional/Local Enterprise Partnership/possibly even still EU

Seeking best practice and sharing with local business

Map out and celebrate existing 'green' businesses



Natural Environment

Work with Parish and Town Councils and County Highways to increase tree canopy

Support local food markets and local food production

Support the development of a county-wide Air Quality Strategy

Support the delivery of the county-wide Pollinator Strategy

Work with Somerset Local Nature Partnership to ensure Nature Recovery Networks are linked in at county and regional scale



Minimise waste and recycle more

Promote SWPs 'Recycle More' and 'Slim my Waste' campaigns

Discuss existing actions individual businesses are taking (with at least 100 businesses through key account scheme) on the key strategy themes – Reduce reliance on fossil fuels/Reduce emissions/Minimise waste.



Built Environment

Encourage developers to use sustainable materials

Support the growth of community allotments

Encourage developers to design around existing hedgerows, increase tree canopy and include exemplar features for biodiversity

Developing our longer-term plans

Following on from adoption of this strategy we envisage continuing to develop this work in earnest through the Environment Community of Practice (CoP) and engage industry experts when appropriate. The CoP comprises officers from across the Council with expertise in the areas identified.

Before taking steps beyond the immediate interventions identified above, we will need to develop key criteria for decision-making, such as emissions saved, financial cost/investment, revenue opportunity, carbon offset, biodiversity gains, social or health benefits.

Furthermore, on the assumption that we will not have the resources to undertake everything that is desirable, we will also need to know where to prioritise our efforts. This requires a stage beyond assessment criteria, to understanding the opportunity cost of pursuing one outcome over another and to understand the full life cycle of any decision we make. We need a clear strategy for developing the optimum portfolio of activity.

Some of the possible interventions which will require far more detailed business cases to be put together, and appropriate assessment made are:

Our long-term plans:



Tourism

We should investigate opportunities for enhancing the natural beauty of South Somerset for green tourism



Green Energy Investments

We will continue to look for additional green energy investment opportunities, with business cases being developed to assure rigour in assessment of the RO



New Housing Stock

New Housing Stock: we will need to agree our policy on new builds; for example, how will we balance our desire for zero carbon new homes with the need to deliver homes per se? Is there an acceptable compromise, where is this?

In the light of our existing priority projects around accelerating housing growth, how could the provision of energy from renewable sources and green infrastructure more generally be baked into our plans, especially if we were to build and retain our own stock



Electric vehicle infrastructure

We certainly need to develop an electric vehicle infrastructure plan and could consider a green infrastructure plan



Tree Planting and Tredges

Once the Open Spaces Strategy is adopted, we should be in a better position to identify appropriate sites for additional tree planting and develop a detailed plan to achieve this. We will also investigate the use of tredges in place of hedges to increase carbon offset.



All Existing Building Stock

All Existing Building/Housing Stock: this falls into two areas. The first is around investigating options for bringing existing buildings back into use. The second is to explore in detail what the implications would be of retro-fitting existing housing stock in the area with improved insulation, solar panels etc., or of making grants available to homeowners to do the same



Industrial Strategy

We will look for examples of and opportunities for clean business growth across the District in accordance with the Local Industrial Strategy and related funding, including Government's proposed Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Research.



Local Community

We should consider whether we wish to establish a Citizens' Panel – what do our local residents, communities and businesses want us to help them with?



Environmental Management System

We will develop an environmental management system

Equality Impact Relevance Check Form



The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. This tool will identify the equalities relevance of a proposal, and establish whether a full Equality Impact Assessment will be required.

What is the proposal?	
Name of the proposal	Environment Strategy
Type of proposal (new or changed Strategy, policy, project, service or budget):	New Strategy
Brief description of the proposal:	Develop a new Strategy for SSDC that delivers specified ambitions
Name of lead officer:	Chereen Scott

You should consider whether the proposal has the potential to negatively impact on citizens or staff in the following ways:

- Access to or participation in a service,
- Levels of representation in our workforce, or
- Reducing quality of life (i.e. health, education, standard of living)

A negative impact is any change that could be considered detrimental. If a negative impact is imposed on any citizens or staff with protected characteristics, the Council has a legal duty to undertake a full Equality Impact Assessment.

Could your proposal negatively impact citizens with protected characteristics? (This includes service users and the wider community)	NO
Could your proposal negatively impact staff with protected characteristics? (i.e. reduction in posts, changes to working hours or locations, changes in pay)	NO

Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?	NO
If Yes, Please provide a brief description of where there may be negative impacts, and for whom. Then complete a full Equality Impact assessment Form	
If No, Please set out your justification for why not.	
Whilst the strategy outlines a number of short-term actions within a 1-2 year time frame, having discussed this with the Equalities lead it is considered that the measures as proposed are highly unlikely to have a negative impact on anyone from the protected characteristics. However, where actions are likely to be subject to a significant change or further development, or where associated strategies are required, then these can be reviewed and checked for equality implications individually.	
Service Director / Manager sign-off and date	Jan Gamon 17th September 2019
Equalities Officer sign-off and date	Dave Crisfield 17 th September 2019

Agenda Item 8

Presentation from Chief Inspector Sharon Baker of Avon & Somerset Police

Chief Inspector Sharon Baker of Avon & Somerset Police will provide a brief introduction and overview of Policing including difference between Patrol and Neighbourhood officers and PC's and PCSO's.

She will include a wide range of subjects including how the police decide their local priorities, and task resources, and how members can represent the views of their communities and raise issues.

This will conclude with questions from Members.

Agenda Item 9

Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of Anti-Semitism

Executive Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Val Keitch, Strategy and Housing
Director: Netta Meadows, Director Strategy and Support Services
Service Manager: Jan Gamon, Lead Specialist - Strategic Planning
Lead Officer: Dave Crisfield, Specialist – Strategic Planning
Contact Details: david.crisfield@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462240

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek member agreement of the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of Anti-Semitism.

Public Interest

2. As a measure that supports the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010, and its responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty, adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism contributes to the council's approach to promoting equality and meeting its equality duties to the public, customers, contractors/suppliers and staff.

Recommendation

3. That Full Council adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of Anti-Semitism along with the accompanying illustrative examples.

Background

4. The definition

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), founded in 1998, is an inter-governmental body that unites governments and experts to strengthen, advance and promote Holocaust education, research and remembrance and to uphold the commitments to the 2000 Stockholm Declaration.

The United Kingdom has been member of the IHRA since it was founded in 1998.

On 26 May 2016 in Bucharest, the Plenary of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) adopted the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism along with supporting examples that may serve as illustrations:

“Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

“Manifestations of anti-Semitism might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.”

The IHRA definition specifies eleven 'contemporary examples of antisemitism' in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere which could, taking into account the overall context, include but are not limited to:

- 1. Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.*
- 2. Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as a collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.*
- 3. Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.*
- 4. Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).*
- 5. Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.*
- 6. Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.*
- 7. Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.*
- 8. Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.*
- 9. Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.*
- 10. Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.*
- 11. Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel*

British Government and Local Government position

5. In December 2016 the British Government adopted the IHRA definition and the then Home Secretary Sajid Javid wrote to all council Leaders in January 2017 requesting that the definition be adopted at a local authority level.

To date, circa 200 local authorities in the UK have adopted the definition.

Current Climate

6. A record number of anti-Semitic incidents were recorded in the UK for the first six months of 2019 by the Community Security Trust. There were 892 reported incidents between January and June 2019, a 10% increase on the same period of 2018 – which also had a record high. The number of violent anti-Semitic assaults rose from 62 in the first half of 2018 to 85 in the same period of 2019. There were 38 incidents of damage and desecration of Jewish property; 710 of abusive behaviour, including verbal abuse, graffiti, abuse via social media and one-off cases of hate mail; 49 direct threats; and 10 cases of mass-mailed leaflets or emails. Sixty-two public figures became targets, as well as 102 Jewish community organisations, events and commercial premises.

In addition to the increasing number of incidents of anti-Semitism we have also seen high profile cases of alleged institutional anti-Semitism such as the controversy surrounding the national Labour Party.

Within this context, therefore, adoption of the IHRA definition by SSDC would be a timely act and provide a clear message to the council's customers and stakeholders of its position regarding anti-Semitism.

Legal Status

7. Whilst the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism is not legally binding its adoption will support the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010, and its responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty, to demonstrate due regard and to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

The IHRA definition serves, therefore, as a complementary measure that addresses equalities issues though seeking to deepen the understanding of anti-Semitism.

However, this proposal does not constitute a law. South Somerset like the rest of Britain, is built on free speech. Therefore the council would always uphold the rights of citizens to engage in reasoned debate. Therefore, non-anti-Semitic criticism of the policies of the government of Israel is entirely legitimate, as is the case with any country's government. The right to express such criticism is not restricted by this proposal.

Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications in respect of this report.

Council Plan Implications

9. Adoption of the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism would be wholly consistent with, and complement the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy, which in turn is fully aligned to all six Values that underpin the 2016-21 Council Plan i.e.
- Putting the customer first when developing plans and services
 - Supporting people and communities, enabling them to help themselves
 - Being open, transparent and with greater accessibility to those that need to use council services
 - Working with partners to improve services, efficiencies, resilience and influence
 - Embracing innovation and improved technology to improve customer service and access
 - Empowering a confident, flexible workforce

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

10. Consideration has been given to climate change implications and there is no foreseeable impact.

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. An Equality Impact Relevance Check Form was completed for this proposal which indicates that adopting the IHRA definition is unlikely to disproportionately disadvantage any protected characteristic, and does not directly prevent the promotion of understanding between different groups.

If members support the report's recommendation this will add value to our existing commitment to Equality and Diversity and help contribute to the council's compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty, particularly in relation those that come under the Religion and Belief Protected Characteristic.

Privacy Impact Assessment

12. No implications

Background Papers

Report to District Executive – October 2019

Agenda Item 10

Report of Executive Decisions

Executive Portfolio Holder: Val Keitch, Leader of Council, Strategy and Policy
Director: Netta Meadows, Director (Strategy & Support Services)
Lead Officer: Angela Cox, Democratic Services Specialist
Contact Details: angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462148

This report is submitted for information and summarises decisions taken by the District Executive and Portfolio Holders since the last meeting of Council in September 2019. The decisions are set out in the attached Appendix.

Members are invited to ask any questions of the Portfolio Holders.

Background Papers

All Published

Val Keitch, Leader of the Council
Angela Cox, Democratic Services Specialist
angela.cox@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462148

Portfolio	Subject	Decision	Taken By	Date
Strategy and Housing	Adoption of the South Somerset Environment Strategy	This item was recommended to Council and appears elsewhere on the agenda.	District Executive	03/10/19
	Heart of the South West Joint Committee Governance Review Report	District Executive:- a. approved the amendments (shown in red) to the HOTSW Joint Committee's list of functions in the Arrangements document (Appendix A attached) and noted the updated budget position for 2019/20; b. noted the appointment of Somerset County Council as the Administering Authority to the Joint Committee.	District Executive	03/10/19
Chairman of Area North	Community Capital Grant Request to the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church, Isle Brewers	District Executive confirmed that a grant of £35,000 be awarded to The Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church towards an ambitious £169,000 project to create a multifunctional usable community space within the restored All Saints Church building. The grant to be allocated from the Area North capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (Appendix A).	District Executive	03/10/19
Strategy and Housing	Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of Anti-Semitism	This item was recommended to Council and appears elsewhere on the agenda.	District Executive	03/10/19
Strategy and Housing Area East Chair	Wincanton Town Centre Strategy Governance and Finance – (Confidential)	This item was recommended to Council and appears elsewhere on the agenda.	District Executive	03/10/19

Portfolio	Subject	Decision	Taken By	Date
Health and Wellbeing	The Future Management of the Council's Leisure Facilities (Confidential)	District Executive agreed the recommendations of the report.	District Executive	03/10/19

Agenda Item 13

Date of Next Meeting

Members are asked to note that the next scheduled meeting of the Full Council will take place on **Thursday, 21st November 2019** in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil **commencing at 7.30 p.m.**

Agenda Item 14

Exclusion of Press and Public

The Council is asked to agree that the following item (agenda item 15) be considered in Closed Session by virtue of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A under paragraph 3:

“Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).”

It is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption from the Access to Information Rules outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Agenda Item 15

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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