SWT Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 9th October, 2019, 6.15 pm

The John Meikle Room - The Deane House

Members: **Gwil Wren (Chair), Libby Lisgo (Vice-Chair), Ian Aldridge, Sue Buller, Norman Cavill, Dixie Darch, John Hassall, John Hunt, Sue Lees, Dave Mansell, Hazel Prior-Sankey, Phil Stone, Nick Thwaites, Danny Wedderkopp and Keith Wheatley**

Agenda

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Scrutiny Committee (Pages 5 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive and note any declarations of disclosable pecuniary or prejudicial or personal interests in respect of any matters included on the agenda for consideration at this meeting.

(The personal interests of Councillors and Clerks of Somerset County Council, Town or Parish Councils and other Local Authorities will automatically be recorded in the minutes.)

4. Public Participation

The Chair to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public who have submitted any questions or statements, please note, a three minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak

before Councillors debate the issue.

5.	**Somerset Climate Emergency Framework and SWT Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan. Report of the Strategy Specialist (attached).**	(Pages 15 - 90)
6.	**Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan** To receive items and review the Forward Plan.	(Pages 91 - 92)

JAMES HASSETT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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If an item on the agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group. These arrangements do not apply to exempt (confidential) items on the agenda where any members of the press or public present will be asked to leave the Committee Room. Full Council, Executive, and Committee agendas, reports and minutes are available on our website: www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

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SWT Scrutiny Committee - 4 September 2019

Present: Councillor Gwil Wren (Chair)

Councillors Libby Lisgo, Sue Buller, Norman Cavill, Dixie Darch, John Hassall, John Hunt, Sue Lees, Dave Mansell, Hazel Prior-Sankey, Phil Stone, Nick Thwaites, Danny Wedderkopp, Keith Wheatley and Loretta Whetlor

Officers: Andrew Randell, Emily Collacott, Paul Fitzgerald, Chris Hall and Malcolm Riches

Also Present: Councillors Simon Coles, Marcus Kravis and Federica Smith-Roberts

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm)

24. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Aldridge.

Councillor Whetlor attended as a substitute for Councillor Aldridge.

25. **Minutes of the previous meeting of the Scrutiny Committee**

(Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 17 July circulated with the agenda)

Resolved that the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on 17 July be confirmed as a correct record.

26. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Whetlor declared an interest as a resident of Watchet in relation to item 7.

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor or Clerk of a County, Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

Name	Minute No.	Description of Interest	Reason	Action Taken
Cllr N Cavill	All Items	West Monkton	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr J Hunt	All Items	SCC	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr S Lees	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Lisgo	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr D Mansell	All Items	Wiveliscombe	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr H Prior-	All Items	SCC & Taunton	Personal	Spoke and Voted

Sankey		Charter Trustee		
Cllr D Wedderkopp	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Whetlor	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr G Wren	All Items	Clerk to Milverton PC	Personal	Spoke and Voted

27. **Public Participation**

The following members of the public made statements below in relation to 5G Technology:-

Sue Pilkington

Some of the 5G tech will be mounted on 4G masts we already have but the full blown roll out to support the Internet of things will require many many more masts and small cells which are planned to placed very close together and mounted on our houses, offices, public buildings. (They will be more heavy duty Most community light poles are not strong enough to hold the 5G equipment so they will be replaced by much taller wider poles with cell antennas .This is called “hardening” the poles but basically it means the poles will be much wider and thicker metal.)

The 5g 26GHZ and above require masts much closer together as the signals don't travel as far meaning masts every 300m or so. This bandwidth is being sold off later this year.

Man-made electromagnetic spectrum ranges from 100KHz to 300GHZ, this spectrum is divided into bands, which are auctioned off by the Governments to the highest bidder. The current bands we are using for 3 and 4G are saturated, meaning we have used them all up due to so many wireless devices. So higher available bands are being sold to the telecoms so we are moving from sub-millimetre into millimetre waves. The new infrastructure is costing LOTS of money, so to re-deem the costs the telecoms industry needs new products to sell to re-coup their investments. Hence the Internet of things and smart technology. So the argument that 5G technology is good for the planet because they are energy efficient doesn't really stand up, due to the massive amount of infrastructure and manufacturing, by one estimate, four hundred times more towers than are currently deployed (see 1)

The 5g technology is totally different to 4g, is utilises phased arrays and beam forming. This tech has been used in military applications and in crowd control devices.

We know there are cancer clusters around masts and they devalue your property by as much as 20% according to research.

Millimetre waves haven't been used in human populations before and there has been no testing done, so this to me is very concerning. No consideration has been taken for people that suffer with eilectrsenstivity (see 2), which is a recognised condition in Sweden.

Planning laws are being revised such that telecoms have a right of access to property and one cannot object to their placement. This is being decided without our consent or consultation.

The signals don't travel through wet trees and therefore if the small cells cannot be placed to achieve a clear line of sight they will be felled. One solution to this is to have extremely high masts as high as Nelsons column bar 2 meters which is being discussed in the news this week.

As well as being unsightly and I am sure very unwelcome right on your doorstep, we have to remember
All of this infrastructure will be beaming out pulsed microwave radiation which has harmful biological effects as proven in thousands of studies and in growing public health records is already causing all sorts of health conditions

5G will utilize current 3G and 4G wireless frequencies already in use and also add even more radiation.

The citizens of Taunton would please like to be consulted on this proposed infrastructure in our communities and would like the council to find out how it is being rolled out, when it is being rolled out, by who, and how we can stop it with your help.

We need local councils at every level to join together to lobby central government and apply the precautionary principle to the 5G rollout so we can thoroughly research the infrastructure and access whether the people of Taunton, Somerset and the UK really want it.

Charlie Kay

Governments and big tech companies claim that 5G technology will be good for water and fuel efficiency to farming and agriculture, and a cure for climate change. HOWEVER, Governments, 5G and SMART profiteers are overlooking fundamental points which are contrary to our Green goals.

5G and smart technology will consume significant amounts of energy. It will also encourage more consumerism as trillions of new gadgets all become ‘smart'. There will be millions of tiny micro-transmitters embedded in common domestic objects. Even in babies nappies, and there is a petition to stop this (see 1)These transmitters contain rare and precious metals including gold, copper, silver and lithium, all of which have to be mined. Mining is the second most polluting industry in the world

In our Smart future, once or twice in a lifetime items will become upgradable just like our mobile phones, providing more fodder for an already insatiable consumer economy. Our old gadgets and appliances will all eventually be thrown away creating even more waste. And how are we disposing all this waste? Perhaps they will be shipped to Malaysia along with all our adult diapers and Sainsbury bags!
5G and Smart technology will require a huge quantity of fuel, water and raw materials to manufacture all these gadgets and power the NEW masts and the servers that support them!
The new Blue LED street lights which implement 5G technology are bad for humans and wildlife disrupting our circadian rhythm. Have we NOT even considered the damage caused by the disposal of all the old lamp posts? This is not responsible sustainability.

Does massive open-air farming factories using automatic irrigation systems, 5G farm animal checkers and drones to check on livestock, using self-fertilising genetically modified crops sound natural? Farmers in France are raising the alarm of livestock deaths and low production they believe caused by EMR’s (see 2)

EMR has been proven to disrupt the migration and orientation of birds, insects and marine animals. Even at existing levels of pollution, birds are losing their way on long-established migration routes. A world blanketed by 5G coverage could permanently destroy the delicate and finely tuned internal navigation systems of countless species across air, land and sea, with knock-on effects of unfathomable magnitude.

Adding to this there will be a constellation of 20,000 satellites which are being launched into space by rockets, releasing exhaust gases (see 2,3) (adding to Carbon Emissions and Ozone Depletion) Do we trust Elon Musk from SpaceX to protect space and the atmosphere?

We need to be concerned about our trees because Millimetres radio waves suffer attenuation from trees and tree canopies. Some trees will have to be cut down if they stand in the way of the millimetre waves.

The Lancet notes that: “The potential effects of these anthropogenic electromagnetic fields on natural electromagnetic fields, such as the Schumann Resonance that controls the weather and climate, have not been properly studied. Similarly, we do not adequately understand the effects of anthropogenic radio-frequency electromagnetic radiation on other natural and man-made atmospheric components or the ionosphere.” Isn’t it fair to say we should we be checking what type of effect 5G might have on the world’s weather and climate patterns? We all want to make our planet healthy again in intelligent ways and not merely replacing one form of pollution - fossil - with another - EMR.
Electro-Magnetic Radiation isn’t green it is a pollutant (the industry and Insurance Companies have already acknowledged this fact) and that we need to act urgently to reduce the amount of EMR in our environment, not add more!.

The Rural Connected Communities competition is the latest wave of £200 million funding to pioneer 5G testbeds across the country and deliver the benefits of the highest speeds of mobile connectivity available. But at a cost to the health of us all?
The pioneering industries Nicky Morgan talks about don’t have to be based around 5G and EMR. We need real green solutions not this smart agenda fuelled by big tech and governments.

Karen Churchill

Vital information about cellular damage happening at intensities well below the levels set by the guidelines is now fully established and desperately needs to heard.
1000’S of studies on animal, human, plants and public health statistics together give scientific certainty of harm full biological effects of 4G radiations.

Pulsed 5G microwave radiation will be even worse. The 5g pulsing mechanism causes unpredictable results. The guidelines assume an additive effect but research shows that you get can spikes where two pulses together have a hugely more harmful effect than if you add the effects of each together. Also pulses can cancel each other when the second pulse is a different polarity and there will be many of those in 5G signals. (the pulsed waves are unpredictable compared to the steady source effects included in the safety guidelines.)

Until recently scientist didn't know the mechanisms of how damage occurred.

Dr Martin Pal and Dr Heroux have recently had breakthroughs with this though. They have identified and proven that there are disruptions to the voltage gate calcium channels in the cell membranes, changes in the energy production in the mitochondria

and disruptions to the DNA. This research has been cited by other scientists many times and is another measure of scientific credibility.

The tech companies claim that the mm waves of 5g will be less damaging as they don't penetrate into the body as deeply but the magnetic aspect of the radiation does and this magnetic component affects these calcium channels too and so 5g high end will affect the whole body.

When the vgcc sensors are stimulated by the cell phone or wifi Ca floods into the cell and the bodies homeostatic mechanism go to work using energy the body could well use for other things .

High intracellular calcium effects correct functioning of the nervous system and helps explain the neuropsychiatric effects of emfs anxiety, Alzheimer, ADHD , concentration , sleeping and memory lapses, depression amongst others.

There has been a vast increase in early onset Alzheimer with the increase of cell phone usage.

Dr Martin Pall describes how this intracellular calcium leads on to oxidative stress and increase in free radicals , which then explains the development of cancers. The 2016 NTP study has proven the link of EMFs to Shwannoma cancers in rats.

The changes in ATP and mitochondria functioning helps us understand the changes in the reproduction system that is being reliably seen in research studies. There are many studies in rats and mice showing in utero exposures cause drop in reproduction in the first and then increasing in the second to litter to near sterility in the third litter. In females there are spontaneous abortions seen in animals and human studies. The public health information shows drops in fertility in tech advanced countries to below replacement levels, including South Korea who have a 30 percent drop. Men after 2 hours of exposure to cell phone radiation have vast drops in sperm count, mobility and viability with breaks in the DNA.

With this amount of research available and the public health information showing the damage we already have with EMR exposures of 4G and the pulsed waves of 5G being worse and vast increases in exposure the internet of things implies, I request the Council action immediate halt to the roll out of 5g and they demand the PHE to review their guidelines.

I request that someone from the Council attend the International radiation conference in London on September 28th where the researchers who are the source of this information will impart the details I have started to outline here in depth. Thank You.

Louise Thomas

The Government takes its advice regarding the new 5G technology from Public Health England.

PHE is the national body that takes the lead on public health matters involving radio frequency electromagnetic fields, or radio waves, which are used in the telecommunications industry. However, Public Health England is ignoring the peer reviewed research and the International appeals from doctors and scientists. PHE continues to take its advice from the World Health Organisation and the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

The ICNIRP is an NGO under German law with no international legal status. It appoints its own members, none of whom is a medical doctor, operates with zero transparency and is accountable to no one. It is an institute of electrical and electronic engineers, It also disclaims all responsibility on its website for any of its information (see 1) including its own guidelines, which are based on cherry-picked science.

The ICNIRP has been widely accused of having conflicts of interest and links to the telecoms industry. (see 2 and printed handout). ICNIRP has also has been accused of corruption.

According to Investigate Europe a team of investigative journalists from the EU, many governments are taking advise from a small circle of radiation safety authorities who reject alarming research and who set the radiation safety limits. Of 13 ICNIRP scientists, six are members of at least one other advisory committee. In the WHO group, this applies for six out of seven. Every third researcher in the EU commission that gave radiation advice in 2015 was represented in other groups. This constitutes a monopoly of opinion.

In the light of these findings and evidence would the Scrutiny committee acknowledge the urgency for our local council to bring this information to our communities in Taunton and to central government and to lobby PHE and Nicky Morgan, Digital Secretary. As you can hopefully understand we are very concerned that the government is not aware of these facts and we wish to shed some light on this situation and present the facts above.

Carol Lydiate

All investment involves managing risk. I work at Musgrove and have seen first-hand the due diligence work the hospital management has been undertaking in preparation for the proposed merger with Somerset Partnership. Every aspect of the work of both trusts has to be taken into account, with the benefits weighed against the risks to ensure that there are no unexpected surprises after the merger. Without this due diligence work the merger would not be approved by NHS Improvement. It would be foolishness indeed to allow it.

Interestingly, the same approach does not appear to have happened with regards to 5G, which should, therefore, legitimately be recognised as a ‘hazard’ as no independent, authoritative assessment of the safety of 5G technology has been undertaken, despite warnings by hundreds of scientists about its health risks. As elected representatives of the people living in Taunton and its surrounding districts I would remind the Scrutiny Committee that as a body the Council has a responsibility to ensure that what the public in this area are being exposed to is going to be safe. Not to do so would be to put us all at great risk in respect to our health and privacy. The telecoms companies concerned, who no doubt are confident of the benefits of 5G to businesses and individuals, seem to care only about the financial rewards and nothing about the risks and damage to humanity and the planet as a whole.

Of particular concern is that no-one will be able to opt out of this roll-out and if anyone wants to protect themselves they must do such things as hard wire their homes and hope that they do not live with a cell tower outside their home (which

could not only have privacy and health risks, but have the added risk of devaluing their property). There is no getting away from the fact that we are being experimented on with no idea of what the consequences are going to be in 10, 20, 30 year's time.

It is particularly worrying that following the hundreds of reports by scientists around the world that their concerns about 5G are falling on deaf ears. Their expert opinion discarded.

The benefits of 5G could be immense to society, we cannot deny that, and no-one would want to stand in the way of progress unnecessarily, but, if this experiment goes wrong and the scientists are proved right, we are facing an unmitigated disaster for the planet - a game changer for humanity and indeed all of creation.

As a group here today we would implore the Council to do what it can to slow down the roll-out of 5G by applying the precautionary principal until such a time that the technology can be proved to be safe.

On 27 August the government announced that bigger and taller mobile phone masts could be built without councils' permission across the countryside under a proposed overhaul of planning rules in England. In part this is to speed up the roll out of 5G networks and improve mobile coverage in rural areas. This could mean masts of over 82ft high. It is stated that these masts could carry more equipment and potentially stop the proliferation of other masts or even take away some. The issue with 5G though is the higher frequency which doesn't travel as far as 3G or 4G and therefore needs more cell towers closer together. I am not sure how this will therefore work.

A question to the Council - how does it feel to have the option of denying the building of masts in an area taken out of your hands?

The subject of 5G is a vast one and multi-layered. We cannot do it justice here in a few 3 minute slots. We would encourage you all to look at the evidence for both sides of the coin and take into account the many reports and videos that have outlined concerns to alert the public.

The risk is great and in the interest of survival we must all ask the question, do the benefits outweigh the risks or should caution be shown?

Thank you.

Warwick Lydiate

As with other issues going on at the moment, are there agendas behind 5G that we don't know about yet? For example...

1 What is 'big data', and what is 5Gs function in providing this?

2 What is the 'Internet of Things'? And connected with that, is it true that every so called 'smart device' is actually a data gathering machine informing business and

/ or government about each of our choices and decisions? What data do 'they' want from us? Is it just about selling us stuff, or is it something else?

3 5G may facilitate driverless cars / vans. Do we want driverless vehicles? Have we been asked?

4 Is the impetus to begin making money out of 5G overriding the importance of adequately testing its safety and reliability?

5 Is it true that companies like Huawei are looked on unfavourably by western businesses and governments, because they may not share the information they gather on us? Who are safest, most reliable companies to provide 5G?

6 Do we know what 5Gs role in public surveillance will be? Do you feel that our every movement should be under surveillance? Will 5G override our right to privacy?

7 Does the government intend to override any objections raised by local councils and citizens, and press ahead with it anyway? How do you feel about this?

8 If democracy depends on an informed public (and local council), to what extent is this threatened by insufficient data on 5G or AI?

As councillors, do you know the answers to these questions? Should the public know before this technology is simply presented to us?

The Chairman thanked all members of the public for their statements and requested ongoing dialogue; so that further consideration could be given to setting this as a Scrutiny item at a stage where further information is available around the rollout and the role of District and County Councils in 5G technology implementation.

28. **Scrutiny Committee Action Plan**

(Copy of the Scrutiny Committee Action Plan, circulated with the agenda).

Resolved that the Scrutiny Committee Action Plan be noted.

29. **Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan**

(Copy of the Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan, circulated with the agenda).

Councillors were reminded that if they had an item they wanted to add to the agenda, that they should send their requests to the Governance Team.

Resolved that the Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan be noted.

30. **Watchet Harbour Update. Presentation of the Localities Manager (Verbal**

Update).

The Localities Manager provided a presentation with the Mud Working Group in relation to Watchet Harbour.

During the discussion, the following points were made:-

- Previous solutions were discussed when Watchet was still a commercial Harbour.
- The economic benefits of the Harbour were considered along with the economic findings of the Mud working group.
- Previous enquiries made in relation to Hinkley funding had been unsuccessful.
- The Health and Safety impact of the Harbour users was considered. Risk assessments had been undertaken and it was likely that the Harbour Master would be increasing their contracted hours.
- A full depth dredge and water injection dredge was estimated to cost £500k. This maintenance would be from the dredger acquired from the Marina operator with Somerset West and Taunton to borrow the dredger to undertake work on the outer harbour.

Resolved that:-

The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Localities Manager and working group and officer for their ongoing work and noted the update.

31. **Financial Monitoring - 2019/20 as at 31 July 2019. Report of the Finance Business Partner (attached).**

The Section 151 Officer and Finance Business Partner presented the Financial Monitoring Report.

During the discussion, the following points were made:-

- An increase in the members allowances budget was considered
- An increase in the Deane Helpline service was due to the increased levels of pay for those on standby. The work of The Deane Helpline was commended.
- A £300k overspend for homelessness services was considered, this was a similar situation to the previous year.
- Concerns were expressed over a loss of pest control provision, further clarification was requested if this was a Councillor decision.
- A comparison was requested over previous quarters and years in future reports.
- Concerns were expressed over Councillors access to accounts and lack of interim budget updates between quarters.
- Activity in the Capital Programme was considered, budget changes above £50,000 would be included for transparency. If underspends were encountered in the HRA, the budget would get rolled over in to the next financial year.

Resolved that:-

1. It is recommended that Scrutiny notes the Council's forecast financial performance for 2019/20 financial year as at 31 July 2019.
2. It is recommended that Scrutiny notes the planned request to Full Council to

approve the Housing Director / Head of Function, in consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder, to have delegated authority to approve changes to the budgeted spend for all of the HRA capital schemes, whist remaining within the approved capital programme for 2019/20. The reason for this is help address flexible delivery of the programme in year.

32. **Corporate Performance Report and Update on Development of Future Reporting. Report of the Head of Performance and Governance (attached)**

The Business Intelligence and Performance Manager presented the Corporate Performance Report and Update.

During the discussion the following points were made:-

- The shortage of planning staff and difficulties of recruiting in this area was discussed.
- Processing of planning applications at the end of July was at 80% so there had been significant improvement in the service.

Resolved that:-

The Scrutiny Committee noted the new report being developed which would bring together finance information, risk monitoring and performance reporting. The first report would be produced for the end of November (month 8).

(The Meeting ended at 9.15 pm)

Somerset West and Taunton

Scrutiny Committee – 9th October 2019

Somerset Climate Emergency Framework and SWT Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Member Cllr Peter Pilkington

Report Author: Graeme Thompson, Strategy Specialist

1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

1.1 To inform Members about the emergence of a framework for developing the county-wide Climate Strategy and a framework for SWT's own Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan and to seek comments to shape further prior to going to District Executive on 23rd October.

2 Recommendations

2.1 To review the Climate Emergency Framework and Framework Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan and intended work streams, directions of travel and key early tasks and provide feedback.

2.2 To note the timeline for delivery of the Strategy and Plan.

2.3 For members to note the intended consultation activities and to share the opportunity to contribute with residents and community groups.

3 Risk Assessment

3.1 The climate emergency is a major existential risk for human-kind and our planet. Risks are both global and local. The Framework documents propose a direction of travel for us to take in preparing a strategy and action plan to mitigate and adapt to this and ultimately deliver against our targets of carbon neutrality and climate resilience.

3.2 There are risks associated with over-promising and under-delivering – in terms of timescales for Strategy and Plan production, in delivery, and in target achievability. By trying to move too quickly in terms of strategy/plan production there is a risk of missing out on important issues including secondary/unintended consequences and potential co-benefits of action. The framework tries to highlight the importance of coherent strategy/plan production in this regard, and also the importance of wider community buy-in and lobbying of Government to take relevant actions to help us achieve our targets.

4 Background and Full details of the Report

Background

4.1 In 2019 the five Somerset Local Authorities recognised a climate emergency and agreed to collaborate in producing a joint Climate Emergency Strategy. Whilst each declaration is slightly different, all aspire to achieving carbon neutrality in their own operations and to work towards achieving this across the geography of their administrative area.

4.2 At the same time, SWT committed to producing a Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan. The report to Scrutiny Committee in July this year explained the relationship between the county-wide and SWT-specific work and the Governance arrangements being set up.

Draft Somerset Climate Emergency Framework

4.3 A group of officers representing Somerset County Council, the four district authorities, Exmoor National Park Authority is guiding and shaping the development of the County-wide framework within which the detailed investigation needed will be undertaken. This group – the Strategic Management Group - will have a critical overseeing role in shaping the desired outcomes that emanate from that work. SWT's representation on that group is Graeme Thompson, Strategy Specialist.

4.4 Feeding into the Strategic Management Group will be the detailed work undertaken by operational experts and stakeholders within nine work streams:

- Built Environment
- Natural Environment
- Energy
- Farming and Food
- Industry, Business and Supply Chain
- Transport
- Waste and Resource Management
- Flood water and adaptation
- Communications and Engagement

4.5 Each of these work streams is working to a detailed brief and has a nominated lead. They will be researching and prioritising key issues, identifying possible actions to mitigate and understanding the full life cycle of decisions to implement these actions.

4.6 SWT has representation on all of these work streams, where we are able to support with appropriate subject-matter expertise and ensure two-way dialogue between workstream development across the county and in relation to our own Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan.

4.7 The work of officers is overseen by a group of portfolio holders from across the districts, which includes Cllr Peter Pilkington, and by the Leaders and CEOs, with Brendan Cleere and Michele Cusack (SCC) acting as the conduit between these groups. The work of all groups is scrutinised by a Joint Task and Finish Group; SWT's representation on that group is through Cllrs Dave Mansell and Loretta Whetlor.

4.8 Members are asked to note the proposed timings for delivery of the Climate Emergency Strategy, which includes provision for consultation during November and December 2019.

Date	Stage
Sept 2019	Framework Strategy through joint T&F, Leaders & CEOs, Cabinet Members Group
Oct-Nov 2019	Framework Strategy through individual Council Scrutiny and Cabinets / Executive Committees
Nov 2019 - Jan 2020	Consult on Framework Strategy to include Climate "Summits" in December 2019
Feb 2020	Draft Strategy and action plan through joint T&F, Leaders & CEOs, Cabinet Members Group
Feb-Mar 2020	Consult on Draft Strategy and action plan
Apr 2020	Final Strategy and action plan through joint T&F, Leaders & CEOs, Cabinet Members Group
May-Jun 2020	Final Strategy and action plan through individual Council Scrutiny and Cabinets / Executive Committees
July 2020	Final Strategy and action plan to full Councils for adoption

4.9 Consultation activities are in the early stages of development, but are expected to include an online consultation aimed at secondary school-aged children 11-18 years, preceded by school visits to encourage participation. They also include an online consultation aimed at all residents, communities and businesses in Somerset and a series of Summits, one per district, which will take the form of a full day, face-to-face consultation event, open to all. [NB. Provisional date for the SWT Summit is 16th November but is still to be confirmed].

Draft SWT Framework Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan

4.10 A Draft of SWT's own Framework Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan has also been produced alongside the Draft Somerset Climate Emergency Framework. Its purpose is to spark a conversation about how we will (collectively as a community) look to develop and ultimately deliver our district's action plan. It has been prepared to have clear synergies with the county-wide framework, building on the workstreams and key themes identified within, to identify directions of travel and key early tasks.

4.11 At this stage the Draft Framework is quite deliberately not getting into too much detail. This means we are able to better engage with our communities on the issues at hand, and avoid making rash decisions on action without adequately thinking through the secondary and unintended consequences and potential co-benefits that might be possible.

4.12 The Framework sets a level of ambition but does not commit the Council to deliver on any specific task or to any specific actions at present. It does, however, give an idea of where we think things need to head and some ideas about early tasks that might be necessary to get things started. Some of these tasks will be for us as a Council to take forward, some might be for others. Importantly, the Framework makes it clear that success in delivering on our carbon neutrality and climate resilience targets is dependent on garnering wider public and partner support and ownership of the Plan and actions/projects arising. The Council cannot, should not and will not be able to be responsible for everything, but will look to deliver, support and enable a range of actions as a facilitator.

4.13 In order to develop the Framework, the Council's Climate Change Programme Board (consisting of Brendan Cleere as Head of Function / Senior Responsible Officer, Erica Lake as PMO, Robert Downes as Programme Manager and Graeme Thompson as

Strategy Specialist) has enlisted the support of key officers with relevant expertise around the Council to act as workstream leads. These workstream leads have played a vital part in developing thoughts around each of the workstreams to feed into this Framework. These workstream leads will act as the main officer-level conduit between the county-wide workstream groups and our own workstream action plan and project development.

4.14 At the point of writing this report and the Draft Framework document being published on this agenda, the Climate Change Member Working Group has, due to the timescales involved, had limited opportunities to input to the development of the Framework. However, the Framework has been shared with them and will be discussed ahead of Scrutiny Committee at a meeting of the Working Group on Monday 30th September. The comments of the Working Group will be considered alongside the comments of Scrutiny Committee in making any amendments to the Framework Document ahead of taking the consultation draft to Executive Committee later in October. Going forwards, the Working Group will play a more involved role in developing up the action plans and projects for the Draft Strategy and Plan.

4.15 Once the Framework has been endorsed by Executive Committee, we will embark on a period of engagement and consultation centred around the Framework document. This may include business and community roadshow events across the district as well as school and college events and direct stakeholder engagement to ensure that the Draft Plan is well informed by the views and experiences of our communities and to raise awareness of the need for action and how we are working to co-ordinate this. Officers are working on arrangements for these events and wider consultation on the Framework.

4.16 The Draft and Final Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plans are proposed to be developed alongside and to the same timetable as the Draft and Final Somerset Climate Emergency Strategies. However, whilst Strategy produced for adoption in Summer 2020 will be badged as “final”, the SWT Plan will be an iterative, “live” document that will need to evolve as actions and projects develop and our understanding of issues and risks improves.

What’s next?

4.17 The Framework documents will be taken to Executive Committee later in October, amended in response to / accompanied by the comments of the Working Group and Scrutiny Committee. The report to Executive, accompanying the Framework documents will request that authority to endorse the future Draft County-wide Strategy and SWT Plan is delegated to Cllr Peter Pilkington (as Portfolio Holder) in consultation with the Climate Change Member Working Group. However, the final Strategy and Plan will come back to Scrutiny ahead of consideration by Executive and Council. Assuming Executive endorsement of the Frameowrk documents and this approach to delegation, we will then begin consultation and engagement as well as working on some of the identified key early tasks.

4.18 The intention is to have a Draft Strategy and Plan completed by February 2020, ready for consideration by the Member Working Group and Portfolio Holder to endorse for further consultation in the New Year. Following the second period of consultation, the “final” Strategy and Plan will be brought back to Scrutiny Committee and Executive Committee before being taken to Council for adoption.

5 Links to Corporate Strategy

5.1 Development of the Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy and SWT Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan directly complement the “Our Environment and Economy” theme of the emerging Corporate Strategy, with the objective to work towards making our District carbon neutral by 2030 embedded within that theme. These Framework documents set out the first steps on how we will work towards this target.

6 Finance / Resource Implications

6.1 In February, SWT committed £25k of budget for 2019/20 to support development of a climate strategy/action plan and early project delivery. Of this, £10k has been committed to support the development of the county-wide strategy; largely to permit the Strategic Management Group to access appropriate external expertise, including execution of the consultation plan.

6.2 All authorities have already committed considerable resource to development of the county-wide framework to date and, as a result of our activity so far, it is becoming apparent that future development would be better served by securing county-wide project management expertise. This is likely to incur an additional cost but will be supported by a detailed costing plan and brought forward for approval through appropriate channels.

6.3 The SWT Framework identifies a number of key early tasks that could be explored. Some of these tasks will be for the Council to take forward, some of which are part of operational plans already, some of which will be in addition. The report to Executive Committee later this month will recommend an approach to future funding in the short and longer term, to support the Council’s climate commitment.

6.4 Subsequent action plans and projects may lead to further financial and resource implications, however, these will be dealt with separately.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no specific legal implications to consider at this stage. This will be reviewed as we move from the current Framework documents to a more detailed strategy and action plan in 2020.

8 Climate and Sustainability Implications

8.1 Development of the Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy, together with SWT’s own Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan are integral to setting out how we respond to the climate emergency and how we can achieve our target of carbon neutrality.

8.2 There may be emissions associated with communities travelling to consultation events including the proposed Summits – officers will seek to embed the need to reduce the need to travel and facilitate sustainable travel into the planning of these events and their location.

8.3 There are also potential emissions and impacts associated with production of consultation materials – as such, the majority of materials will be delivered online, with paper copies of the Framework itself limited to communal copies in libraries and made available purely on request or where necessary due to specific needs.

9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications

9.1 There may be a need for SWT officers to visit schools and otherwise engage with young people through consultation events, specific details of which are still being worked out. Any proposals and any subsequent staff interaction with young people will follow safe working practices.

10 Equality and Diversity Implications

10.1 There are no specific implications at this stage. However, as the strategy, action plans and projects are developed and implemented, there will be a need to fully consider the equality and diversity implications in relation to them. The Framework refers to the need to achieve a 'just transition', and this will form an important part of the strategy, action plan and project development.

11 Social Value Implications

11.1 Developing our response to the climate emergency will link heavily with social value. The Framework explains the concept of 'co-benefits' and their importance within developing the strategy, action plan and projects.

12 Partnership Implications

12.1 This Framework has, and the subsequent Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy will be developed in partnership with the four other Somerset local authorities as well as other key stakeholders. There are obvious challenges associated with partnership working, however, project oversight by the Strategic Management Group, Joint Task and Finish Group, Joint Cabinet/Porfolio Holders Group and Leaders and Chief Executives seeks to minimise and mitigate issues as they may arise.

12.2 There will be a need for much more and stronger partnership working with other bodies, businesses and our communities in order to develop and deliver on the strategy.

13 Health and Wellbeing Implications

13.1 Developing our response to the climate emergency will link heavily with health and wellbeing. The Framework explains the concept of 'co-benefits' and their importance within developing the strategy, action plan and projects. It also specifically singles out public health as a priority focus for all workstreams.

14 Asset Management Implications

14.1 The Framework implies that the strategy will need to consider ways to improve and build on opportunities presented by land and assets within our ownership. For instance, the energy workstream identifies potentially exploring use of council owned land for renewable energy generation. Further specific implications may arise as the strategy, action plans and projects are developed.

15 Data Protection Implications

15.1 All consultation and engagement on the Framework will pay due regard to the GDPR and ensure that a Data Protection Impact Assessment is completed where necessary.

16 Consultation Implications

16.1 Consultation and engagement on the Framework will directly feed into production of a Draft Strategy.

Democratic Path:

- **Scrutiny Committee – Yes**
- **Executive – Yes**
- **Full Council – No**

Reporting Frequency: □ **Once only**

List of Appendices (delete if not applicable)

Appendix A	Draft Somerset Climate Emergency Framework
Appendix B	Draft SWT Framework Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan
Appendix C	

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Draft Somerset Climate Emergency Framework

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1: Introduction

This framework document has been produced by the five Somerset Local Authorities (Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council, Somerset County Council, Somerset West and Taunton District Council, and South Somerset District Council). It aims to summarise and outline the work currently co-ordinated by the Local Authorities to meet our targets for carbon neutrality. A brief account of the current situation in Somerset and issues associated with climate change is provided, highlighting why we are undertaking this work.

This framework is intended to spark a conversation with our communities, interest groups, businesses and other relevant stakeholders in order to generate true community engagement and strategy co-development, ensuring that everyone in Somerset feels a sense of ownership of the full Climate Emergency Strategy and the actions that arise from it. This initial document will provide some high-level detail explaining the expected directions of travel required to address the various issues that have been identified. However, it is essential that the detailed Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plans derived from it are informed by listening to the communities that will be affected by any changes, whilst we learn from initiatives, projects and actions already planned and implemented within our communities. The final Climate Emergency Strategy produced by this work will not simply be a Council document; it will be recognised and owned by everyone in Somerset and be held as a collective response to the Climate Emergency.

The Climate Emergency Strategy will contain more detailed analysis of the changes required for Somerset to become carbon neutral and increase resilience to the risks posed by climate change locally. The Strategy will aim to detail programmes and projects to address these issues, with estimated costs, carbon emissions reductions and cost-benefit analysis included. Actions will be split over short- ,medium- and long-term timescales to enable prioritisation and effective planning.

Individual Local Authorities will produce Action Plans supplementing the Climate Emergency Strategy. These Action Plans will specifically identify how the overall Strategy is relevant to each district, how projects will be delivered and funded, and detail the response to area-specific issues. To maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of the mitigation and adaptation responses implemented by the Local Authorities, these Action Plans will be dynamic and flexible in nature, continuously adapting to the most up to date evidence, methodologies, funding sources and ideas. Engaging with communities throughout the life-cycle of these Action Plans will be essential as the Plans evolve to meet new challenges or opportunities.

2: The Declarations

In 2019, the five Somerset Local Authorities passed resolutions to declare or recognise 'Climate Emergencies' and have since agreed to collaborate to produce and deliver an ambitious, joint Climate Emergency Strategy encompassing the county of Somerset.

Each declaration is slightly different, but all aspire to achieving carbon neutrality and ensuring that we are adapted to the effects of climate change within each administrative area. The appendix contains the individual motions of each Council in full.

3: Contextualising Climate Change

3.1: Global

A recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report highlights the importance of taking immediate action to limit global warming to a 1.5°C threshold, compared to temperatures from the pre-industrial period[1]. Whilst achieving this limit is a challenge, requiring 'rapid and far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport and cities' to meet the required net-zero carbon emissions targets, it is certainly possible and requires action to meet these targets immediately[1].

The risks associated with missing this 1.5°C threshold are significant: global warming reaching 2°C has considerable implications for sea level rise, Arctic Ocean sea ice coverage, and prevalence of extreme weather, whilst 99% of all coral reefs would be lost[1].

3.2: United Kingdom

In response to the IPCC report, the Committee on Climate Change (the UK Government's independent advisor on Climate Change) published *Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming*[2], which suggested that the UK should set a national target for carbon neutrality by 2050, and recommended numerous 'core', 'further ambition' and 'speculative' options, policy changes and projects for the UK to pursue. Since then, the UK Government has declared a climate emergency and set a legally binding target for carbon neutrality in 2050 through amendments to the Climate Change Act[3]. However, Government policy continues to lag behind this target and the recommendations of the CCC.

Nationally, the UK has reportedly made significant progress, reducing emissions by approximately 40% since 1990. However, the majority of progress derives from changes made in the power, waste and industry sectors. Key sectors, such as the built environment and transport, have made little progress – transport emissions have remained steady with little reduction since 1990.The importance of achieving net-zero carbon emissions is highlighted within legislation; the UK's 2050 net zero target is legally binding[3] and offers an opportunity for the UK to be an exemplar case study in inspiring other countries to legislate for and meet ambitious carbon neutrality targets.

3.3: Somerset

The tangible impacts of climate change will be particularly visible in Somerset. Due to the topography of the region, rising sea levels will significantly impact coastal flooding in low-lying regions such as the Somerset Levels and Moors, whilst increases in extreme weather events will increase river and surface water flood risk. Coastal communities are likely to become more vulnerable to coastal erosion and shoreline retreat.

Additionally, temperatures are likely to increase in excess of the global average. Even if the global temperature increase is limited to 2°C, Somerset is likely to experience temperature change higher than this[4]. The latest projections (UK Climate Projections 18, produced by the Met Office) indicate that summers will be hotter, with increases by 3.7°C to 6.8°C, depending on how carbon emissions are managed, by 2070[5]. Hot spells, defined as consecutive days reaching temperatures in excess of 30°C, will increase in likelihood by almost 20 times[5]. This increases risk to drought, heat-waves, water stress and pressures to existing water infrastructure, which can become major issues disproportionately impacting those most

vulnerable in society. Current rates of heat-related mortality reach around 2,000 premature deaths per year; by 2020 this figure could increase to 3,400 and approach 11,000 in 2080[6].

Ensuring local businesses are prepared for these projected climatic changes is important to consider for Somerset, due to the prevalence of small-medium sized enterprises in the region. If implemented incorrectly, a transition to a greener economy more resilient to the impacts of climate change could harm the most vulnerable in society. In order to avoid this, bottom-up engagement and co-development is essential to ensure a fair transition and provide adequate support, up-skilling and re-training for the necessary workforces at risk where industry is required to adjust to meet emissions reductions targets.

Changes to the natural environment, driven by increases to temperature and precipitation profiles, can mean existing ecosystems are vulnerable to die-back or different pest species; ensuring that the rich biodiversity found in our landscapes is preserved is of considerable importance. These changes will impact farming and agriculture, and so developing detailed and evidence-based strategies to mitigate these impacts and provide support to farmers within the industry is important.

3.4: Net Emissions in Somerset

Work has been undertaken to baseline the current net carbon emissions picture within Somerset. Quantifying both emissions and sequestration in the present-day is fundamental to evidence-based strategy development. Understanding sources of emissions in each district is important due to both the geographical and demographical variation within Somerset and a singular action plan is unlikely to be successful. Highlighting key areas of focus to identify maximum benefits and prioritisation of areas for concentration will increase the success of the Strategy and relies upon accurate baselining and monitoring of changes implemented.

3.4a: Emissions

In 2017, a total of 3,285 kt (kilotons) of CO_2 were emitted in Somerset[7] from industrial, domestic and transport-related sources. For context, a kiloton of carbon is emitted by 200 average cars in 1 year. In fact, the majority of emissions in Somerset derive from the transport sector - 46.7%, compared to 29.5% from industry and 23.8% from the domestic sector.

The relative contributions of each sector vary by Local Authority: in Sedgemoor, 54.1% of emissions derive from transport (with the majority of these sourced from the M5 motorway), compared to only 38.6% of emissions in Mendip. For this reason, specific analysis of emissions sources within each overall sector is required.

Whilst the dataset used to calculate emissions at a high-level separates data at an overall District level, utilising other sources can provide a more detailed picture of emissions sources in Somerset. For example, using the Energy Performance of Buildings database[8], emissions produced by individual houses can be analysed. Work going into further detail will be carried out by the Energy and Built Environment workstreams.

Calculating emissions produced by industries and businesses is more difficult, primarily due to emissions from their supply chains. Not all emissions have to be disclosed by businesses to the public, so there is a lack of data available online to assess the emissions of individual

organisations. The Industry, Business and Supply Chain workstream will work to assess these emissions.

3.4b: Sequestration

Carbon sequestration is the natural process of capturing and storing atmospheric CO_2. Long term storage of CO_2 through plants, soils and geological formations can mitigate the effects of climate change by offsetting carbon emissions produced by human activity.

Using data from the National Forest Inventory (NFI) it was calculated that approximately 66.1 kt of CO_2 is removed from the atmosphere each year by trees in Somerset[9]. This is equivalent to the domestic emissions of Sedgemoor alone – the lowest contributor to domestic emissions in Somerset – or 2.0% of the total emissions produced directly within Somerset in 2017 alone[8].

Data from the NFI is updated annually, meaning any changes to tree cover can be tracked and monitored. It is important to note that sequestration rates vary between different tree species and age of trees – the figure provided is an estimate but gives a simple foundation for tracking the progress of Somerset to carbon neutrality. In comparison to the emissions produced in Somerset, the total volume of CO_2 removed is relatively low; this highlights the importance of emissions reduction at the source, rather than prioritising offsetting, which supports the foundational concept of the Strategy to take direct action to reduce total emissions and in situations where this is not possible, offset emissions.

Additional work will be undertaken by relevant workstreams to quantify the net sequestration rates of crops, hedgerows and soils (such as peatlands). Specific research is required due to the variation in management practices used by farms contributing to different net emissions totals.

4: The Climate Emergency Strategy Scope

The Climate Emergency Strategy, co-ordinated by the Somerset County and District Councils in conjunction with relevant partners, will identify ways in which Somerset could become carbon neutral by 2030. This will undoubtedly include overcoming a number of issues that will require legislative change and we will actively lobby for the necessary amendments to legislation to be implemented. For the purposes of this Strategy, carbon neutrality is defined as:

> *'Carbon neutrality, or having a net zero carbon footprint, refers to achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset'*[10]

The primary objective for the Strategy will be to identify ways that carbon emissions can be directly reduced or avoided. Offsetting and sequestration of emissions will be supplementary actions for situations where direct reduction is not possible, reasonable or cost-effective. It is important to note the distinction between *carbon neutrality* (the aim of the Strategy) and *zero carbon;* emissions will be reduced as much as feasibly possible, but any remaining emissions will be offset to the same quantum.

In this regard, the Strategy will uphold 'responsible research and innovation principles'[11]; offsetting of emissions will be implemented as close to the emissions source as possible. This

will increase the local relevance of the projects undertaken, whilst increasing the likelihood of adequately managing the primary and secondary impacts and effects of delivery.

As well as working to reduce emissions, the Strategy will identify the adaptations required to ensure Somerset is resilient to predicted environmental changes induced by climate change, such as increased temperatures, more varied precipitation profiles, extreme weather events and sea level rise. Secondary impacts associated with these changes, such as increased pest prevalence impacting the natural environment, will be also be identified, evaluated and mitigated within the Strategy.

5: Opportunities

Immediately taking proactive steps to mitigate and adapt to these inevitable changes can offer numerous opportunities to improve the local communities we live in and living standards for all in Somerset. Projects and proposals can provide significant socio-economic, non-environmental 'co-benefits' and reduce costs to society in other places whilst contributing to increased standards of living of all residents of Somerset.

For example, changes implemented to reduce emissions from transport contribute to many health co-benefits, which can reduce healthcare costs and improve the quality of life for many – increasing rates of cycling or walking can contribute to reductions in heart disease rates or obesity-related risks and lower rates of urban and noise pollution[12]; whilst transport systems prioritising rapid transit can improve access for vulnerable groups improving equality and access to healthcare[12].

Similarly, whilst tree-planting schemes are intended to increase the rate and volume of CO_2 removed from the atmosphere via natural sequestration, increasing tree coverage in urban areas can deliver public and mental health benefits for residents in the communities as well as serving to improve biodiversity in urban or natural regions.

Within the energy sector, actions intended to reduce reliance on fossil fuels or decrease energy consumption have numerous associated co-benefits. Construction of community renewable energy generation and storage projects can provide greater energy security, lower energy bills, revenue opportunities as well as jobs for both local communities and the wider region. Delivery of retrofit schemes, intended to reduce energy consumption and increase energy efficiency within domestic or other buildings, can contribute to reductions to energy bills and fuel poverty rates whilst decreasing health concerns associated with cold and damp homes for those in vulnerable communities.

Whilst the Climate Emergency Strategy will primarily focus on climate change and its associated impacts, delivery of projects intended to reduce carbon emissions or adapt to predicted changes are likely to have co-benefits relevant to other environmental issues. Issues relating to single-use plastic consumption, biodiversity and health and well-being of local communities are not the primary focus of the Strategy. However, in some situations individual workstreams may develop responses, action plans and projects relevant to these areas where there is a significant overlap with climate change and clear opportunities to meet the primary objectives of carbon neutrality and adaptation are present.

Although initial costs of project implementation may be high, it is undoubtable that these costs are minimal compared to those that will be incurred if a 'business as usual' approach is continued. For example, the 2013-2014 winter floods cost Somerset up to £147.5 million with £20 million to residential property alone[13] – climate change will increase both the frequency and severity of flooding, making similar events more likely in the region. Taking proactive steps to adapt to the impacts of climate change can considerably reduce these costs derived from flooding alone; long-term impacts to the economy associated with other changes, such as drought or reductions to water quality, can also be avoided.

6: Challenges to Delivery

Whilst the direct contribution of the five Local Authorities to Somerset's total emissions has not yet been calculated it is likely to be a small proportion overall. Work commissioned by Manchester City Council indicated that they only produce 3% of the total emissions within their administrative area[14]. The immediate influence that we have in reducing the net emissions of Somerset is limited to internal infrastructure or contracts, such as making changes to the estates owned by the Authorities or to services delivered, supplied and procured.

However, the policies, strategies and other regulatory powers of the Authorities can influence reductions to net emissions externally across Somerset. For example, planning policies setting carbon reduction targets for new developments can influence the emissions picture county-wide as opposed to continuing a business as usual approach. In addition, the role that the Local Authorities play in encouraging action by stakeholders, businesses, partners or communities that can directly reduce emissions themselves is essential. By working with an array of groups, the Local Authorities can empower, encourage and support the strategic actions required by these parties to achieve carbon neutrality and act as a catalyst towards a carbon neutral Somerset. This underlines why it is essential to build consensus and ensure everyone in Somerset feels a sense of ownership of the Strategy and in delivery of its actions.

Other challenges associated with delivery are less simple to overcome. The composition of Somerset, in both environment and demographics, can add to difficulties associated with delivery. For example, whilst the beauty of the natural environment and rurality of the region makes Somerset a special place to live, reducing emissions from the transport sector is less simple than in an urbanised city region with a more concentrated, less dispersed population. In total, there are 6,604km (4,104 miles) of roads in the county with a total of 4.31 billion miles travelled in 2018[15]; whilst urban centres like Taunton, Yeovil and Bridgwater are well connected, accessibility is an issue in rural areas due to the limited local road network located in regions like the Mendip Hills or Exmoor. Additionally, the presence of the arterial roads spanning Somerset (M5 and A303) contributes to a large proportion of transport emissions with journeys not necessarily originating or terminating within the county – 26% of Somerset's total transport emissions derive from the M5 alone[15].

Furthermore, the abundance of protected landscapes, such as Exmoor National Park and the four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), add to the natural capital within Somerset, yet may prove problematic when identifying areas suitable for renewable energy generation and storage or climate change adaptation projects.

Initial scoping work has highlighted the need for retrofit or replacement of a large proportion of existing domestic and commercial buildings in Somerset to improve energy efficiency, decarbonise heat and power, and ensure buildings are resilient to the impacts of climate change. To meet the national net-zero target it is estimated that 27 million properties across the UK will require deep retrofit by 2050; this equates to 20,000 properties per week, yet currently only 20,000 per year are in receipt of energy efficiency measures[16]. The lack of disposable income and prevalence of fuel poverty in some of our communities, as well as the limited opportunities for Local Authorities to influence existing properties, presents more barriers to project implementation.

With the current economic climate and lack of resources available for Local Authorities to deliver projects or infrastructure change, prioritising resource allocation is essential. Due to the limited availability of funds, identifying opportunities providing the optimal cost-benefit (e.g. carbon emissions savings per £) is essential and requires in-depth analysis. Producing an extensive evidence-base will enable the Local Authorities to prioritise where resources are concentrated and ensure optimal projects are delivered in Somerset.

This issue is made worse by the national policy gap - to reach net-zero emissions for the UK as a whole, further legislation and strategy needs to be delivered to prioritise investment and provide funding to enable delivery of the extensive projects required to achieve this target. In these circumstances, it will be most appropriate for the combined Local Authorities to lobby Central Government for increased national policy and action, funding, local regulatory powers, or all of the above. Identifying situations in which we will require further support – from stakeholders, Central Government, or other relevant parties – forms a crucial aspect of this work.

Overcoming these barriers will be important for the success of the Climate Emergency Strategy.

7: Strategy Development

It is important that an overarching Strategy is developed to co-ordinate Somerset's response to the climate emergency and ensure actions are taken to achieve carbon neutrality. Without an aligned strategy, ad-hoc or piecemeal action is likely to result in higher costs, incompatible projects running in parallel, and potentially undesirable and/or unintended outcomes and consequences.

To produce the Strategy, we will collaborate with sector and industry experts to develop joint approaches in tackling climate change whilst sharing resources to maximise the benefits of projects implemented. Additionally, we will identify ways for the Local Authorities to assist businesses, industry, communities and individuals in making the necessary changes required for Somerset to achieve carbon neutrality, whilst ensuring that the most vulnerable within society are not disproportionately affected by these changes.

Traditionally 'co-developed' projects are more successful: we will be engaging with individuals, young people, the elderly, communities, interest groups, businesses and industry, educational institutions, wards, town and parish councils, and other relevant sectors. All sectors of society will have the opportunity to help us develop the strategic responses, action plans and projects

produced from this work. We will work with these groups to identify projects and proposals, and then provide support in assessing the wider benefits or unintended consequences of each action and assist in the delivery of projects.

Whilst the Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy will include higher level actions and projects that are relevant across Somerset, all individual Authorities will supplement the Strategy with their own Action Plan. These will outline the necessary policies, projects and actions required to meet the strategic targets and identify resources required to enable the delivery of the Strategy. These will be dynamic and evolve as our evidence-base grows, ensuring that the most up-to-date projects are prioritised and funding opportunities identified.

8: The Workstreams

8.1: Workstream Function

Climate change will impact every aspect of society. To make the task more manageable, work will be separated into nine workstreams:

- Built Environment
- Energy
- Farming and Food
- Industry, Business and Supply Chain
- Natural Environment
- Transport
- Waste and Resource Management
- Water
- Communications and Engagement

Due to the co-benefits associated with project delivery, public health will be important for consideration by all workstreams and will be a priority focus for all workstreams, with health experts contributing to project research, development and implementation for all workstreams.

Each workstream will contain sector and subject-matter experts. They will:

- Research and prioritise key issues
- Develop mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Evaluate costs, benefits and unintended secondary consequences
- Work together where appropriate

Work has been undertaken to identify key areas for further research. These are presented as initial themes within this framework, but to ensure the success of the overall Climate Emergency Strategy wider stakeholder engagement and input is crucial to provide feedback and alternative ideas for consideration to the workstreams. We are keen to draw on ideas, expertise and enthusiasm from all to ensure that the actions to be delivered are appropriate and informed by a wide cross-section of the people and organisations of Somerset.

This research has highlighted some potential projects for delivery over short-, medium-, and long-term timescales. These, and other ideas emerging from engagement and consultation

events, will be explored and evaluated in further depth to ensure that the Strategy and Action Plans are evidence-based.

Actions taken intended to mitigate or adapt to climate change often come with co-benefits, defined as 'the positive effects that a policy or measure aimed at one objective might have on other objectives'[17]. In many cases, these can help to meet the statutory duties of Local Authorities and other public-sector bodies. Evaluating these co-benefits will support business cases and enable us to access increased funding. Also, it is true that climate change may not be a priority for everyone in Somerset – by identifying the co-benefits, we can clarify how action taken to address the climate emergency can improve other aspects of life in Somerset[18].

The broad range of stakeholders identified for engagement, as well as experts included within each workstream, will ensure that the views, ideas and concerns of relevant parties are considered and accounted for within the Strategy.

8.2: Built Environment

32% of the UK's emissions derive from the business and residential sectors[19], and 45% of energy use occurs in houses, offices, shops and public buildings[20]. In Somerset in 2017, total domestic emissions are greater than the national county average (783 kt CO_2 yr^{-1} compared to 539 kt CO_2 yr^{-1}), although domestic emissions per capita are comparable to the national county average[21].

Therefore, minimising and decarbonising energy consumption in buildings will be crucial to meeting carbon neutrality targets by 2030. Through planning, local authorities have the power to influence location and type of development, materials used in construction, carbon reduction, building design and low carbon and renewable energy generation in relation to new development. However, the majority of buildings that will be standing by 2030 and beyond to 2050 are likely to have already been built and influencing how these are retrofitted and improved is more complex.

Both new developments and existing buildings and communities will need to be resilient to projected climatic changes.

Theme 1: New Developments

The workstream will explore ways to ensure that new developments reduce carbon emissions. This can include minimising the need to travel, reducing energy consumption of homes and businesses, facilitating low carbon and renewable energy generation, encouraging sustainable behaviours, and ensure that they are adapted to the projected future climate of Somerset.

Initial directions of travel for this workstream are to:

- Identify opportunities to ensure that all new residential and commercial developments consider sustainable travel and transport links to lessen the impact of the scheme.
- Ensure that all new developments consider projected climatic changes and encourage planners to incorporate sustainable urban drainage schemes (SuDS), urban trees, and waste management.

- Highlight building designs that reduce the carbon footprint throughout the life cycle of homes and work towards all buildings achieving zero carbon accreditation as soon as possible.
- Review the effectiveness of existing planning policies against minimum standards for new housing development and identify opportunities to improve the delivery of those policies. This is likely to include the requirement to lobby Central Government to improve minimum building regulation and energy performance criteria, as well as implement changes to the National Planning Policy Framework.

Theme 2: Existing Buildings and Communities

Whilst changes to planning policy improving the efficiency and resilience of buildings are essential to ensure that future developments are fit for the climate future, many improvements to the performance of existing buildings are required. Identifying priority buildings or communities, as well as projects intended to deliver improvement, is essential. Overcoming the issue of funding is likely the primary barrier to delivery of wide-scale changes across Somerset; lobbying Central Government for increased investment will be required.

This workstream will:

- Identify sources of funding, investment or subsidy for retrofit opportunities, in conjunction with the Energy workstream.
- Highlight priority buildings and communities requiring retrofit or improvements to resilience and develop high-level strategies for delivering the required changes. This will include specific focus on council-owned buildings and retained housing stock to ensure the Local Authorities set an example within Somerset, as well as identifying opportunities to incentivise and enable change in privately-owned properties.
- Explore the potential to simplify, encourage and de-risk action to deliver retrofit to existing buildings and communities via planning or other means.

8.3: Energy

Somerset has significant potential for renewable energy generation, ranking highly in both a national and European context. In 2017, Somerset possessed installed renewable energy capacity of 506MW, of which 90% was attributable to photovoltaic technology[22] – but there is still a considerable amount of untapped renewable energy source. Increasing total renewable energy capacity and generation is crucial to meet carbon neutrality targets, yet changing the source of energy supply exerts significant pressure on the electricity grid. However, implementation of renewable energy technologies can contribute to a range of societal benefits, including: socio-economic development; increased energy access; a more secure energy supply and a reduction to negative environmental and health impacts associated with large-scale combustion of fossil fuels[23].

37% of UK emissions derive from heating[24]; reducing end-user emissions totals, via retrofit and improvements to insulation, is important – yet only a start. Decarbonising heat, via innovative solutions such as decentralised heat networks or implementation of hydrogen or biogas technologies to green the gas grid, is cited as being essential to meet zero-carbon targets by 2050[25]. Whilst potentially difficult to implement in Somerset, due to the rurality and prevalence

of fuel poverty in some regions, developing projects that can overcome these barriers is crucial to meet the aspirations of carbon neutrality by 2030.

Theme 1: Reducing and Shifting Energy Demand

Working with the Built Environment workstream, opportunities will need to be identified to reduce energy consumption within buildings in Somerset. This will include delivering retrofit projects to improve the performance of existing building stock whilst working to increase minimum energy standards and requirements for planning proposals to reduce energy consumption in new developments.

Priority tasks for this workstream are to:

- Identify existing houses or communities with high energy consumption and develop strategies to overcome these issues via retrofit.
- Research and develop mapping of identify existing/ potential major heat sources or loads.
- Liaise with planning departments and developers to produce a uniform, Somerset-wide approach to reducing energy consumption and increasing energy efficiency in new developments.

Theme 2: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation and Storage Technologies

The workstream will develop a co-ordinated strategy to increase the prevalence of low carbon technologies and renewable energy generation and storage in Somerset. Reducing emissions derived from heating in the domestic, industrial and commercial sectors will require development of decarbonised heat infrastructure. Working with relevant stakeholders - such as the Built Environment working group, energy providers and developers - opportunities identified by this workstream are likely to positively influence public health and reduce the impacts of fuel poverty on top of reducing carbon emissions.

This will include:

- Liaising with local community groups and relevant stakeholders to overcome issues relating to capital investment and grid infrastructure.
- Lobbying Central Government to incentivise uptake of such technologies, like photovoltaic energy generation or electric vehicle infrastructure and to change national policy to release the potential for onshore wind.
- Identifying sites suitable for renewable energy generation and storage projects.
- Explore opportunities for low carbon technology, like electric vehicle infrastructure or projects intended to decarbonise heat production, across Somerset.

Theme 3: Own Estate and Operations

Whilst influencing external parties to minimise energy usage and carbon emissions may be difficult for Local Authorities, the ability to reduce internal emissions derived from estates and operations is more significant as direct action can be taken to increase the efficiency of internal infrastructure. The workstream will identify how to cost-effectively implement these proposals and then develop business cases ready for project implementation.

The workstream will:

- Explore utilising council owned land to generate renewable or low carbon energies to decrease reliance on fossil fuels and generate revenue for alternative climate-related projects.
- Develop an Energy Policy and Energy Management Plan for each Local Authority to minimise energy waste, mitigate future energy price rises and ensure responsible stewardship of public money.
- Initiate internal communications campaign to encourage best practice by staff and highlight the exemplar actions taken by the Local Authorities to external businesses and organisations.
- Identify current and historic activity implemented by Local Authorities and promote upscaling of similar projects county-wide.
- When contracts allow, look to collaborative procurement strategies in purchasing energy from renewable sources.

8.4: Farming and Food

The agricultural industry will be significantly impacted by climate change. Rising temperatures, rainfall patterns and variations to atmospheric CO_2 concentrations will impact operations and productivity, as well as pest prevalence, within the UK[26]. Impacts to global food production could influence UK markets and the food industry[27].

With the considerable importance of agriculture to Somerset's economy and livelihood of many residents, ensuring the sector remains resilient to these predicted climatic changes will be an important aspect of the Climate Emergency Strategy.

Working to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector will contribute to mitigating some of the impacts of climate change. The IPCC have highlighted the importance of reducing red meat and dairy consumption[28] and encouraged a transition to the consumption of more fruit and vegetables. However, we recognise the importance of agriculture within Somerset and the fact that the carbon efficiency of British farms is amongst the best in the world[29]; ensuring there is a balance between responsible consumption and prioritising locally sourced, high quality produce will be carefully considered within our Strategy.

The contribution of agriculture to the total emissions of the UK has been recognised by industry and sector experts, such as agricultural trade bodies or the NFU, and pathways to making the industry carbon neutral (e.g. via responsible land management practices and further reductions in emissions from livestock) have been identified[30].

Theme 1: Reducing Net Emissions

Net greenhouse gas emissions can vary significantly between farms, dependent on many factors. Variations to land usage or management practices, such as quantity, timing or type of fertiliser used by arable farms or type of feedstock used for livestock on pastoral farms, can greatly influence total emissions production by a farm. Often, changes made to management practices intended to reduce the net emissions are more cost-effective than existing practices and come with associated economic benefits for farmers.

To work towards reducing the net emissions of farms in Somerset, this workstream will begin to:

- Identify and increase awareness surrounding best practice relating to emissions for both arable and pastoral farms.
- Explore opportunities to incentivise or provide subsidy to encourage best practice for both arable and pastoral farms.
- Produce a baseline for the net emissions picture of Somerset to monitor progress and identify optimal project delivery.

Theme 2: Carbon Storage

By conserving and enhancing naturally existing hedgerows, woodlands or carbon-rich soils, and improving land management practices, higher volumes of CO_2 can be removed from the atmosphere. To encourage these changes, incentivising positive practices relating to carbon storage, via ecosystem service payments or similar schemes, may be required.

This workstream will:

- Explore methods to incentivise farmers to implement positive management practices.
- Identify restoration schemes, such as peatland or wetland restoration projects, to increase carbon storage, in conjunction with the Natural Environment workstream.
- Increase awareness of more innovative land management practices, such as silvopasture, intended to increase carbon sequestration and storage rates.

Theme 3: Climate Change Adaptation

Many existing agricultural strategies, including crop selection and management, are not well adapted to predicted climatic changes, such as increased temperatures, variations to weather patterns and increasing prevalence of extreme events like floods and droughts. Improving the resilience of existing farmland ecosystems is important to minimise impacts of climate change and provides opportunities to enhance crop productivity. Additionally, changes to the climate are predicted to increase the prevalence and biodiversity of pest species. Co-benefits associated with the delivery of projects, intended to increase preparedness for the impacts of climate change, include supporting pollinator species and biodiversity.

In order to assist farmers in adapting to these changes, this workstream will:

- Model current farmland ecosystem and specific crop responses to climatic changes and classify regions by vulnerability.
- Identify crop species and management strategies that are adapted to predicted climatic changes and suitable for implementation within Somerset.
- Develop a strategy to implement and deliver 'ecosystem resilience improvement' projects.
- Develop education strategies to highlight the economic and environmental benefits associated with transitioning to more resilient management practices.

Theme 4: Food Consumption

Reducing the demand for high-emissions livestock products has been highlighted as significantly important by both the IPCC[31] and CCC[32]. Increasing awareness surrounding the issues associated with carbon intensive products, such as beef or dairy, can lead to more balanced consumption practices and reduced environmental impacts. Eating more balanced diets can contribute to positive health impacts. Encouraging consumers to select locally sourced, ethically produced products, with lower carbon footprints - as opposed to foreign meat or dairy - can decrease the carbon footprint associated with the sector with a less radical change than eliminating meat or dairy products entirely.

Initial directions of travel for this workstream will be to:

- Produce education and engagement strategies highlighting the impacts of high-carbon food production and consumption, and suggest alternative foods with lower carbon footprints.
- Identify opportunities to reduce high-carbon food consumption within the respective Local Authority workplaces and operations.
- Encourage reductions to high-carbon food consumption externally within the wider community.

8.5: Industry, Business and Supply Chain

Industry and businesses in Somerset contribute to approximately 29.5% of Somerset's emissions. Whilst many organisations have taken steps to reduce their carbon footprint, exploring strategies to reduce supply chain emissions is cited as the next step to reduce emissions further and mitigate some of the impacts of climate change[33]. Supply chains can contain between 60-80% of greenhouse gas emissions associated with both the production and consumption of goods and services[34,35].

Despite the potential direct and indirect benefits for businesses associated with demonstrating best practice and minimising supply chain emissions, legislation is identified as a key driver to enable pro-environmental behaviour within organisations[36]. Working to incentivise and increase awareness of the benefits associated these changes will drive changes in industries and businesses in Somerset.

Specific engagement strategies will be required in order to appeal to these organisations and ensure engagement of SMEs and larger groups in Somerset. Highlighting the co-benefits of taking steps to reduce carbon footprints, which are often economic in nature, will comprise an important part of the work carried out by this workstream.

Theme 1: Emissions Reduction and Stakeholder Engagement

Due to the minimal influence the Local Authorities have in reducing the emissions of private sector bodies, we require specific strategies for engaging with industries and businesses to encourage net emissions reduction. These strategies will highlight the economic and financial benefits often associated with actions intended to mitigate impacts related to climate change.

To do this, the workstream will:

- Explore ways to reduce supply chain emissions for industry and businesses in Somerset whilst encouraging sustainable material manufacture, processing and usage.

- Encourage the transition by corporations, industries and businesses to renewable energy providers or generation of on-site renewable energy.
- Incentivise positive behaviour change and showcase examples of best practice within Somerset with an environmental awards scheme.
- Create a peer network for engagement and collaboration to share knowledge and best practice regarding the shift to a low carbon, clean growth economy.
- Provide support and platforms for knowledge sharing and feedback between businesses and industries in Somerset.
- Hold business-specific Climate Summits during Strategy consultation stages.

Theme 3: Data Collection and Analysis

Whilst large amounts of data are available for assessing domestic emissions at a high resolution, data quantifying emissions produced by individual businesses and industries is not available publicly. In order to track the progress of businesses in Somerset toward carbon neutrality, additional monitoring of data will be required.

To overcome this barrier, the workstream will:

- Incorporate monitoring of progress on emissions into the Somerset Local Economic Assessment (LEA).
- Present this data on the new LEA website (called Somerset Trends) in order to ensure a centralised online data resource for partners to use and evaluate their own progress to reducing emissions.
- Design a generic methodology or 'toolkit' to assist businesses and industries in quantifying, and then reducing, supply chain emissions.

Theme 4: Business and Workforce Resilience to Climate Change

Ensuring business and industry in Somerset remains resilient to the projected impacts of climate change is important for the local economy. Additionally, a change to a low carbon society or greener economy must be delivered fairly in order to ensure a 'just transition' and ensure workforce skills and employability are preserved.

In order to achieve these goals, the workstream will:

- Design research to better understand the local skills and employment challenges relating to the climate change agenda and shift to a low-carbon economy
- Identify employment in at-risk sectors or businesses and undertake a skills gap assessment
- Develop guidance for re-skilling for training providers and relevant support bodies.
- Highlight businesses or industry susceptible to the projected impacts of climate change and aid in developing mitigation strategies to reduce the risk of these impacts.

8.6: Natural Environment

Projected meteorological changes as a result of climate change, such as warmer temperatures, increasing variability and intensity of precipitation and extreme weather events (like flooding and droughts)[37], will exert pressure on ecosystems adapted to present-day conditions. Increasing the resilience of Somerset's Natural Environment to predicted impacts is essential

– yet should be a minimum requirement, due to the potential for innovative projects to provide emissions mitigation and cross-sector benefits.

Theme 1: Sequestration and Land Usage Change

The workstream will explore opportunities to increase the volume of CO_2 removed from the atmosphere by trees and plants via sequestration, whilst ensuring that existing carbon stocks contained in the natural environment - such as in soils, peatlands and existing trees - are preserved and managed responsibly.

To achieve this, the workstream will:

- Identify and designate land classification scenarios to provide an evidence-base for what is required to achieve a zero-carbon county.
- Liaise with the Built Environment workstream to ensure new developments minimise impacts to the environment. For example, adapting planning policy to ensure new developments produce Environmental Net Gain of minimum thresholds (e.g. 20%). This could follow the case study of Manchester with a clear mitigation hierarchy.
- Embed Natural Capital consideration into all planning and major investment decisions to minimise the declining condition of Natural Capital assets.
- Support schemes to increase tree cover in Somerset, such as the Urban Tree Challenge Fund or the Parish Tree Policy produced by the Re-Imagining the Levels programme.
- Work to stop peat extraction and increase peat restoration schemes in Exmoor to restore wetlands and coastal habitats.

Theme 2: Landscape Resilience

Existing ecosystems are not well adapted to predicted climatic changes, such as increased temperatures, variations to weather patterns and increasing prevalence of extreme events like floods and droughts. These changes are likely to increase both the prevalence and biodiversity of pest species and impact pollinators. This workstream will utilise the latest climatic projections to identify vulnerable ecosystems and develop opportunities to increase the resilience of the Natural Environment.

Theme 3: Co-ordination and Data Collection

Whilst all workstreams are required to identify key issues requiring a collaborative approach, co-ordination between the Natural Environment, Farming and Food, and Water workstream is particularly important. This workstream will develop a communications and implementation strategy between appropriate working groups ensuring relevant information, analysis and findings are shared.

Key objectives for this workstream are to:

- Bring together existing datasets to establish repeatable monitoring of Somerset's baseline as an ecological network for the county.
- Identify key opportunities for collaboration based upon the above science and evidence-base to ensure a targeted approach to the natural environment between relevant stakeholders.

- Engage with, or merge with, the Local Nature Partnership to ensure collective delivery is a priority and avoid duplication of work.

8.7: Transport

Emissions from transport are the largest contributor to emissions across a range of scales, from locally in Somerset (45%, with Sedgemoor and Taunton-Deane >50%)[7] to the UK (27%)[38] and to Europe[39]. Since 1990, emissions totals have steadily declined across all sectors – other than transport, indicating the inherent difficulties associated with implementing wide-scale changes to sector[7].

Whilst reducing transport emissions in Somerset is a challenge due to the rurality of the region, meaning it is difficult for public transport schemes to connect dispersed communities, the European Commission Strategy for low-emission mobility highlights the roles that local authorities can fulfil[39]. With the diversity of Somerset and variation in access to public transport, it is unlikely for there to be a singular solution appropriate for all areas. However, the Local Authorities encouraging a modal shift to more active or public transport where appropriate and seek investment to develop, improve or upgrade existing transport links.

Theme 1: Public Transport

Increasing both the frequency and quality of service provided by public transport is important to encourage a modal shift from personal vehicle usage. Whilst active travel is carbon zero, we recognise that not all journeys are appropriate for walking or cycling. Improving the public transport provided in Somerset whilst transitioning to lower emissions vehicles can significantly reduce emissions derived from Transport.

To achieve this, the workstream will:

- Amend evaluation criteria and contract terms for passenger transport contracts awarded by SCC in the DPS review in March 2021 to encourage usage of lower emission vehicles.
- Develop an innovative rural transport pilot project following on from work currently investigated in South Somerset.
- Commission a data analytics study to identify potential demands for bespoke passenger transport for clusters of working age people who may be attracted to a quality service.
- Develop a detailed proposal for mass-movement rapid transport on the A38 supporting existing priority infrastructure proposals; this could provide an opportunity for a testbed for electric fleets or CAV trials in the long term.
- Explore expanding Demand Responsive Transport Provision, potentially developing additional routes in the morning/afternoon for college students.

Theme 2: Personal Transport

Reducing the demand for car travel is essential for minimising transport emissions. Enabling active travel, via improvements to walking or cycling infrastructure or subsidising the cost of cycling equipment, can eliminate the need for car journeys. Increasing awareness surrounding the impacts associated with short car journeys may contribute to a modal shift in travel; however, under many circumstances car usage is unavoidable. Popularising car sharing schemes can eliminate repetition of similar journeys.

To reduce the demand for car travel and incentivise a modal shift to active travel, some examples of work to be undertaken include:

- Develop a detailed countywide travel behaviour change/travel demand management proposal, focusing on community action and individual responsibility, learning from previous and current activity in Bridgwater.
- Agree walking and cycling capital programme funding allocation.
- Submit Department for Transport (DfT) Pinch Points bid focused on walking and cycling.
- Develop feasibility designs and costed schemes from current Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) while commissioning additional LCWIPs for other towns.
- Lobby Central Government for a dedicated walking and cycling fund.
- Increase awareness of the impact short car journeys can have and highlight the benefits associated with active travel via numerous engagement schemes, such as the 'Think Travel' web portal to access travel-related information.

Theme 3: Logistics, Planning and Innovation

Engaging with relevant communities, stakeholders and organisations is crucial to promote sustainable transport. With new developments, planning strategies can be implemented to minimise the need for travel and thus reduce emissions. A holistic approach to development can reduce emissions derived from logistical operations, such as 'last-mile' deliveries or HGV freight. With the considerable lack of progress made in reducing transport emissions since 1990 across the UK, innovative ideas and concepts are required.

Some objectives to explore for the workstream include:

- Liaise with parish/town councils to produce a list of high priority/biggest difference actions that could be taken relating to transport.
- Organise a commission to ensure engagement with academic experts and industry leaders to identify opportunities to reduce transport emissions.
- Understand logistics patterns, HGV vehicle movements and employee personal vehicle use to develop programs to reduce associated emissions, such as via car or freight share.
- Identify locations suitable for electric vehicle charging points.
- Work with planners and the Built Environment workstream to ensure new developments are designed to reduce the demand for car travel.
- Launch a digital competition to design an app enabling people to reduce demand for car travel.
- Upscale the agile-working Programme used in Shepton Mallet to other district council offices, enabling work from home for all staff within Somerset Local Authorities. Highlighting the benefits from this scheme can incentivise uptake of similar programmes by private sector organisations.

8.8: Waste

Recent research highlights the potential for the UK Waste Management sector to drive reductions to greenhouse gas emissions[40]. Since 1990, emissions have decreased by 70% with an acceleration in annual average abatement between 2012 and 2016 of 10%.

In Somerset, household and non-household waste contributes to a significant proportion of the region's carbon emissions – the majority (>90%) derive from methane produced by the decomposition of biodegradable waste[41].

Somerset's domestic waste and recycling is managed by Somerset Waste Partnership. Somerset is independently ranked as a 'high flying' (top 10%)[42] area in England in carbon saving from its household waste and recycling services, saving 103kg of a carbon equivalent per person[43].

Major progress in the Waste Management sector will only be achieved if waste is considered as a resource whilst increasing management of industrial and commercial waste. The workstream will look at opportunities to move towards a more circular economy and increase consideration of the relationship between Waste Management and other economic activities.

Theme 1: Commercial Waste and the Circular Economy

Nationally, commercial recycling rates are low (30%) and minimal source segregation of waste or separate food waste collection is undertaken. Targeting this sector, in conjunction with the Business, Industry and Supply Chain workstream, can provide potential for considerable emissions reductions and show Somerset's national leadership on the climate agenda.

The workstream will:

- Identify how the Local Authorities can celebrate and share best practice, whilst avoiding 'greenwash' (or the deceptive promotion of an organisation's environmental policies).
- Work with local businesses and relevant partners to identify the support and guidance they require to improve waste management.
- Seek to pilot collaborative procurement for recycling and waste – reducing costs for businesses, improving environmental outcomes and aligning with local needs.
- Create a route-map identifying the steps required to a create a more circular economy in Somerset.
- Explore opportunities to ensure that Somerset has the recycling reprocessing industry needed to match its ambitions for the future.

Theme 2: Residential Waste and Behaviour Change

The workstream will explore opportunities to encourage behavioural change across a variety of sectors, such as minimising household waste in the domestic sector and increase recycling 'on the go'. This will be supported by identifying ways to ensure adherence to adequate planning standards for waste management within new housing developments.

This will include:

- Improving domestic waste recycling opportunities by adding in additional recycling to the existing weekly kerbside collection (Recycle More). This will result in reductions to waste by 15% and increase recycling by 20-30%, and improve on our already 'high-flying'[42] carbon saving performance.

- Introducing more stringent controls that ensure even more waste is processed within the UK and not exported elsewhere. Currently over 90% of Somerset's recycling remains in the UK.
- Roll-out a behavioural change campaign ('Slim my waste, feed my face') in early 2020. This scheme intends to encourage reducing food waste within homes.
- Working with the Built Environment workstream and planning departments to ensure new development planning proposals consider resource management, waste storage, and waste disposal.
- Moving away from landfill by Spring 2020. Whilst reduction, reuse and recycling always remain better, this transition will ensure that the little waste that is leftover is mostly used to generate electricity rather than going into landfill.

Theme 3: Public Sector Waste

The public sector is a major employer in Somerset and can lead by example with how it deals with its own waste. There is potential for considerable improvement within the sector; for example, the current recycling rate in schools is only 25% and recycling across the Local authority's own buildings is patchy. Using the scale of the sector provides an opportunity to shape the market for commercial waste services in Somerset and instigate significant changes within the industry.

The workstream will:

- Develop a joined-up approach across the public sector in Somerset to maximise reuse, separate recycling and minimise waste arisings from the public sector.
- Utilise the buying power across the public sector in Somerset to create a viable commercial market offering environmentally optimal commercial waste recycling.
- Identify if there are any stakeholders in Somerset who may need additional support in order to recycle effectively seek to develop a cost-effective pilot which improves recycling and reduces waste.
- Expand the Schools Against Waste programme and incentivise schools to recycle more (including though rolling out additional services to them such as plastic pots, tubs and trays, cartons/tetrapak recycling).

8.9: Water

Climate projections predict increasing precipitation intensity and variability in the UK, leading to increased risks of flooding, drought and extreme weather events[44]. Flood risks in Somerset are exacerbated by sea level rise, with low-lying regions such as the Levels and moors particularly vulnerable to these changes[45].

Additionally, predicted climatic changes impact current water management practices and adaptation schemes, which are unlikely to be robust enough to cope with these added pressures[44]. Ensuring future developments consider the most recent climatic projections is required to minimise flood risk and other issues.

The requirement for the Water workstream to be cross-sector in approach is significant; alterations to land usage and management practices in both the natural environment and agricultural ecosystems are likely to impact flood risk, water quality and other aspects of the

hydrological cycle. Ensuring these issues are both accounted for and minimised will be crucial to minimise the secondary consequences associated with project implementation.

Theme 1: Strategy and Policy

Improving existing strategies and policies relating to water will ensure co-ordinated response by all partner organisations, provide long-term risk assessment for predicted climatic changes, and enable access to increased sources of funding.

Examples of reviews and updates to be explored by this workstream are:

- Update internal and statutory strategies to ensure the inclusion of most recent climate change projections and associated risks
- Support the establishment of the Somerset Rivers Authority to deliver adaptation schemes to address projected risks

Theme 2: Data Collection and Analysis

Detailed modelling of changes to the flood, drought and extreme weather profile of Somerset is required to inform evidence-based project development, business cases and feasibility studies.

Initial tasks for this workstream will be to:

- Map changes to flood risk caused by climate change.
- Map changes to coastal erosion caused by climate change.
- Develop integrated flood investment strategies from predicted changes.
- Map priority regions suitable for sustainable drainage (SuDS) projects.

Theme 3: Schemes and Initiatives

Developing projects to adapt to the projected risks of climate change is crucial to ensure the communities of Somerset remain resilient to these predicted impacts.

The workstream will:

- Continue to deliver adaptation schemes to minimise the risks of flooding, drought and coastal erosion.
- Assess pre-existing adaptation schemes and infrastructure to ensure they are resilient to the most recent climate projections.
- Identify opportunities and potential funding to develop water processing infrastructure for future resilience.

8.10: Communications and Engagement

Substantial levels of communication and engagement will be crucial to the success of all the workstreams and delivery of the overall Climate Emergency Strategy. As well as facilitating changes within the areas under the direct control of the five Local Authorities, the success of the Strategy will be underpinned by encouraging action to be taken by the many individuals, communities and other stakeholders.

Whilst many groups and communities are actively engaged with the climate change agenda currently experiencing considerable coverage within the media, some groups prioritise the issue to less of an extent. Receiving feedback from these groups and individuals and encouraging them to engage with the development of the Strategy is a vital action for this workstream.

Theme 1: Engagement and Consultation

Ensuring that everyone in Somerset feels a sense of ownership of the Strategy is fundamental to its success; therefore ensuring as many people as possible from a cross section of society have an opportunity to contribute to the development of the Strategy is essential.

To achieve this, the workstream will:

- Develop Climate Summits in each district in conjunction with Somerset Climate Action Network (SCAN).
- Produce an online forum for on-demand engagement with the Strategy development.
- Organise specific engagement with young people through school and college events.
- Explore further opportunities for ongoing feedback and suggestions for the Strategy and subsequent Action Plan development.
- Work with local communities, towns, wards and parish councils to ensure local interest and community buy-in with the Strategy and associated Action Plan development.

Theme 2: Internal Communications

The five Local Authorities and partners have well-established internal communications channels. These can all be immediately used to engage and inform a significant workforce and seek to develop a significant body of ambassadors for the strategy and source of good practice case studies.

This workstream will:

- Highlight the importance of best practice, encompassing suggestions from all workstreams, within internal communication channels such as employee email and online newsletters.
- Explore opportunities to incentivise partner employee best practice and behaviour change.

Theme 3: External Communications

An appealing online presence will be a major component of the external communications and engagement strategy. Developing a central repository or hub for information, case studies, progress updates, resource packs and relevant materials will be critical in informing the wider community of the climate emergency whilst ensuring community buy-in and contribution to Strategy development. More traditional forms of media, such as press releases, news features or specific events, will supplement the external communications strategy to ensure accessibility for all.

Initial components of this work will include:

- Developing a uniform communications strategy to be implemented at all levels from all five Local Authorities.
- Utilising the Councils' established communications channels, such as traditional PR, in conjunction with the combined social media presence and reach, to maximise engagement opportunities.
- Ensure that documents and resources are available in other, accessible formats.

9: Climate Emergency Strategy Delivery

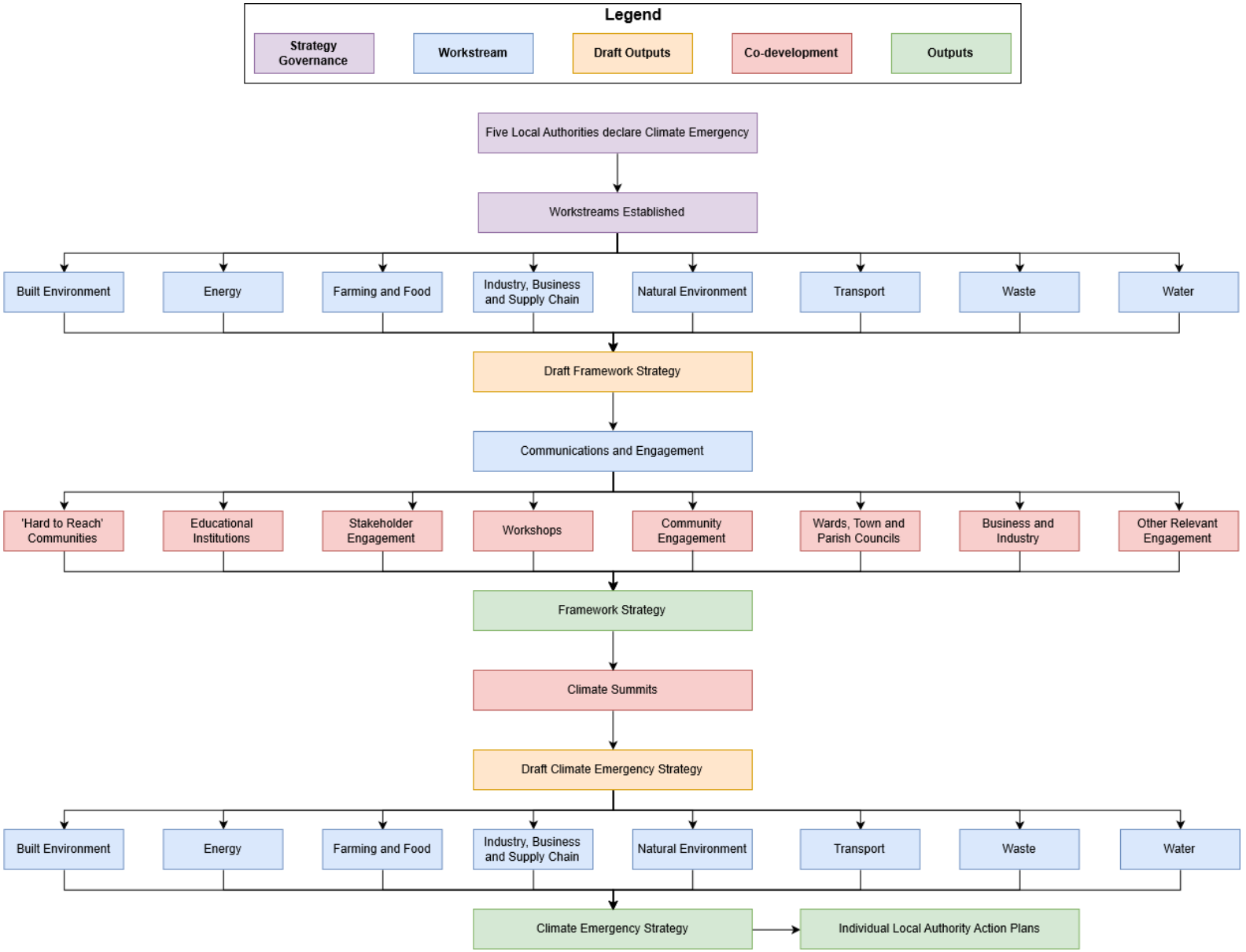
The flowchart below aims to simplify the steps that will be taken in order to develop and deliver the final Climate Emergency Strategy.

Community engagement will be a priority throughout Strategy development. We have chosen to deliver a 'Climate Summit' in each district to provide the opportunity for as many individuals and communities to engage with the development of the Strategy. However, this is only one strand of the engagement strategy. We will also be seeking feedback from an online platform as well as events at local schools and colleges to engage with the young people of Somerset. Each workstream will identify issues requiring stakeholder or sector-specific expertise and look to engage with the relevant academic or industry experts throughout Strategy development. It is hoped that through this engagement and consultation additional or alternative themes will be identified as priority issues for individuals and communities requiring action from the Climate Emergency Strategy.

Whilst workstreams appear independent in the flowchart below, it is important for these groups to work together. A collaborative approach is required to reliably evaluate key issues and develop projects encompassing a range of issues.

Additionally, development of the Individual Local Authority Action Plans is occurring simultaneously to the Climate Emergency Strategy. This means the Action Plans will be implemented alongside the final Strategy, ensuring that action is taken as soon as feasibly possible, once specific evidence-based projects are prioritised and developed following feedback from the public.

However, actions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change are already in progress across Somerset. Whilst time is being taken to develop an evidence-based Strategy, it is key that the actions being undertaken already are not slowed down by this process. Many projects will continue to be delivered throughout Strategy development, such as those intended to increase Somerset's resilience to flood risks and the continuation of preparation for the roll-out of the Somerset Waste Partnership's Recycle More scheme in 2020.


Legend
Strategy Governance
Workstream
Draft Outputs
Co-development
Outputs
Five Local Authorities declare Climate Emergency
Workstreams Established
Built Environment
Energy
Farming and Food
Industry, Business and Supply Chain
Natural Environment
Transport
Waste
Water
Draft Framework Strategy
Communications and Engagement
'Hard to Reach' Communities
Educational Institutions
Stakeholder Engagement
Workshops
Community Engagement
Wards, Town and Parish Councils
Business and Industry
Other Relevant Engagement
Framework Strategy
Climate Summits
Draft Climate Emergency Strategy
Built Environment
Energy
Farming and Food
Industry, Business and Supply Chain
Natural Environment
Transport
Waste
Water
Climate Emergency Strategy
Individual Local Authority Action Plans

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11: Appendix

Somerset County Council

Full Council resolves to:

a) affirm the Council's recognition of the scale and urgency of the global challenge from climate change, as documented by the latest Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and declares a climate emergency; and

b) mandate the Policy and Place Scrutiny Committee to review and recommend what further corporate approaches can be taken through a SCC Climate Change Strategy and to facilitate stronger Somerset-wide action through collaboration at a strategic, community and individual level; and

c) pledge to work with partners, including the Heart of the South West LEP, individuals and community action groups across the county to identify ways to make Somerset carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3); and

d) write to the Secretaries of State for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy, Transport, Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Housing, Communities & Local Government calling for the creation, provision or devolution of powers and resources to make achievement of the 2030 target possible here in Somerset; and

e) report to Full Council before the end of 2019 with the actions the Council has and will take to address this emergency; and

f) allocate £25,000 from the Council's 2018/19 contingency budget and authorise the Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure to utilise this funding to resource the work necessary to support Scrutiny Committee for Policies and Place and to assess any specific recommendations and financial implications. Any unspent allocation will be carried forward into 2019/20 to continue the work.

Somerset West and Taunton District Council

Shadow Full Council resolves:

1. To declare a climate emergency.

2. With partners across the district and region, to start working towards making Somerset West and Taunton carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account emissions from both production and consumption (7).

3. To call on the UK Government to provide guidance and the powers and resources to make carbon neutrality possible by writing to local MPs, the Secretaries of State for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy, Transport, Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Housing, Communities & Local Government.

4. To develop a Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan, starting from July 2019, with a cross party working group and the necessary officer support to assist with investigative work, drafting the plan and the delivery of early projects.

5. To report to Full Council before the end of 2019 with costed proposals for projects for the Council to effectively start addressing the climate emergency, which could include:

a) Enabling more cycling, walking and use of shared and public transport.

b) Providing electric car charging points in car parks and other suitable locations, including for use by council tenants and council vehicles.

c) Adopting high energy efficiency standards and providing for the effective use of recycling services in new buildings through the planning system.

d) Demonstrating and developing a programme for retrofitting high standards of energy saving and insulation in existing council buildings, including housing, and assets; initially focusing on where the greatest benefits could be gained.

e) Promoting waste reduction, reuse and recycling on the go, and supporting community projects.

f) Sourcing electricity used by the council from renewable energy suppliers and providing support for smart energy infrastructure, including demand management and storage.

g) Supporting green businesses and social enterprises.

h) Review of planning policies and investment opportunities for local renewable energy and infrastructure and environmental markets, as well as divestment from fossil fuels.

i) Adaptation for flooding, coastal erosion and other impacts of climate change.

j) The appointment of a specialist officer to develop and champion the delivery of the Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan.

6. To provide an annual review and update of the plan thereafter.

7. A provisional budget of £25,000 to be allocated to allow this work, including early projects agreed by the working group, to be undertaken either through resources already available or through commissioning. This sum to include £15,000 as a supplementary budget allocation from the General Fund in 2019/20, to be taken from general reserves and returned if able to be undertaken from already available resources, and £10,000 to be prioritised from the proposed HRA Maintenance Budget in 2019/20.

South Somerset District Council

The Council have agreed to:

1. Note the background information above.
2. Declare its recognition of a 'Climate and Ecological Emergency'.
3. Develop a Strategy by the Full Council meeting on 19th September 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
4. Develop a delivery plan that sets out the necessary policies, projects and actions to deliver the targets, and identifies the resources necessary to enable the delivery of the strategy.
5. Work with councils and other partners in Somerset to develop collaboration, joint approaches and share resources in tackling climate change and protecting the environment

*Now Autumn 2019

Sedgemoor District Council

Proposed Climate Change Motion that Council:

a) Affirms the recognition of the scale and urgency of the global challenge from climate change, as documented by the latest Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
b) Pledges to work with partners, including the HoTSWLEP, Somerset County Council, Somerset Districts, individuals and community groups to identify ways to make Sedgemoor and Somerset carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions
c) Joins with the County Council and Somerset Districts in writing to the Secretaries of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, Transport, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Housing, Communities and Local Government calling for the creation, provision or devolution of powers and resources to make achievement of the 2030 target possible here in Sedgemoor and Somerset
d) Allocates up to £25,000 from the Council's Community Development Fund and authorises the Strategic Director (Doug Bamsey) to utilise this funding to resource the work necessary and develop a strategy and actions
e) Will receive a report before the end of 2019 with the actions that have been and will be taken to address this target.

Mendip District Council

Full Council calls on Mendip District Council to:

1. Declare a 'Climate and Ecological Emergency';

2. Pledge to make the district of Mendip carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3)5;

3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;

4. Work with other councils and governments to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;

5. Continue to work with partners across the district and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;

6. Submit a bid as part of the Council's budget setting process for an additional £100,000 to fund a 'Sustainability' Officer Post for a two-year period to champion the scoping and delivery of the District Council's Climate Emergency 2030 commitment.

7. Report to Full Council every six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.

Somerset West and Taunton

Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan

Draft Framework Document

September 2019

Version	Purpose	Date
1	Draft Framework for Climate Change Member Working Group and Scrutiny Committee Agenda	27/09/2019

Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan

Draft Framework Document

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Terminology used in this document

This document refers to a number of terms and phrases that may not be familiar to many people, or which differ from terminology that has been used previously.

For instance, people will generally be familiar with the terminology of "climate change" and "global warming", however, in line with other organisations looking to take a lead in this field, the Council is keen to shift the language used in relation to this topic to reflect the urgency of the situation and need for action now. Therefore this document uses the phrases "***climate emergency***" to refer to the situation that our climate now finds itself, primarily as a result of the "***global heating***" caused and exacerbated by human activity.

Carbon emissions are referred to throughout this document. Carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is the principle contributor to global heating due to the sheer volume of it that exists and its long lifespan. However, a number of other greenhouse gases contribute including methane, nitrous oxide and f-gases. Some of these are far more significant in terms of their potency measured in carbon equivalent, but they exist in much smaller volumes and have shorter lifespans. Therefore, all greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced, however, it is the carbon emissions that are most important and as such are generally the focus for action.

Carbon Neutrality means "*achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset*" [i].

Climate Resilience means ensuring that our communities are adapted to cope with the projected impacts of global heating locally.

Mitigation essentially refers to actions which will lead to the avoidance or reduction of emissions or will reduce the projected impacts of global heating.

Adaptation refers to actions which are necessary to deal with the impacts that cannot be mitigated.

Offsetting is a way of mitigating emissions, by taking action elsewhere. For instance, it may not be possible, feasible or viable to actually reduce emissions from a particular source any further, so instead money would be diverted to deliver additionality in mitigation projects elsewhere to make up for the emissions that will remain.

Sequestration is the process of capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and the long-term storage of it in trees and plants, soils and geological formations and the ocean.

Co-benefits are secondary or ancillary benefits of an action that are also a relevant reason for that action in their own right. Many actions to mitigate and adapt to the climate emergency will have co-benefits such as improving health and wellbeing, improving air quality and building biodiversity.

Our Climate Emergency Declaration

In February 2019, the then shadow Council resolved:

1. To declare a climate emergency.

2. With partners across the district and region, to start working towards making Somerset West and Taunton carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account emissions from both production and consumption (7).

3. To call on the UK Government to provide guidance and the powers and resources to make carbon neutrality possible by writing to local MPs, the Secretaries of State for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy, Transport, Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Housing, Communities & Local Government.

4. To develop a Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan, starting from July 2019, with a cross party working group and the necessary officer support to assist with investigative work, drafting the plan and the delivery of early projects.

5. To report to Full Council before the end of 2019 with costed proposals for projects for the Council to effectively start addressing the climate emergency, which could include:

a) Enabling more cycling, walking and use of shared and public transport.

b) Providing electric car charging points in car parks and other suitable locations, including for use by council tenants and council vehicles.

c) Adopting high energy efficiency standards and providing for the effective use of recycling services in new buildings through the planning system.

d) Demonstrating and developing a programme for retrofitting high standards of energy saving and insulation in existing council buildings, including housing, and assets; initially focusing on where the greatest benefits could be gained.

e) Promoting waste reduction, reuse and recycling on the go, and supporting community projects.

f) Sourcing electricity used by the council from renewable energy suppliers and providing support for smart energy infrastructure, including demand management and storage.

g) Supporting green businesses and social enterprises.

h) Review of planning policies and investment opportunities for local renewable energy and infrastructure and environmental markets, as well as divestment from fossil fuels.

i) Adaptation for flooding, coastal erosion and other impacts of climate change.

j) The appointment of a specialist officer to develop and champion the delivery of the Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan.

6. To provide an annual review and update of the plan thereafter.

7. A provisional budget of £25,000 to be allocated to allow this work, including early projects agreed by the working group, to be undertaken either through resources already available or through commissioning. This sum to include £15,000 as a supplementary budget allocation from the General Fund in 2019/20, to be taken from general reserves and returned if able to be undertaken from already available resources, and £10,000 to be prioritised from the proposed HRA Maintenance Budget in 2019/20.

Context

Introduction

Somerset West and Taunton Council has declared a climate emergency and committed to working towards making the Council and the area which we cover carbon neutral by 2030. Alongside this, it is recognised that it is essential that we prepare our communities, businesses and buildings to ensure they are resilient to the climate change which is already in motion. In preparing a Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan for the district, the Council aims to take a leadership role in starting the conversations on how things need to change, taking action where it can, supporting and enabling others to play their parts, and lobbying Government and other actors to make necessary changes.

This Framework Document is the first step in the process – it begins to identify the core issues for the Plan to cover, the key risks to the district, and what our action/delivery plan might look to cover. Crucially, however, this is a starting point for meaningful engagement with our communities, businesses, interest parties and other key stakeholders, designed to start a conversation about how we can collectively own the issues, the necessary actions and ultimately delivery against the 2030 target. We want to hear your thoughts on what the issues are, how we should tackle them, who could deliver on the actions, and develop ground-up solutions to make a difference.

> *"We want to hear your thoughts on what the issues are, how we should tackle them, who could deliver on the actions, and develop ground-up solutions to make a difference"*

The Somerset West and Taunton Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan sits alongside a county-wide Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy which is being developed simultaneously. Rather than each of the Somerset districts developing their own strategies covering similar issues requiring potentially similar approaches, we feel it is better to consider the overall strategic approach to tackling the climate emergency collectively, enabling us to identify opportunities for achieve things together, share costs, share ideas and learning, and grow our power and influence with Government and others. The Somerset West and Taunton Plan will add detail to the approaches identified by the county-wide Strategy, and dealing with risks, issues and opportunities specific to the district.

Why tackling the climate emergency matters

> "*Climate change is moving faster than we are… If we do not change course by 2020, we risk missing the point where we can avoid runaway climate change, with disastrous consequences for people and all the natural systems that sustain us*"
>
> [2]

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)[3] identifies that human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1˚C of global heating above pre-industrial levels. Based on current rates, this level is likely to reach 1.5˚C globally somewhere

between 2030 and 2052. The IPCC also identifies that "*Without increased and urgent mitigation ambition in the coming years, leading to a sharp decline in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, global warming will surpass 1.5˚C in the following decades, leading to irreversible loss of the most fragile ecosystems, and crisis after crisis for the most vulnerable people and societies*"[4] and that limiting global heating to 1.5˚C implies reaching global carbon neutrality in around 2050[5].

However, based on current levels of commitments worldwide, we are on track to actually experience in the order of 3˚C of heating globally. This will lead to catastrophic changes in global climatic conditions including major sea level rise due to polar ice cap melt – which is well documented as already occurring faster than was predicted to be the case. But the impacts will be felt differently in different parts of the world. The global impacts will be felt to different levels in different parts of the world. This matters locally here in Somerset West and Taunton, with a vulnerable coastline and particularly low-lying areas of land on the Levels and Moors. Limiting global heating to 1.5˚C has been proven by the IPCC report to significantly limit the impacts that will be experienced globally.

The Committee on Climate Change (the UK Government's independent advisor on climate change) advised earlier this year that the UK should look to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, explaining that this target would align with the country's commitments under the Paris Agreement and be capable of being met broadly within the same cost envelope as the previous 80% target[6]. The UK Parliament subsequently declared a climate emergency and legislated to amend the Climate Change Act 2008 to legally bind the UK to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

However, as the fifth largest economy worldwide[7], the UK might be considered more capable than most to achieve the 2050 carbon neutrality target recommended by the IPCC and therefore take up some of the strain of those that are less capable.

Considering the projected impacts of global heating locally and globally, and the need for significant progress globally by 2030, Somerset West and Taunton Council feel that it is important to strive towards a more ambitious target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. We must, however, be clear, that this more ambitious target is not informed by detailed evidence of what can be achieved locally. Without significant changes in wider society and national Government regulation, policy, funding and action, achieving this target will be near impossible. The target is therefore a signal of intent, a call to action and a commitment that locally we will do everything that we can to take action and lobby others to do so too.

What is the role of the Council?

It is vital that the Council acts as a community leader in responding to the climate emergency – to set an example, encourage and influence others and enable us to require action with the conscience that we are doing our bit. "Getting our own house in order" is a key part of this as Council operations and processes result in range of direct and indirect emissions. This Framework includes a number of early tasks for the Council to undertake to better understand the sources of these emissions and start taking action.

The Council is also uniquely placed to act as a co-ordinator and facilitator of action within the district. It has a key role in taking specific actions as well as enabling and supporting others. However, it is important to note that the Council only has limited

powers, responsibilities, resources and finances, and that many of the changes that will be required to achieve carbon neutrality and climate resilience must be the responsibility of others including public, private and third sectors and individuals. It is therefore important that the Somerset West and Taunton Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan is widely owned and delivered by everyone living, working, carrying out business etc. within the district, and that it is evidence-based and built upon ground-up engagement with these groups.

"This Council commits to use all of its powers to action, enable and support everyone to work towards achieving carbon neutrality and climate resilience by 2030. Will you join us by making a similar commitment?

This Council commits to use all of its powers to action, enable and support everyone to work towards achieving carbon neutrality and climate resilience by 2030. Will you join us by making a similar commitment and tasking yourself, your friends and family, your employer or business to make the changes necessary to achieve it?

Making changes

It is reasonable to suggest that awareness of the climate emergency is at an all-time high. However, this should not be mistaken to mean that everyone is on the same page. For many, new scientific discoveries, the media, high profile campaigns and changing weather patterns have all helped to grow understanding. Recent world climate summits and government policies have also helped to focus the mind on the need for action and specifically the target of carbon neutrality.

Many residents and businesses across the district have begun to take action, largely in small incremental ways: car sharing, recycling and eating more local produce. Yet tied to this are issues (such as reducing the need to fly, buying the latest tech, and the buying of plastic wrapped foods) that for many people are considered either 'too hard to tackle', or that lead to perceptions that 'only governments can sort it out'. This can lead to the proliferation of myths and inactivity. Some might argue that they don't have enough time, or if tested, they might admit to a lack of confidence in knowing what to do.

Accepting change can be difficult. Yet, there are examples of changes in society that we can draw upon: don't drink and drive campaign, the ban on smoking and paying 5p for a plastic bag. These are all commonly accepted social norms now.

Change can also be difficult to make. Particularly for the most vulnerable in society including those on low incomes. Meeting the targets of carbon neutrality and climate resilience will require major societal shifts and changes to be made from all sectors of society. However, the most affluent in society contribute significantly more emissions than those on the lowest incomes, yet are more able to change habits and make different choices. Ensuring that the most able and least vulnerable in society shoulder more of the burden, and protecting the most vulnerable from unreasonable burdens and impacts is important to achieving a just transition to a low carbon economy. This Framework recognises the need for a just transition and this will influence the development of action plans and projects as part of the Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan.

Purpose, Scope and Methodology

What is the purpose of the Plan?

The Somerset West and Taunton Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan will provide a community-owned plan of action for how we respond to the climate emergency locally. It will identify the projects, plans, schemes and initiatives that we commit to locally pursuing in order to work towards carbon neutrality and climate resilience in 2030.

It is not solely a Council-owned plan. It is a vehicle to galvanise support and action across the district. It is a prospectus for seeking funding and investment. It will be a living delivery plan that evolves and updates regularly as things are delivered and our understanding of the issues and consequences of the climate emergency improves.

It will also identify the barriers to achieving this target which are posed by issues outside of our control as a local authority and as a local area. It will form a platform for us to lobby Government and other parties to take the necessary actions to change policies, investments, funding and powers so that the targets can be achieved.

The purpose of this initial Framework Document is to spark a conversation and engage with our communities and stakeholders over what direction our Plan should take, what projects and activities are already taking place out there, and ultimately ensure that the Plan itself is well informed and owned by the people, businesses and communities of the district.

What is the Scope of the Plan?

So what do we mean by "Carbon Neutrality"? We are taking it to refer to "*achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset*"[8]. Essentially, that means 100% of our emissions are reduced or offset through processes that will sequester (absorb/remove) what is left.

Our primary goal will be to develop solutions to reduce carbon emissions wherever they can be directly mitigated (avoided or reduced). But this will not always be possible or viable and we will need to offset some of our emissions. To help us prioritise our offsetting actions and control the secondary impacts of these actions, we propose to prioritise offsetting at or as near to the source for the emissions as possible, before widening out the locations for offsetting projects to the district, county, region, UK, EU then rest of the world.

> "Carbon neutrality means achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset"

We are working towards achieving carbon neutrality across the district – not just across the Council in its operations and functions, but across the entire geographical extent of the district and all of the activities taking place within it. We are also looking to measure our progress both in terms of the emissions produced within the district

(territorial emissions) and the emissions associated with goods and services consumed within the district (consumption emissions).

And what about "Climate Resilience"? This refers to ensuring that our communities are prepared, adapted and able to cope with the changes to our climate that will result from the global heating which is already in motion.

What will be needed to achieve carbon neutrality?

The Committee on Climate Change identifies the options on the table for deep decarbonisation in the UK in its *Net Zero*[9] report published earlier this year. These options are divided into Core, Further Ambition, and Speculative – and they can help to prioritise action. The Net Zero report admits that "*it is impossible to predict the exact mix of technologies and behaviours that will best meet the challenge*", but recommends a set of scenarios to meet the UK target of carbon neutrality in 2050. As we develop our Plan we will need to take heed of the direction that the Net Zero report recommends the UK takes nationally, but bear in mind that achieving this same target by 2030 may require a slightly different mix of options due to local circumstances and wider embedded assumptions, and certainly ramping up of ambition. The scenarios identified for meeting the UK target of carbon neutrality in 2050 are (paraphrased):

- **Improvements in resource and energy efficiency** to reduce demand for energy, minimise the amounts of additional low carbon power, hydrogen and carbon capture and storage (CCS) that will be needed;
- **Changes in societal choices** to lower emissions associated with our activities, e.g. shifting to healthier diets with reduced consumption of beef, lamb and dairy;
- **Significant electrification**, particularly of transport and heating, with all power produced from low carbon sources (compared to 50% today);
- **Increased hydrogen production and combustion** to meet demands for some industrial processes, long-distance land and sea-based logistics, and for electricity and heating in peak periods;
- **Carbon capture and storage** (CCS) as a necessity for industry, bioenergy and very likely for hydrogen and electricity production; and
- **A major shift in farming and land use** that would see a fifth of UK agricultural land used for tree planting, energy crops and peatland restoration to improve carbon sequestration and biomass production.

Other publications have also been produced by different bodies and organisations recommending different mixes of options and solutions to achieve similar and more ambitious targets for carbon neutrality. Almost all of these publications refer to the need for the following in different variations of ambition:

- High energy efficiency standards in new buildings;
- Retrofitting of existing buildings;
- Electrifying our reduced energy use;
- Significant expansion of low carbon and renewable energy generation and energy storage including on-shore wind;
- Moving to more plant-based diets;
- Improving agricultural processes and land use;
- Planting trees, restoring peatlands and 're-wilding' areas;
- Reducing how much we travel and changing how we travel to less carbon and energy intensive modes;

- Investing in public and active transport infrastructure;
- Reducing the amount that we fly;

As we develop our Plan we will need to take account of the above, evidence our local approach and develop projects, policies and initiatives to deliver on many of these.

What are the co-benefits of taking action?

Taking action to combat the climate emergency can have major ancillary or co-benefits in relation to jobs and the economy, health and wellbeing, food/water/energy security, biodiversity and many other issues. For instance, planting trees can also increase biodiversity, transition to electric vehicles can also reduce air quality issues and effective insulation of homes can also reduce adverse health conditions in residents. Understanding these co-benefits is an important reason for taking a strategy-led approach to action.

By maximising the co-benefits of action, rather than simply delivering piecemeal and one-dimensional responses to issues, we can potentially deliver far greater outcomes for the environment, society and the economy. It can also help to identify where climate action can meet statutory duties and reduce costs of service delivery across the public sector which are not immediately apparent. This can help to build business cases for funding and resourcing, and can help to sell the benefits of action to individuals, businesses and partners who do not see climate action as such a priority. Therefore, our action/delivery plan will be developed taking account of these co-benefits.

Developing the Action Plan

Workstreams

Responding to the Climate Emergency will require changes to business as usual across all aspects of society. This can be overwhelming to some, and understandably so. For this reason and in the interests of simplifying and breaking down task and project ownership, as well as communicating things and engaging with the public we have taken the decision to break the issue and tasks down into more manageable workstreams through both our own Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan and the County-wide Climate Emergency Strategy. Despite this, taking a holistic approach, identifying the co-benefits of action and working together to maximise these is the most likely way to be successful in accessing funding and ultimately delivery. This highlights the importance of strategy, rather than piecemeal action. The workstreams are:

1. Built Environment
2. Energy
3. Farming and Food
4. Industry, Business and Supply Chain
5. Natural Environment
6. Transport
7. Waste and Resource Management
8. Water
9. Communications and Engagement

"We want to know what you think needs to be done here in Somerset West and Taunton, who should take ownership for this, and where the funding to deliver on your ideas might come from"

This initial Framework takes a lead from research across the county into key issues and objectives for each workstream and the priority themes that have been identified. It then builds on these to outline the direction of travel and an early indication of tasks and projects related to each workstream to take forward within the district of Somerset West and Taunton. Direction of travel, tasks and projects are all intended to be indicative early thoughts and we expect to supplement, amend and replace as appropriate through public engagement and consultation over the coming months. We want to know what you think needs to be done here in Somerset West and Taunton, who should take ownership for this, and where the funding to deliver on your ideas might come from.

1. Built Environment

The Built Environment workstream essentially considers how our towns and villages, buildings and communities, existing and new are constructed, located, powered, heated, function, how resilient they are to the expected local impacts of the climate emergency, and how they need to change in order to align with and contribute towards the Plan's targets. The Built Environment interacts with other workstreams (for instance energy efficiency of buildings under the Energy workstream or access to active travel infrastructure and public transport under the Transport workstream). It is also an area within which Local Authorities can potentially exercise a fair amount of influence and control, through town and country planning, transport planning, regeneration and other development opportunities and council-owned buildings, as well as acting as an enabler and supporter for others. The County-wide Framework identifies two priority themes for the Built Environment: New Development and Existing Buildings and Communities. The SWT Framework builds on these themes to identify directions of travel for each theme and key tasks which could help to see early progress and support more detailed action and project development.

1.1 New Development

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that all new developments are located in sustainable locations and minimising the need to travel and enabling active and sustainable transport as the primary means of transport;
- Ensure that all new buildings achieve zero carbon by as early a date as reasonably possible and that they are constructed to be resilient to the climate change that is already in motion (considering wider demands placed on development, viability etc.);
- Ensure that all new developments incorporate wider climate resilience and sustainable behaviour encouraging features including SUDS, urban trees, appropriate materials in public realm, cycle storage, waste management etc.

Key early tasks:

- Reviewing implementation and performance of existing planning policies,
- Incorporating strong policy and guidance on development location, transport planning, carbon reduction targets and sustainability requirements into the Local Plan Review Issues and Options document due for consultation later this year as well as other emerging design guides etc.;
- Incorporating a specific award category into the proposed Taunton Garden Town Awards Scheme in relation to development that exemplifies action to tackle the climate emergency;
- Exploring the potential for proposed Council-owned development / regeneration sites to showcase the art of the possible and be developed as exemplars. Such aspirations would need to be balanced with other demands / requirements being placed on the sites.

1.2 Existing Buildings and Communities

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that pathways for the retrofitting of existing buildings and communities with the above are explored and delivered.

Key early tasks:

- Researching, categorising and mapping buildings (of all ownerships) with a view to identifying high level retrofit strategies and specific projects for groups of

buildings/communities, with a particular focus on auditing council-owned buildings including retained housing stock;
- Exploring potential to simplify, encourage and de-risk action to deliver retrofit to existing buildings and communities through planning and other means;
- Identifying priority locations and opportunities for delivery of retrofitted Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems;
- Identifying opportunities for urban tree planting projects and preparing bids for round 2 of the Urban Tree Challenge Fund and other available tree planting grants in 2020.

2. Energy

The Energy workstream looks at how we generate, store and consume energy smartly in terms of both heat and power. It considers how we can deliver greater levels of low carbon and renewable energy generation, store this energy so that it is available for use when we need it, improve our levels of energy security, reduce levels of fuel poverty, and improve energy efficiency across all aspects of society. Energy interacts with other workstreams (for instance energy efficiency of buildings under the Built Environment workstream or proliferating Electric Vehicles (EVs) under the Transport workstream). Again, it is an area within which Local Authorities can potentially exercise a fair amount of influence and control, through town and country planning, transport planning, council procurement and operations, as well as acting as an enabler and supporter for others. The County-wide Framework identifies three priority themes for Energy: Reducing and Shifting Energy Demand; Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation and Storage Technologies; and Own Estate and Operations. The SWT Framework builds on these themes to identify directions of travel for each theme and key tasks which could help to see early progress and support more detailed action and project development.

2.1 Reducing and Shifting Energy Demand

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that domestic, industrial and transport energy use is reduced and minimised;
- Ensure that where possible, energy use is shifted to periods of peak supply and away from periods of peak demand; and
- Engage the public about the importance and co-benefits of action to reduce and shift energy consumption and how to go about it.

Key early tasks:

- Exploring the development of energy efficiency, reduction and usage campaigns to promote which can help signpost people and businesses to relevant support;
- Researching and engaging with key stakeholders such as Western Power Distribution to understand when peaks of electricity supply and demand are expected to be, and what can be done to help people shift times away from periods of peak demand; and
- Incorporating planning policies on reducing energy demand and increasing energy efficiency in new developments into the Local Plan Review.

2.2 Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation and Storage Technologies

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that the energy (heat and power) consumed within the district is decarbonised as much and as quickly as possible;
- Identify ways to ensure we maximise and realise the potential for low carbon and renewable energy generation and storage across the district, whilst taking account of major constraints to deployment such as the National Park and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- Ensure that local communities benefit directly from new installations by supporting community energy initiatives; and
- Ensure that grid capacity constraints can be overcome or bypassed by exploring opportunities for decentralising supply.

Key early tasks:

- Working with community energy companies, town and parish councils and neighbourhood planning groups to raise awareness and interest in developing community energy projects and taking local action, and signposting to potential funding sources (e.g. Rural Community Energy Fund);
- Researching and mapping renewable energy resources (e.g. suitable wind speeds) across the district, conducting a renewable energy 'call for sites' alongside the Local Plan Review consultation, overlaying constraints mapping and re-visiting mothballed renewable energy projects to understand potential generation capacity;
- Exploring potential for heat networks through opportunity mapping;
- Working with Western Power Distribution to fully understand the local electricity grid constraints and opportunities for overcoming; and
- Working with partners across the county to develop an EV Charging Strategy.

2.3 Own Estate and Operations

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that direct and indirect emissions arising from the Council's own operations are decarbonised as quickly and effectively as possible/viable; and
- Ensure that we use our powers and influence to encourage action by staff, tenants, suppliers, and partners.

Key early tasks:

- Conducting an assessment of our own corporate energy use to better understand the infrastructure, processes, policies and procurements that contribute and where we best focus efforts;
- Researching the efforts of other local authorities who have taken action to reduce and decarbonise their energy use;
- Launching an internal communications campaign to encourage action to reduce energy demand and promote energy efficiency amongst staff.
- Exploring opportunities to decarbonise our energy supply, including within current contracts, opportunities for wider collaborative procurement across the county, power purchase agreements and on-site generation;
- Exploring the most appropriate point in time to switch the existing corporate fleet to EV/Hybrid/ULEV considering the embodied carbon of new vehicles.
- Overlaying land and asset ownership mapping with renewable energy and heat opportunity mapping referred to above to identify potential opportunities on Council-owned land.

3. Farming and Food

The Food and Farming workstream looks at the environmental impact and emissions arising from food production and consumption and land management practices. It considers how we look to reduce the impacts arising from the food we consume such as in relation to food miles and livestock emissions, but also how farmland across the district can be managed better to be less carbon intensive, secure environmental enhancements, store more carbon and deliver ecosystem services. Farming and Food interacts with other workstreams (for instance building natural capital and delivering ecosystem services under the Natural Environment workstream or changing land use/management to help slow the flow and reduce downstream flood risk under the Water workstream). It is an area within which Local Authorities have a relatively small amount of influence and control through statutory processes, though opportunities do exist through town and country planning, council procurement and operations, as well as acting as an enabler and supporter for others. The County-wide Framework identifies three priority themes for Food and Farming: Reducing Net Emissions; Carbon Storage; Climate Change Adaptation; and Food Consumption. The SWT Framework builds on these themes to identify directions of travel for each theme and key tasks which could help to see early progress and support more detailed action and project development.

3.1 Reducing Emissions

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that emissions associated with farming are reduced whilst simultaneously improving and increasing farming productivity and efficiency.

Key early tasks:

- Researching and engaging with the farming community to identify best practice, raise awareness, build up a picture of current practice and issues and better understand what could incentivise farmers to take more action.

3.2 Carbon Storage

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that the carbon storage potential of farmland within the district is maximised whilst balancing this with the need to produce food and ensure farms remain viable.

Key early tasks:

- Researching and mapping potential opportunities to plant trees, widen and re-connect hedgerows, and change land management practices to improve the carbon storage capacity of farmland in the district;
- Researching and mapping potential opportunities to re-wild and re-instate major carbon sequestering features such as saltmarshes, peatlands and wetlands;
- Engaging with the farming community on what measures they are already undertaking, raise awareness and support them to take action on their land; and
- Exploring potential to incorporate policies into Local Plan Review supporting rural diversification where it will enable farmers to change practices to more viably deliver ecosystem services.

3.3 Climate Change Adaptation

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that the agricultural sector, farmland and food production are prepared, adapted to and resilient to the climate change that is projected to occur;

- Ensure that opportunities to deliver wider adaptation improvements on farmland is realised, whilst balancing the need to produce food locally, protect our local environment and landscapes and biodiversity and ensure that farms remain viable.

Key early tasks:

- Identifying specific crop types that are well adapted to projected climatic conditions;
- Researching and evidencing the economic and co-benefits case for transitioning and diversifying current practice into more resilient and lower impact practices;
- Engaging with the farming community to raise awareness, celebrate best practice and build resilience into their future plans.

3.4 Food Consumption

Direction of travel:

- Ensure greater public understanding and knowledge about the carbon and environmental footprints of their diets and food choices;
- Ensure that all sectors of society are given reasonable and realistic opportunities to reduce the carbon and environmental footprints of their diets without financially or otherwise overburdening the most vulnerable; and
- Ensure that wherever possible, the carbon and environmental footprints of food produced, packaged and/or sold in the district is minimised.

Key early tasks:

- Engaging with the public and businesses to understand levels of existing knowledge, and the barriers people face to adopting more balanced, locally-sourced and environmentally conscious diets;
- Researching tools and incentives to help communicate impacts and encourage more sustainable behaviours around food;
- Auditing existing food sold in Council-owned outlets (e.g. leisure centres and corporate refreshments), and exploring opportunities to improve their carbon and environmental impacts;
- Launching an internal communications campaign to educate and encourage action to reduce carbon and environmental impacts of food choices amongst staff.

4. Industry, Business and Supply Chain

The Industry, Business and Supply Chain workstream looks at the carbon emissions and wider environmental impact of industry and businesses across the district, including the Council's own corporate processes. It considers how businesses can make changes to their own operations, but also become an influencer through their supply chains, encouraging employees and by become catalysts for change within their sector and community, whilst building workforce resilience. Industry, Business and Supply Chain interacts other workstreams (for instance switching corporate energy supplies to renewables or developing on-site generation under the Energy workstream or switching corporate fleets to EV under the Transport workstream). It is an area within which Local Authorities have a reasonable amount of influence and control through economic development and inward investment strategies, council procurement and operations, as well as acting as an enabler and supporter for others. The County-wide Framework identifies three priority themes for Industry, Business and Supply Chain: Emissions Reduction and Stakeholder Engagement; Data Collection and Analysis; and Business and Workforce Resilience to Climate Change. The SWT Framework builds on these themes to identify directions of travel for each theme and key tasks which could help to see early progress and support more detailed action and project development.

4.1 Emissions Reduction and Stakeholder Engagement

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that businesses based and operating within the district are able to view tackling the climate emergency as opportunities to innovate, enhance productivity and mitigate risks going forward, and are actively exploring or taking action to reduce direct emissions and combat supply chain emissions;
- Ensure that best practice action by businesses is recognised and shared; and
- Ensure that businesses act as ambassadors for action with their employees, consumers and partners, showcasing the commercial and productivity opportunities arising out of innovation and change.

Key early tasks:

- Developing a communications plan and peer network to engage with businesses on how they can reduce their direct and supply chain emissions, why it is important to do so, what barriers they face in doing so, what the benefits of doing so can be, and to showcase best practice;
- Establishing an annual low carbon business awards scheme to celebrate and recognise business action to tackle their direct and supply chain emissions;
- Identifying large business energy users and exploring ways to reduce energy consumption and green their energy supply;
- Holding multiple local business "Summits" to engage businesses and identify best practice already being delivered;
- Working to encourage and adopt a "design for sustainability" approach, in which new products are designed to minimise waste and to be broken down for reuse or recycling;
- Conducting an assessment of our own corporate emissions and environmental impacts to better understand the processes, policies and procurements that contribute and where we best focus efforts; and
- Building the need to provide evidence of climate action into the Council's procurement processes, funding agreements and contracts.

4.2 Data Collection and Analysis

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that sufficient business emissions data is available, reported and verified to enable effective monitoring of progress.

Key early tasks:

- Working across the county to design an environmental management and audit toolkit to help businesses assess and reduce their direct and supply chain emissions.

4.3 Business and Workforce Resilience to Climate Change

Direction of travel:

- Ensure transition of the local economy to a low carbon future, both in terms of boosting business specifically involved in the green economy, and by enabling and encouraging all businesses to be compatible with a low carbon local economy.
- Ensure that businesses understand potential future impacts associated with the climate emergency, and that they are supported in efforts to become more resilient to the effects; and
- Ensure that workforces are protected, skills and employability are preserved, and a 'just transition' is delivered.

Key early tasks:

- Providing certainty to the green economy over potential project pipeline (e.g. renewable energy and sustainable construction environmental consultancy and technologies, including sustainable construction) through incorporation of strong policies into Local Plan Review;
- Seeking to encourage inward investment in relevant sectors that can help the local area to deliver mitigation and adaptation opportunities and solutions for use locally and export to other areas;
- Identifying and working with businesses likely to be particularly susceptible to projected climatic changes to reduce risks and build resilience;
- Working across the county to research and understand the local skills and employment challenges relating to the transition to a low carbon economy and the specific businesses and sectors in which the greatest skills gaps will exist;
- Engaging with local businesses to understand the impacts that reducing emissions and implementing climate action could have on workforces and business viability and working with businesses likely to see greatest impacts to find appropriate solutions;
- Understanding how different business models (such as adopted by businesses responding to digital economy opportunities) might support the transition to a low carbon economy; and
- Identifying the staff resource capacity of the Council to effectively deliver and implement the Council's responsibilities identified across all workstreams in the Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan.

5. Natural Environment

The Natural Environment workstream looks at the land, water, air, trees, plants and wildlife that make up the natural world around us. It considers how human activity is impacting on these elements and how predicted changes in climate could impact them. It also explores how we can protect and enhance our natural environment to increase sequestration, improve air quality, strengthen biodiversity and improve land management. Natural Environment interacts other workstreams (for instance identifying areas for afforestation and changing land management practices under the Farming and Food workstream or exploring potential for biodiversity or environmental net gain from new developments under the Built Environment workstream). It is an area within which Local Authorities have some influence and control through town and country planning, council assets and operations, as well as acting as an enabler and supporter for others. The County-wide Framework identifies three priority themes for Natural Environment: Sequestration and Land Usage Change; Landscape Resilience; and Co-ordination and Data Collection. The SWT Framework builds on these themes to identify directions of travel for each theme and key tasks which could help to see early progress and support more detailed action and project development.

5.1 Sequestration and Land Usage Change

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that across the district, opportunities for afforestation, environmental protection, habitat creation and climate adaptation are maximised and potential realised;
- Ensure that, working with partners, a consistent new approach to land management practices is agreed and delivered across the district to build on the above and deliver against the Pollinator Action Plan; and
- Ensure that the Council provides leadership by ensuring our own actions and operations are as environmentally friendly as possible and empowering residents to take responsibility for managing areas of land appropriately.

Key early tasks:

- Refreshing the Council's open space management plans, adaptation plans and open space information boards to ensure they align with and support action to deliver mitigation and adaptation to the climate emergency and help to explain why we are managing spaces differently;
- Preparing a community 'call for sites' to empower residents to manage open spaces on behalf of the Council and partners in line with the Pollinator Action Plan;
- Mapping and quantifying opportunities for wildflower meadows, habitat creation and tree planting schemes across the district, overlaying Council and other public sector land ownerships to identify potential early deliverable projects. Aim to initiate 3-4 flagship pilot areas in year one;
- Building on the above mapping exercise, prepare bids for round 2 of the Urban Tree Challenge Fund and other available tree planting and woodland creation grants in 2020;
- Building on the 'Green Makeover' ideas identified in the Taunton Garden Town Vision including promoting a scheme for residents to plant apple trees in every garden and increase tree cover;
- Exploring the potential to use Council-owned nurseries to grow our own trees, to reduce the costs and potentially emissions associated with transporting trees to be planted in the district from elsewhere; and

- Exploring potential to incorporate proposals for biodiversity or environmental net gain and protection of soil quality into Local Plan Review.

5.2 Landscape Resilience

Direction of travel:

- Ensure our landscape and ecosystems are adapted and resilient to projected climatic changes; and
- Ensure that an appropriate balance is found between the mitigation and adaptation benefits and local landscape and visual amenity and other short/medium/long term environmental impacts of emerging projects and proposals.

Key early tasks:

- Factoring landscape sensitivity and biodiversity and habitat vulnerability in to proposed renewable energy and afforestation opportunity mapping exercises in particular; and
- Incorporating appropriate policy wording in relation to striking the balance between landscape impacts and wider mitigation and adaptation benefits into Local Plan Review.

5.3 Co-ordination and Data Collection

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that a coherent, complementary and holistic approach to mitigation and adaptation is taken across the Natural Environment, Farming and Food and Water workstreams and all potential partners.

Key early tasks:

- Collating and sharing relevant data and evidence across the workstreams and with partners to ensure all projects and proposals can be grounded in the same evidence base;
- Engaging with stakeholders across these workstreams collectively in order to avoid duplication and divergence.

6. Transport

The Transport workstream looks at how we move and travel and considers ways to create an accessible, efficient and fit for purpose carbon neutral transportation system for the people and businesses of the district. It explores how we can reduce the need to travel, increase active travel and levels of public, shared and community transport, and decarbonise personal and logistics transport. Transport interacts other workstreams (for instance exploring strong transport planning policies under the Built Environment workstream or development of an electric vehicle (EV) charging strategy under the Energy workstream). It is an area within which Local Authorities have a good level of influence and control through transport planning, town and country planning, regeneration and other development opportunities, council operations, as well as acting as an enabler and supporter for others. The County-wide Framework identifies three priority themes for Transport: Public Transport; Personal Transport; and Logistics, Planning and Innovation. The SWT Framework builds on these themes to identify directions of travel for each theme and key tasks which could help to see early progress and support more detailed action and project development.

6.1 Public Transport

Direction of travel:

- Ensure the district is well served by an efficient and fit for purpose public and community transport system to make it the easier option for residents and business people for both short and long journeys;
- Ensure that public and community transport is decarbonised; and
- Ensure that barriers to the use of public and community transport are overcome and encouragements and incentives enable public and community transport to become the default choice for most people where active travel is not possible.

Key early tasks:

- Continuing and redoubling efforts to re-open Wellington train station;
- Re-visiting Taunton Bus Rapid Transit proposals and exploring potential for a wider mass rapid transit system along the A38;
- Exploring opportunities to transition bus fleets to electric/hybrid/ULEV with bus companies;
- Exploring ways to improve the attractiveness and supplement the viability of the Taunton Park and Ride service;
- Exploring how technology and subsidy could be used to enable public or community transport services to be viably reinstated to rural communities;
- Reviewing the strategy for public, workplace and private parking spaces and charges in our town centres to ensure that they support the push to public and community transport;
- Engaging with Somerset County Council, the Peninsula Transport Shadow Sub National Transport Body and public and community transport companies to collectively work through barriers to use of public transport and identify solutions.

6.2 Personal Transport

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that active travel (e.g. cycling, walking, running) is the default choice for shorter journeys, with public, community and shared transport all being preferable to personal vehicle use for all other journeys;
- Ensure that infrastructure is well thought through, funded, delivered, improved and transformed to enable this to be the case, with active travel infrastructure being coherent, direct, safe, comfortable and attractive;

- Ensure that barriers to active travel are minimised and that the public are informed and incentivised to choose active travel for suitable journeys; and
- Ensure that the public and businesses are well informed about EVs (benefits and impacts) and that EV charging infrastructure is delivered in appropriate locations across the district to support transition.

Key early tasks:

- Incorporating the transport hierarchy alluded to above into policies of the Local Plan Review, project development, regeneration developments and funding decisions, and exploring potential for reduced and car-free developments in appropriate locations;
- Researching and evidencing the specific local physical, mental, and perceived barriers to active travel in different circumstances and in different parts of the district in order to more effectively target and support engagement, education, incentives and interventions;
- Working with Somerset County Council, Taunton Area Cycle Campaign and other partners to develop detailed and costed designs for projects identified in the Taunton Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and explore potential to develop LCWIPs for other towns in the district. Ensuring that relevant and costed projects are included in any SCC bid to the Local Pinch Point Fund in January 2020;
- Exploring opportunities for further walking and cycling routes such as between Wellington and Taunton and between the Comeytrowe-Trull Urban Extension and Vivary Park/South Road in Taunton;
- Building on the 'Moving Cleaner, Moving Smarter' ideas identified in the Taunton Garden Town Vision including prioritising cycling and walking schemes for all abilities and giving more street space to buses and cyclists and improving the walking experience of the town;
- Exploring potential for car club and pool bike schemes in both urban and rural parts of the district;
- Looking into ways to encourage and incentivise staff to commute and conduct business mileage by walking and cycling;
- Working across the county to develop an EV Charging Strategy for Somerset, incorporating appropriate policies relating to EV charge points into the Local Plan Review and exploring ways for the Council to lead by example through installation of charge points in Council-owned car parks;
- Delivering projects funded through the Council's Community Charge Point Fund;
- Exploring ways to reasonably deter personal car use, whilst protecting the most vulnerable in society and ensuring they are not the hardest hit;
- Exploring the potential effects and impacts of reducing speed limits in our town centres and on key approach roads; and
- Researching the full life-cycle impacts of new EVs in order to evidence when the Council should transition its corporate fleet to EV.

6.3 Logistics, Planning and Innovation

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that the need to travel to access services and employment bases is reduced;
- Ensure that technological advances and innovations support and enable cleaner and smarter use of the transport network, public modal choice and logistics;

Key early tasks:

- Exploring ways to further improve the coverage, speed, resilience and reliability of digital connectivity across the district, including full fibre and 5G networks;
- Incorporating digital connectivity requirements and requirements for new homes to be within a reasonable proximity of basic services into policies of the Local Plan Review;
- Building on the 'Moving Cleaner, Moving Smarter' proposal in the Taunton Garden Town Vision for transport in the town to be smart, connected and electrified;
- Exploring ways to use technology to inform and incentivise the public to make more sustainable travel choices such as through real time information and gamification; and
- Exploring opportunities for smart, shared and active last-mile delivery solutions in feasible locations around the district.

7. Waste

The Waste workstream looks at the waste produced across the district and considers how best to improve management within the waste hierarchy of refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle. It explores how we can build the value of certain waste materials to develop a more circular economy and how we can use our position of community leadership to change habits and practices within our communities. Waste interacts other workstreams (for instance building a more circular economy and engaging with businesses over their waste management under the Industry, Business and Supply Chain workstream or requiring best practice waste management in new developments under the Built Environment workstream). It is an area within which Local Authorities have a good level of influence and control through statutory waste responsibilities, town and country planning, council operations, as well as acting as an enabler and supporter for others. The County-wide Framework identifies three priority themes for Waste: Commercial Waste and the Circular Economy; Residential Waste and Behaviour Change; and Public Sector Waste. The SWT Framework builds on these themes to identify directions of travel for each theme and key tasks which could help to see early progress and support more detailed action and project development.

7.1 Commercial Waste and the Circular Economy

Direction of travel:

- Ensure businesses across the district are more aware of the impacts of their commercial waste and are working to reduce waste and improve recycling rates;
- Ensure considerable improvements are made in the level of commercial waste recycled and reused across the district; and
- Ensure significant steps are made towards development of a circular economy across the district/county/region.

Key early tasks:

- Engaging with businesses through Locality Leads and Business Improvement Districts to identify current waste management practices, celebrate and share best practice and identify what support and guidance they need to improve;
- Exploring the development of a collaborative procurement pilot with businesses in Taunton town centre to secure greater levels of recycling and separated waste collections for associated businesses more akin to domestic collections;
- Continuing to engage with the University of Exeter-led ExeMPLaR research project in building a regional circular plastics economy, and identifying opportunities to trial and showcase proposals arising from this work; and
- Exploring potential for trials of Deposit Return Schemes and Extended Producer Responsibility with local businesses.

7.2 Residential Waste and Behaviour Change

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that we continue to support the direction of the Somerset Waste Partnership and the high level ambitions identified through the Somerset Climate Emergency Framework including improving our already very good levels of domestic waste recycling, reducing domestic food waste and diverting residual waste away from landfill to generate energy;
- Ensure that forthcoming changes in recycling and refuse collections are effectively communicated and our residents understand why they are required and support them; and
- Ensure new development fosters sustainable waste management behaviours.

Key early tasks:

- Communicating forthcoming changes to domestic refuse and recycling collections to be brought in by "Recycle More", and the "Slim my waste, feed my face" food waste reduction campaign;
- Engaging with residents to improve understanding of the waste hierarchy and how their waste is managed;
- Incorporating requirements for sustainable waste management to be built into new developments into the Local Plan Review and emerging design guides;
- Exploring opportunities for community reuse and repair shops and engaging with the public to raise awareness;

7.3 Public Sector Waste

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that Council controlled waste is effectively reduced and all remaining waste is appropriately redirected to reuse, recycling or energy production;
- Ensure that the Council removes single-use items from Council operations by as early a date as reasonably possible;
- Ensure that the Council leads by example as a role model to other local authorities and local businesses; and
- Ensure waste does not enter the wider environment (in particular watercourses).

Key early tasks:

- Baselining Council internal service waste streams, single-use items and end uses, and exploring specific measures to reduce the amount of waste we produce, improve our levels of reuse and recycling and diverting residual waste away from landfill to energy generation;
- Exploring ways to reduce waste from deliveries and improve waste management in supply chains;
- Incorporating improved public recycling and litter bins into Council regeneration developments and Public Space Improvement Projects in Taunton town centre and exploring opportunities for rollout in other parts of the district; and
- Setting up a community of practice with other public sector bodies and local businesses to work collectively towards improving public sector and commercial waste management across the district.

8. Water

The Water workstream looks at how we mitigate and adapt to the water-related risks posed by climate change (such as increased flood risk, drought risk and water stress). It also considers our impacts on water quality as well as the significant energy demands associated with water and waste water treatment and how we can reduce demand. Water interacts other workstreams (for instance identifying opportunities to plant trees and manage land differently to slow the flow under the Natural Environment and Farming and Food workstreams or requiring new developments to incorporate water efficiency measures under the Built Environment workstream). It is an area within which Local Authorities have a good level of influence and control through statutory risk management authority and coastal protection authority responsibilities, health and wellbeing responsibilities, town and country planning and council land ownerships, as well as acting as an enabler and supporter for others. The County-wide Framework identifies three priority themes for Water: Strategy and Policy; Data Collection and Analysis; and Schemes and Initiatives. The SWT Framework builds on these themes to identify directions of travel for each theme and key tasks which could help to see early progress and support more detailed action and project development.

8.1 Strategy and Policy

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that all Council strategies and policies are informed by, reflect and align with up to date flood risk and coastal change data including the most recent climate change projections and associated risks;
- Ensure that flood and coastal change mitigation and adaptation strategies are in place for areas of the district that are at most risk;
- Ensure that new development does not adversely impact water quality;
- Ensure that energy required to treat water and waste water locally is reduced and decarbonised and opportunities to generate energy from water and treatment are harnessed where suitable and viable; and
- Ensure that strategies and policies are developed to reduce water demand and losses across all sectors.

Key early tasks:

- Incorporating appropriate and necessary policies regarding flood risk, sequential test, coastal change management, water quality protection and water efficiency into the Local Plan Review;
- Incorporating guidance on managing water and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in developments into emerging design guides drawing on experiences and schemes delivered through the SPONGE 2020 project amongst others;
- Endorsing and publishing the Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation Improvements (TSFAI) Project Delivery Plan;
- Exploring potential necessity for further flood mitigation and adaptation plans (including frameworks for monitoring and managing retreat) to be developed for other parts of the district as identified to be at high risk through the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) or otherwise;
- Completing the Taunton Waterways Action Plan;
- Incorporating projects and proposals from the TSFAI and Taunton Waterways Action Plan into the Taunton Garden Town Delivery Plan;
- Committing to identify a Member Champion for water and deliver Member and officer technical training in order to raise knowledge and awareness within the Council; and

- Exploring how water and waste water treatment processes can improve energy efficiency, carbon intensity and renewable energy generation with key stakeholders.

8.2 Data Collection and Analysis

Direction of travel:

- Ensure resilience to flooding by understanding and mapping the risks of fluvial, coastal, ground and surface water flooding across the district and ensuring they are up to date and incorporate the latest climate projections;
- Ensure resilience to water emergencies by understanding the risks of drought, water stress, storms and peak water locally, incorporating the latest climate projections; and
- Ensure effective management, monitoring and forecasting of flood risk, water quantity and quality, and water usage underpins our strategies, policies and projects.

Key early tasks:

- Publishing the recently completed Level 1 SFRA and developing the Level 2 SFRA as the Local Plan Review progresses;
- Analysing and publishing the projected localised impacts of climate change; and
- Exploring opportunities to improve local data gathering and monitoring through partnership working and trialling innovative new technologies as part of intelligent solutions.

8.3 Schemes and Initiatives

Direction of travel:

- Ensure projects identified in strategies are delivered in priority order;
- Ensure that opportunities to extend and build on successful projects are explored and taken;
- Ensure that existing schemes and infrastructure are resilient to the most recent climate projections and kept under review;
- Ensure that schemes and initiatives are developed in partnership with multi-agency stakeholders;
- Ensure that we reduce water usage and management across Council operations; and
- Ensure that public and businesses across the district are aware and actively working to reduce water demand and losses.

Key early tasks:

- Progressing projects identified in the TSFAI in line with the recommended priority order;
- Exploring opportunities for further SUDS retrofit schemes around the district, building on the SPONGE 2020 project;
- Exploring opportunities for cost-effective natural flood management and land management solutions building on the FWAG Triple C project;
- Auditing existing schemes and infrastructure to ensure that they are compliant with latest climate projections;
- Baselining water use and management within our Council operations and processes with a view to identifying ways to improve our current performance;
- Identifying large water users across the district and working with these businesses and sectors to develop water saving initiatives and develop best practice;

- Researching and mapping major water quality influencers across the district with a view to developing appropriate solutions; and
- Engaging with the public and businesses to raise awareness of the energy and carbon footprint associated with water, how they can reduce water usage and losses and the benefits of doing so.

9. Communications and Engagement

The Communications and Engagement workstream ultimately looks to deliver carbon neutral lives with confidence by embarking on a mission to help shape new climate behaviours. It looks at how we get the message about the need for climate action out to the public, how we grow confidence and knowledge in the public to take action and ensure that our plans and projects are palatable to, informed by and owned and actioned by our communities. Communications and Engagement interacts with all other workstreams in one way or another and will be vital to the success of delivering action. It is an area within which Local Authorities have a good level of influence as we have interactions with almost all persons in the district to different degrees through our various services. The County-wide Framework identifies three priority themes for Communications and Engagement: Engagement and Consultation; Internal Communications and External Communications. The SWT Framework builds on these themes to identify directions of travel for each theme and key tasks which could help to see early progress and support more detailed action and project development.

9.1 Engagement and Consultation

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that we enable collective action and collective solutions to be developed; and
- Ensure that our engagement and consultation is inclusive.

Key early tasks:

- Publishing this Framework document and future iterations of the Plan both online and in a small number of public locations in hard copy;
- Delivering an online survey to support consultation;
- Organising a Climate Summit in Taunton;
- Organising a Business Climate Summit in Taunton;
- Working closely with stakeholders including town and parish councils to organise multiple business and community roadshow events across the district;
- Organising engagement events with schools and colleges across the district;
- Engaging directly with key identified stakeholders; and
- Exploring opportunities for ongoing engagement with communities and stakeholders.

9.2 Internal Communication

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that we enable, inspire and grow confidence in abilities for action with staff and Members both in work and at home;
- Ensure officers and Members are equipped and empowered to disseminate the need for action and what people can do to their own personal networks;
- Ensure that officers and Members not directly involved in production of the Plan, actions or projects get the opportunity to effectively influence and input to their development.

Key early tasks:

- Developing the Plan, actions and projects with the Climate Change Member Working Group;
- Organising Member and staff briefing sessions and learning and development sessions; and

- Communicating on issues, action and solutions via the Member and staff intranet, emails and newsletter.

9.3 External Communication

Direction of travel:

- Ensure that we are open and transparent in all communications with the public;
- Ensure we use our position of influence across the district to communicate key messages about the need for action, how we and others are taking action and ultimately inspire and build confidence in the public about how they can make a difference to achieving our target;
- Ensure we use a wide range of communication methods to improve the spread of the community that we reach;
- Ensure that we effectively foster the need for collective responsibility and action, and communicate the extent of the Council's role and influence; and
- Ensure that we coherently and effectively communicate the need for national legislative, regulatory and policy change to central Government in close co-operation with other local authorities and partners.

Key early tasks:

- Launching a dedicated webpage within the Council's website to host updates, key documents, consultations, surveys, case studies and other materials;
- Launching a communications campaign to support consultation on each iteration of the County-wide strategy and SWT Plan; and
- Developing and launching a clear and simple awareness raising communications campaign focused on providing people with inspiration and ideas for action and raising awareness of the consequences of different activities.

Taking action

Our best chance of achieving carbon neutrality lies in taking co-ordinated action aligned to a well thought through strategy. This enables us to maximise any co-benefits, achieve economies of scale, improve attractiveness to investment, and ensure we are more aware of secondary consequences and any conflicting ideas/projects.

However, it is action (and early action) that really matters. It is important that we don't stifle projects that are clearly good ideas and which will contribute to meeting our target. We have already taken action that contributes towards achieving our target, and we are continuing to develop and deliver other actions alongside production of the County-wide Strategy and SWT Plan. Some of the more recent actions are briefly summarised below.

Taunton Garden Town Vision

Our target to achieve carbon neutrality and climate resilience featured heavily in the Garden Town Vision document which we adopted in July, and will continue to shape the Garden Town Delivery Plan, Charter and Checklist and Public Realm Design Guide.

Disclosure to CDP

In July we disclosed the district's emissions and the Council's current climate action to CDP – a not-for-profit charity which collates, aggregates and publishes data from companies and cities/authorities across the globe, tracks progress in reducing emissions and wider environmental impacts and evaluates and benchmarks performance against peers. We have not yet received the evaluation of our submission.

Climate Emergency governance

Over the last few months we have set up internal and cross-authority governance arrangements to oversee and agree development of the County-wide Strategy and SWT Plan which will enable us to work effectively to deliver the strategy documents and ultimately deliver the actions identified.

Financial support for Taunton Park and Ride

In July we agreed to provide additional financial contributions to support the viable delivery of Taunton's Park and Ride service until March 2020.

Local Plan Review

We recently announced the timetable for our Local Plan Review, which will see us consult on an Issues & Options document later this year. The Local Plan represents an important opportunity to deliver on some important tasks set out in this Framework.

Community Charge Point Fund

In August we wrote to town and parish councils across the district inviting them to submit funding bids to install community EV charge points in publicly accessible locations. The Council has set aside a £20,000 pot to deliver successful proposals.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

In July we completed a Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment covering Somerset West and Taunton and South Somerset districts. This provides an important baseline of current and future flood risk across the district and is the basis upon which we will need to develop future mitigation and adaptation strategies and projects.

Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation Improvements Project Delivery Plan
In October we will be publishing the Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation Improvements PDP which provides a framework and costed programme of works to deliver protection to Taunton against fluvial flooding.

SPONGE 2020
Somerset County Council and Westcountry Rivers Trust have led on development of this European funded project which works with local people to develop innovative, nature-based solutions to address surface water flood risk. This summer, raingardens and sustainable urban drainage systems have been installed with community help to Middleway, Lyngford Park Primary School and Holway Park Primary School.

St James Street pedestrianisation
In May we worked closely with Somerset County Council to close St James Street in Taunton to traffic as part of a 12 month pedestrianisation trial to improve public space in the town centre. Monitoring of impacts is ongoing.

Committee reports
We have recently added requirements to assess and summarise the climate and sustainability implications of recommendations to Council committees, specifically referencing the Council's declaration of a climate emergency and carbon neutrality target. This will help to ensure that Members and officers are cognisant of how the decisions being made will impact on this commitment.

Procurement
We are in the process of incorporating wording into our procurement processes that will aim to ensure that our suppliers and partners are actively working towards reducing their carbon and environmental footprints.

Auditing Council housing stock
We are in the process of auditing our retained Council housing stock to understand opportunities for sustainable retrofit and where to prioritise action.

Wellington Warmer Homes
In 2016, the Council began a pilot scheme to identify and tackle some of the most energy inefficient and fuel poorest of its retained housing stock. The project focused on 111 non-traditional homes in Wellington which were collectively subjected to a fabric first upgrades including new windows, external wall insulation, positive input ventilation systems and in some cases air source heat pumps. The scheme has been branded a complete success and all of the properties increased their EPC ratings from E/F up to C.

Wildflower planting and re-wilding
The Council is in the process of scoping out opportunities to plant wildflowers and re-wild various areas of roadside verges, parks and open spaces.

What next?

Over the next 9-12 months we will be working up the Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan. This Framework document represents the first step of that process and proposes a direction of travel for us to work around as we develop action plans and identify projects to help us meet and monitor progress against our targets.

This document sets out where we think we need to head on a variety of issues, but we want to hear what you think and listen to your proposals for action. We want to know what you are already doing and if it is something that could be rolled out to other areas and communities.

We want the Plan to be influenced by but also owned by the people, businesses and communities of the district, so over November and December we will be consulting on this Framework document.

You can send us your thoughts and comments on the Framework document by responding to our online survey at ……., by emailing……., or by writing to…… or by talking to us at one of the engagement events planned across the district:

Insert arrangements for engagement events here…

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Hard copies of the Framework can be viewed at Deane House in Taunton and West Somerset House in Wiliton, as well as at the following libraries:

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Following our initial consultation and engagement on this Framework we will be developing a Draft Plan. The Draft Plan will begin to identify specific actions and projects which are required to achieve our targets. We expect the Draft Plan to be completed in early Spring 2020, with a view to further consultation and engagement, before completion of the final Plan in Summer 2020.

References

[i] UN Environment (2018) Business unusual: the shift to "carbon neutral" available at https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/business-unusual-shift-carbon-neutral [accessed 06/08/2019]
[2] UN Secretary-General António Guterres at the 2018 UN General Assembly available at https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-09-10/secretary-generals-remarks-climate-change-delivered [accessed 05/09/2019]
[3] IPCC (2018) *Global Warming of 1.5˚C. An IPCC Special Report 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*, available at https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/06/SR15_Full_Report_Low_Res.pdf [accessed 05/09/2019], p.4
[4] IPCC, p.vi
[5] IPCC, p.33
[6] The CCC (2019) *Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming*, available at https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/ [accessed 05/09/2019]
[7] World Bank (2018) *Gross Domestic Product 2018* available at https://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/GDP.pdf [accessed 26/09/2019]
[8] UN Environment (2018) Business unusual: the shift to "carbon neutral" available at https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/business-unusual-shift-carbon-neutral [accessed 06/08/2019]
[9] The CCC (2019) *Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming*, available at https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/ [accessed 05/09/2019]

Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme 2019/20

9th October (DH)	6th November (DH)	4th December (WSH)	8th January (DH)	5th February (DH)	March (WSH)	*TBC*
Somerset Climate Change Strategy Task and Finish Group Update – G Thompson	Social Value – M. Leeman.	Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Annual Fund Review – C. Gale	Travellers Policy Update – Ann Rhodes	HRA Budget 2020/21 – P Fitz/E Collacott		Leisure Operator Performance Update
	Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy – H Bryant/ M Leeman	Infrastructure planning, Governance arrangements and CIL Funding Update – N Bryant	Housing Strategy Action Plan for SWT – M Leeman January 2020	General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Estimates 2020/21 – P Fitz/E Collacott		
	Citizens Advice service delivery and transformation proposals – M.Leeman	Budget Update – P Fitzgerald	Empty Homes Update Report – S Perry	Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2020/21 P Fitz/E Collacott		Somerset Waste Partnership – Business Plan and budget
	Hinkley Phase 3 Housing Funding Strategy – M Leeman		HRA Business Plan – S Boland	Investment Strategy 2020/21 P Fitz/E Collacott		Business Planning for 2020
			Performance Update – M Riches (For Information Report)	Capital Strategy 2020/21 - P Fitz/E Collacott		East Quay Wall Repairs – C Hall
