

**Wednesday, 25th May, 2022,
6.15 pm**

**The John Meikle Room - The Deane
House**

Members:

Agenda

1. Appointment of Vice-Chair

2. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Community
Scrutiny Committee**

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the
Community Scrutiny Committee held on 23rd February 2022.

4. 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.)

5. 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.

(Pages 5 - 14)

We are now live webcasting most of our committee meetings and you are welcome to view and listen to the discussion. The link to each webcast will be available on the meeting webpage, but you can also access them on the [Somerset West and Taunton webcasting website](#).

6. Community Scrutiny Request/Recommendation Trackers (Pages 15 - 20)

To update the Community Scrutiny Committee on the progress of resolutions and recommendations from previous meetings of the Committee.

7. Community Scrutiny Forward Plan (Pages 21 - 22)

To receive items and review the Forward Plan.

8. Executive and Full Council Forward Plans (Pages 23 - 28)

To review the Forward Plans of the Executive and Full Council.

9. Somerset West and Taunton, Department for Transport Escooter Trial (Pages 29 - 52)

This matter is the responsibility of the Executive Member for Climate Change.

Report Author: Sue Tomlinson, Programme Manager for Climate Change.

The escooter trial in Somerset West and Taunton is an approved scheme which forms part of the Department for Transport escooter trials, launched in July 2020.

The Department for Transport is collecting data from all trial areas and this data will inform decision making regarding any new legislation.

The Somerset West and Taunton trial went live 30 October 2020 in Taunton and 5 June 2021 in Minehead. All trials are due to end 30 November 2022.

This report provides an update on the scheme based on questions raised by the Community Scrutiny Committee.

10. Ecological Emergency Action Plan (Pages 53 - 102)

This matter is the responsibility of the Executive Member for Climate Change.

Report Author: Katherine Church, Project Manager, Climate Change.

The Ecological Emergency Vision and Action Plan (EEVAP) is a joint initiative between Somerset West and Taunton and Sedgemoor District Councils. The vision sets out our ambitions for nature recovery and the action plan is the framework through which we will deliver these ambitions. This work builds on the nature-based actions listed within the Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Action Plan (CNCR) with a particular focus on nature recovery.

If approved, the vision and action plan will embed ecological actions across work streams and will deliver ecological enhancement and protection across the two districts and beyond. In the advent of unitary, the EEVAP sets a precedent and a template for collaboration which can be duplicated across the county after vesting day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Pritchard', with a horizontal line underneath.

ANDREW PRITCHARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussions. There is time set aside at the beginning of most meetings to allow the public to ask questions. Speaking under "Public Question Time" is limited to 3 minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes. The Committee Administrator will keep a close watch on the time and the Chair will be responsible for ensuring the time permitted does not overrun. The speaker will be allowed to address the Committee once only and will not be allowed to participate further in any debate. Except at meetings of Full Council, where public participation will be restricted to Public Question Time only, if a member of the public wishes to address the Committee on any matter appearing on the agenda, the Chair will normally permit this to occur when that item is reached and before the Councillors begin to debate the item.

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

The meeting room, including the Council Chamber at The Deane House are on the first floor and are fully accessible. Lift access to The John Meikle Room, is available from the main ground floor entrance at The Deane House. The Council Chamber at West Somerset House is on the ground floor and is fully accessible via a public entrance door. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are available across both locations. An induction loop operates at both The Deane House and West Somerset House to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. For further information about the meeting, please contact the Governance and Democracy Team via email: governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

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SWT Community Scrutiny Committee - 23 February 2022

Present: Councillor Libby Lisgo (Chair)

Councillors Dave Mansell, Ian Aldridge, Simon Coles, Tom Deakin, Ed Firmin, Steve Griffiths, Janet Lloyd, Andy Milne, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Ray Tully, Sarah Wakefield and Loretta Whetlor

Officers: Andrew Pritchard, James Barra, Chris Brown, Stuart Noyce, Kerry Prisco and Steve Hughes

Also Present: Councillors Derek Perry and Francesca Smith

(The meeting commenced at 6.18 pm)

79. Apologies

The Chair advised that the running order of the agenda for the meeting had changed. Items eleven and twelve were brought forward in the running order to immediately follow item eight.

Apologies were received from councillors Richard Lees, Dawn Johnson who instead joined the meeting via Zoom, Andrew Pritchard who was substituted by Ian Aldridge, Mark Lithgow who was substituted by Ed Firmin and John Hunt who was substituted by Loretta Whetlor.

80. Minutes of the previous meeting of the Community Scrutiny Committee

The Committee resolved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the Community Scrutiny Committee held on 27th January 2022.

81. Declarations of Interest

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 S Coles | All Items | SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr T Deakin | All Items | Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr D Johnson | All Items | SCC | Personal | Spoke |
| Cllr L Lisgo | All Items | Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr J Lloyd | All Items | Wellington & Sampford Arundel | Personal | Spoke and Voted |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Cllr D Mansell | All Items | Wiveliscombe | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr A Milne | All Items | Porlock | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr D Perry | All Items | Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke |
| Cllr F Smith | All Items | Taunton Charter Trustee | Personal | Spoke |
| Cllr V Stock- Williams | All Items | Wellington | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr R Tully | All Items | West Monkton | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr L Whetlor | All Items | Watchet | Personal | Spoke and Voted |

82. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

83. **Community Scrutiny Request/Recommendation Trackers**

The Committee resolved to note the request and recommendation trackers.

84. **Community Scrutiny Forward Plan**

The Committee resolved to note the Community Scrutiny Forward Plan.

85. **Executive and Full Council Forward Plans**

It was asked whether the Longforth Masterplan and the Wellington and Cullompton Stations Governance Arrangements reports were the same item. Officers responded that they would seek confirmation and provide a written response to the committee.

The Committee resolved to note the Forward Plans.

86. **Sports and Leisure Management (Everyone Active) Bi-Annual Report**

The Chair welcomed David Greenwood and Mark Washington from Sports and Leisure Management Ltd (SLM), Everyone Active.

The Assistant Director for Commercial Services introduced David Greenwood, the Regional Contractor Manager and Mark Washington, Contract Manager for Everyone Active who ran the Council's leisure facilities on behalf of the Council. Updated the Committee that the report came to Community Scrutiny as part of the commitment in place to report every six months on the performance of the contract. The report covered the period April-September 2021.

David Greenwood and Mark Washington delivered a presentation on Everyone Active and raised the below points:

- Had been working with the Council as their leisure partner for nearly three years but they had not been a normal three years due to the pandemic. Commenced the contract on 1st August 2019, almost immediately started on the agreed refurbishment programme for the buildings which ran until the end of 2019. The pandemic then began in February.
- The pandemic limited what leisure could be offered at different points over the reporting period. At the start of 2021 a national lockdown was in place. From 29th March outdoor leisure facilities, such as tennis courts were allowed to reopen. Leisure centres were allowed to open from mid-April but with severe restrictions. From May could open up further and then from July could run the leisure centre as normal as all restrictions were removed.
- Performance for April-September 2021 gradually improved over the period. In October there was continued improvement however, from November and December performance dropped again due to the Omicron Variant emerging.
- Gym membership numbers had now picked up. Blackbrook and Wellington were very healthy in terms of membership, Wellsprings was not doing quite as well.
- Swimming lessons are doing well across the centres. There was significant demand for swimming lessons following children not having been able to have them during lockdown. However, there were limited teachers in the industry and there were limited time slots for swimming lessons.
- As part of Community Outreach Everyone Active delivered community walks. The Ruishton and Creech St Michael Health Walks had now resumed following Covid.
- The golf course and high ropes in Vivary Park had done very well and had benefitted from the number of staycations which Covid had led to. However, the recent storm had caused some challenges as a result of trees coming down but Everyone Active were looking forward to the summer and hoped to have another good season.
- Have been planning for events throughout 2022 and would continue to organise more events. In particular, were looking to hold more arts and culture events at Wellsprings.
- Most feedback received had been positive and actions had been taken based on feedback. For example, online booking had been implemented during the pandemic and maintained since based on feedback.
- October was an excellent month but then Omicron slowed progress. However, January trading had been strong as public confidence increased.
- Staffing was a challenge due to the national staffing shortage.
- A new national chain gym was due to open soon in Taunton which could impact upon Everyone Active's recovery.

During the debate the following points were raised:

- It was asked what had been done in terms of marketing to get people back into the gym who had previously attended. It was responded by SLM that significant marketing had been undertaken. Pricing of membership options were also lower than prior to the pandemic to hopefully attract new members. Had done some outreach work and were going to increase this to raise awareness of Everyone Active and attract people in.

- It was asked if research had been done about the barriers to people re-joining gyms. It was responded by SLM that extensive research had been done. The rate of recovery following Covid had been relatively quick. However, some aspects, such as rehabilitation facilities had not rebounded so quickly as they were aimed at a more vulnerable demographic who were more cautious about returning after Covid. The pattern Everyone Active was seeing was the pattern that would be expected.
- It was asked how events at Wellsprings were advertised. It was responded by SLM that most event promotion was done via social media streams and targeted those most likely to wish to attend. Big ticket platforms such as SeeTickets were also used for promotions and members were sent communications about events.
- It was asked about the roof of one of the buildings which was in need of repair and who had responsibility for it. Officers responded that the repair to the roof was the responsibility of the Council as the Council still owned the building.
- It was raised that there was a lack of leisure facilities in West Somerset compared to Taunton. It was responded by SLM that they were committed to the outreach programme, which included delivering activities in West Somerset.
- It was raised that social media was not accessible for everyone in terms of advertising events.
- It was asked if membership target numbers had been reforecast since Covid. It was responded by SLM that the numbers shown were still the same long-term aspiration numbers.
- It was asked what the churn rate of members was. It was responded by SLM that about 30-40% of members had been lost during the pandemic but that most were now back. The Somerset West and Taunton sites performed at the same level as most other sites Everyone Active had across the country.
- It was asked what the return on investment was for Facebook and Google advertising. It was responded by SLM that this was tracked but they did not have the precise figures to hand.
- It was asked whether events and classes could be taken out to rural areas and about Everyone Active's future plans for its outreach programme. It was responded by SLM that the outreach programme was now starting back up after Covid and would continue to be developed. The outreach programme relied upon local community groups' support.
- It was asked if there was sufficient staff to support the membership and, if not, whether active recruitment was being undertaken. It was responded by SLM that there were sufficient staff to open centres and there was not a risk of this not being the case. However, there were some pinch points where there were limited numbers of staff such as lifeguards and swimming teachers. Active recruitment was being undertaken.

The Chair thanked David Greenwood, Mark Washington and the Assistant Director for Commercial Services for attending the meeting.

The Committee resolved to note the recommendations in the report:

2.1 The scrutiny committee is requested to support the following recommendations: -

a) Note the contents of the six-monthly update for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021

87. **Executive Portfolio Holder for Leisure - Cllr Derek Perry**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Perry.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure raised that SLM had faced challenges during the pandemic but had recovered as well as possible and were committed to starting to reinstate the Outreach Programme and expand it and highlighted that the events SLM put on were varied.

During the debate the following points were raised:

- It was asked if there was a commitment to building a swimming pool in Minehead. It was responded by the Portfolio Holder that land had been set aside and ringfenced for a pool in Minehead but the plans for delivering a pool were not all in place. It was hoped that a community led group would build the pool and deliver it, with support from the Council. However, other options for delivery instead of a community led group were being looked at in case a community led option was not viable. Nothing was guaranteed though. It was added by officers that running a leisure centre was costly, so cost was not just based on building a leisure centre, which would be a multi-million-pound cost, but also the sustainability of running the site. The land that had been ringfenced was the only suitable and viable parcel of land in the Council's ownership in the area for a leisure facility which was why it had been set aside.
- It was raised that a pool being built in the vicinity of Williton or Watchet may serve more people than a pool in Minehead based on population. The Portfolio Holder responded that the idea behind having a pool in Minehead was that fewer people would have to travel to reach it as Minehead was the most populated town in the area.
- It was raised that Everyone Active's outreach programme sessions could be delivered in local halls in West Somerset.
- The Portfolio Holder noted that there was a lack of access to facilities in West Somerset and that this contributed to the lack of opportunity in West Somerset and action should be taken to improve opportunities.
- It was asked if any further details of the intended objectives of the Outreach Programme could be given. Officers responded that Outreach had been part of SLM's bid for the contract. However, no one had anticipated the events over the first three years of the contract. Now that the impacts of the pandemic were lessening SLM would be expected to increase their outreach offer and officers would be discussing the offer with them. More details would be available at the next update to the Community Scrutiny Committee which would likely be in June.
- It was raised that the Steam Coast Trail cycle path was not complete and currently ended at Blue Anchor but would be beneficial to complete. The Portfolio Holder responded that they would look into this. Officers added that there was provision in the budget for the Steam Coast Trail with funding for it having been provided by Hinkley Point C.

- It was raised that Minehead used to have a swimming pool but it was demolished. Any pool newly opened would need to be carefully managed.

The Committee resolved to note the Portfolio Holder for Leisure's report.

Councillors Tom Deakin and David Mansell left the meeting for part of this item so could not take part in the vote on it.

88. **Community Scrutiny Chair's Annual Report**

The Committee resolved to note the report.

89. **HRA Financial Performance 2021/22 Q3**

The Portfolio Holder for Housing introduced the report:

- Noted that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was still experiencing the after-effects of Covid-19.
- Updated that the HRA overspend had been reduced to £354,000 since the last report to the Committee.

The Management Accounting Lead provided a further introduction to the report:

- Raised that the management team had taken a number of steps to reduce the projected overspend and ensure reserves could be preserved. This included improving the voids position by letting an additional 50 garages and reviewing the voids process.

During the debate the following points were raised:

- It was asked what else had been done in terms of efficiency measures to control costs and whether anything which had been done had impacted upon service delivery. Officers responded that the reduction in spending on the capital programme, partly because of Covid, had contributed to the reduced overspend. Services had not been impacted by efficiency measures. Efficiency measures which would be taken had been detailed in a previous report brought to the committee.
- It was asked how many garages remained unrented and whether thought had been given to putting electric vehicle (EV) charging points in garages ready for people with electric vehicles. Officers responded that the number of currently void garages could be provided after the meeting. EV charging points in garages had not been considered and could be looked into. Investing in EV charging points was something the Council was looking at engaging in for some of the new homes the Council was creating but there were costs and challenges which could mean that it would take time to be able to invest in EV charging points in garages.
- It was asked how the figures for depreciation were reached. Officers responded that the different components of buildings such as boilers and windows were considered, and it was calculated how much it would cost to replace these elements at current market rate. Those depreciation funds were then set aside and used to fund the replacement of these elements in properties which then leads to appreciation.

- It was asked about the projected underspend on compliance surveys of £326,000 mentioned in the report but that there was also mentioned in the report increased costs due to compliance requirements increasing. It was responded by officers that the compliance budget had been an estimated value and that not as much had been spent as anticipated. The paragraph which mentioned the increasing compliance requirements related to risks and uncertainty around compliance regulations which had not been accounted for in the budget estimates for the year.

The Committee resolved to note the recommendations in the report:

2.1 This report is to be noted as the HRA's forecast financial performance and projected reserves position for 2021/22 financial year as 31 December 2022.

90. **Wordsworth Drive and Coleridge Crescent Regeneration**

The Portfolio Holder for Housing introduced the report:

- The report concerned twelve flats at Wordsworth Drive and Coleridge Crescent which were in poor condition. A decision on their future was needed and the report highlighted a way forward.

The Assistant Director for Development and Regeneration provided a further introduction to the report:

- Had hoped to carry out decarbonisation activity on these properties to make them more environmentally friendly and bring up the standard of the properties. However, surveys had identified that the structure of these properties was poor. The properties were beyond economic repair and had reached the end of their life so it was recommended that they be decanted and demolished. The funds for decarbonisation and improvements would instead be spent on other properties. All customers currently living in the properties had been spoken to and were generally supportive, as was the one leaseholder who lived in the property. The shops had been more surprised and talks with them were ongoing as their lease would end.
- The report recommended that customers from the properties be given a Gold level banding in Homefinder. It was believed there was sufficient turnover via Homefinder for the customers to obtain suitable alternative residence within the planned timeframe for decanting the buildings. Customers in Wordsworth drive would be given Gold banding first and then a year later customers in Coleridge Crescent would be given Gold banding.
- Permission to purchase the property from the leaseholder was sought as part of the report. Before the report progresses to the Executive the intention is also to add to the report an option that if the owner occupier could not afford to purchase a market like-for-like property at the time as selling their property to the Council then the Council would provide an equity loan.
- The report detailed that compensation would need to be paid to the shop lessees.
- The buildings would be demolished once decanted.
- The report did not include options for future use of the site after demolition but a report on this would be produced on this at a later date. The land could be

left fallow for a while as it would likely allow more grant funding to be obtained.

- Ongoing tests would be undertaken on the properties until the decant took place to ensure the building and area remained safe throughout the process.

During the debate the following points were raised:

- It was asked how the equity scheme would work and whether it would be paid directly paid from the Council. It was responded by officers that this would be direct through the HRA and use HRA funds. The scheme had been used successfully previously on the North Taunton site.
- Concern was raised about leaving the land fallow for a period of time. Officers responded that leaving the land fallow for 3 to 7 years would enable significant grant funding to be obtained and that building new affordable homes would continue elsewhere in the district in the meantime.
- It was suggested that it would be worthwhile making representations to the relevant bodies regarding the issue of land needing to be kept fallow to obtain grant funding as it hindered homes being built.
- It was asked why customers needed to be put through Homefinder and why they could not just be moved from one property to another as if they had to bid for properties then they may lose the bidding process. It was responded by officers that Homefinder was a fair system for people looking for housing. It allowed customers to have choice between available properties. The customers would have Gold banding which would mean that their bid would be competing against fewer other bids and their bids would be more likely to be successful. The target was to rehouse everyone within a year of them receiving Gold banding. If there was a customer with particular needs it may be possible to directly transfer them to a suitable property, but this was not common and Homefinder was used where possible.
- It was asked if the equity loan was a lifed loan and what interest had to be paid on it. Officers responded that the equity loan was an interest free loan. Instead, the Council would receive a proportion of the growth of the property value the customer had used the equity loan to buy when they either came to sell the property or decided to buy the Council out.
- It was asked whether if the site was sold to a housing association they would be able to obtain grant funding to build homes sooner than the Council would be able to and whether this could be done to avoid leaving the land fallow. Officers responded that they would provide a written response as to whetehr this would be possible. Valuations for the site were currently being sought.
- If was asked if an equity loan was made, if it was 10% of the value of a property that was bought, as the property appreciated, the 10% would be a stake which would increase in value as the property increased in value. Officers responded that was correct.
- It was raised that if the properties were demolished then there would be fewer properties to bid for on Homefinder. Concerns were also raised about customers being able to move to local properties and stay within their local area. Officers responded that most customers had been supportive of the plans, with only two instances of customers being disappointed. Work had begun with Homefinder to look at where housing would be available. Housing needs assessments for each customer had also begun to be undertaken. It could also provide an opportunity for customers to move to properties which

better suited their needs. They may also be able to move to more energy efficient properties.

- Exploring and considering other uses relating to housing for the land if left fallow was encouraged.

The Committee resolved to note the recommendations in the report:

2.1 The Community Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the following recommendations prior to the report's progression to the Executive Committee:

(a) To approve the decanting of tenants from Wordsworth Drive Flats with the awarding of gold band status in April 2022. Gold band status will support tenants secure alternative suitable accommodation.

(b) To approve the decanting of tenants from Coleridge Crescent Flats with the awarding of gold band status at a time to be determined by the Director of Housing and Communities in conjunction with the portfolio holder for Housing.

(c) To approve the purchase through mutual consent one leasehold property at Wordsworth Drive flats and compensate the owner in line with statutory compensation requirements.

(d) To note officers will agree the closure date and compensation with the shop lessee to ensure Wordsworth block is available for demolition.

(e) To approve the demolition of Wordsworth Drive and Coleridge Crescent Flats at a time to be determined by the Director of Housing and Communities in conjunction with the portfolio holder for Housing.

(f) Officers to return to the Council with options for the future use of the site.

(g) To approve a supplementary budget of £1,111,700 and to delegate the funding of the scheme to the Section 151 Officer.

(The Meeting ended at 8.30 pm)

SOMERSET WEST AND TAUNTON COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TRACKER 2021/22

| Date of Cttee | Scrutiny Recommendation | Decision Maker /Directorate Responsible | Final Decision/ Response to recommendation/ | Date of response | Implemented? | Officer Comments/Update |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|------------------|--------------|---|
| 27 Jan 22 Page 15 | <p>To note the report of the Task and Finish Group on Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit.</p> <p>The Committee resolved to submit the entirety of the report of the Task and Finish Group to the Executive and the Leader of Council for review.</p> | Leader / Executive | | | | Officers responded that ahead of the report going to the Executive they would add further officer commentary and detail and that they would look at the wording of the recommendations to ensure it would not bind the Council to anything which would not be achievable financially. |

Total Recommendations for 21/22:

Agreed: 0

Agreed in Part: 0

Not Agreed: 0

TBD:

SOMERSET WEST AND TAUNTON COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WRITTEN ANSWERS TRACKER 2021/22

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| Date of Cttee | Scrutiny Cttee Request for information | Decision Maker /Directorate Responsible | Response to request for information | Date of response | Scrutiny Officer Comments/Update |
|---------------|---|--|--|------------------|---|
| 30/06/21 | Q) to Cllr Perry PFH - Why are the fountains not on in SWT Parks? | Cllr Perry – Parks and OS | The fountains are not working as the pump has an issue with the bearings. They have under gone various repairs and all was working really well for a few weeks, then the bearings went, we have ordered a new pump as they don't make the bearings anymore for this pump. | 23/09/21 | Cllr Lloyd – more information on Wellington |
| 6/01/22 | <p><i>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue and Capital Budget Setting 2022-23 including Dwelling Rent Setting 22-23, MTFP Update and 30-Year Business Plan Review</i></p> <p>Q) It was asked whether all new build properties the Council were building would be to a zero-carbon standard. Officers responded that they would provide a response to this after the meeting.</p> | Housing Directorate / Response from Chris Brown (Assistant Director of Development and Regeneration) | Paragraph 10.12.4: Of the 347 affordable homes in the development pipeline 115 homes will be zero carbon in occupation on the first letting and all other homes will be zero carbon if customers use green tariffs or when the grid decarbonises. All homes will provide significantly lower fuel bills to customers than other similar sized Council homes. | 09/01/22 | Please see footnote below for fuller response and points of clarification.* |

| | | | | | |
|---------|--|---|---|----------|--|
| 23/3/22 | <p><i>Wordsworth Drive and Coleridge Crescent Regeneration</i></p> <p>Q) It was asked whether if the site was sold to a housing association they would be able to obtain grant funding to build homes sooner than the Council would be able to and whether this could be done to avoid leaving the land fallow. Officers responded that they would provide a written response as to whether this would be possible. Valuations for the site were currently being sought.</p> | <p>Housing & Communities / Response from Chris Brown (Assistant Director of Development and Regeneration)</p> | <p>Officers have held a meeting with Homes England and they have confirmed that as SWT have followed a process whereby the decision to decant and demolish the properties has been taken in isolation to the decision to develop a new replacement scheme on the site by the council or RP the scheme could receive grant without the need for a fallow period. The sale of the land to an RP is therefore not a requirement should the council wish to develop the site. Officers are now exploring if the same interpretation is acceptable when using Right to Buy Receipts under the councils 1:4:1 agreement with Government. The approach the council has followed to gain approval for demolition in advance of proposing a future use for the same site has maximised the potential for subsidy and early delivery of a new scheme.</p> | 13/05/22 | |
|---------|--|---|---|----------|--|

The Council is progressing two alternative building specifications to deliver the zero carbon affordable homes standard in the district. The two specifications are very similar but have a few variations which affects how swiftly they can be considered as zero carbon homes in occupation. The approach taken by the Council has been strongly influenced by the London energy Transformation initiatives (LETI) guidance prioritising a fabric first approach and minimising power usage and then considering the use of non-fossil fuel to heat and power the homes. The key variations between the councils two specifications are presented below:

- Both standards prioritise the fabric of the building by delivering a high specification of insulation which in turn reduces the power required to heat the homes.
- The higher standard which is applied to Seaward Way, Oxford Inn and Zero Carbon Pilots includes a very high specification for air tightness which further reduces the power required to heat the property.
- The NTWP (North Taunton Woolaway Project) homes have a more standard air tightness target which means although they will require significantly less power to heat than a new build property built to the required building regulations they will not be as efficient as those homes with very high standards of air tightness.
- Both specifications have on site power and heat generation through Air Source Heat Pumps supported by photovoltaic panels and battery storage.
- All homes are powered by electricity and there is no gas supply. Therefore, the only fossil fuel used to heat or power the homes is delivered through the national grid which is not currently fully decarbonised.
- The higher specification of airtightness combined with its onsite power generation allows the properties to consume on average no more power than it generates and is therefore zero carbon on the first letting and from then onwards. Each property will mainly use the energy it has generated and any energy it uses when it cannot generate sufficient power (night-time/winter months) will be drawn from the national grid. However, the power drawn from the grid will be offset by the property's sale of excess non fossil electricity to the national grid when it generates more energy than it requires (daytime/summer).
- The second specification does require slightly more power than it can generate onsite and therefore does not have sufficient energy to offset all the power it uses. It therefore draws on the national grid to supplement its power needs. This specification achieves 80% of the gap between standard building regulations new build homes and zero carbon in first occupation homes. The gap is small and will close overtime as the grid decarbonises.
- The government is committed to decarbonising the national grid by 2050. As the grid is decarbonised all homes will benefit from the fossil free power. Customers houses in the slightly lower specification could voluntarily sign up to green energy tariffs and by doing so they could claim their home is carbon neutral in occupation from that date.
- For social landlords both specifications achieve the 2050 zero carbon standard but one requires higher investment and greater skills in construction. Currently the councils zero carbon specification has been published in a Good Homes Alliance best practice guide and SWTs second specification will be published in the next edition of best practice (subject to funding being available to the Good Homs Alliance)
- As the council considers the retrofit of its homes and its emerging strategy it faces similar considerations such as: How well can we insulate existing dwellings to minimise power consumption? What is the optimum level of air tightness an existing dwelling can achieve? What is the cost benefit of providing onsite renewable heat and power compared to decarbonised power through the national grid? What is considered a reasonable fuel cost to a household to avoid fuel poverty?

| | COMMUNITY SCRUTINY | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Meeting | Draft Agenda Items | Lead PFH/ Lead Officer |
| 29 June 2022 | Avon and Somerset Police Report | Chief Inspector Justin French |
| SRD = 17 June | Executive Cllr PFH Session - Environmental Services | |
| Exec RD - 8 July | HRA Financial Monitoring – Outturn Position 2021/22 | Kerry Prisco |
| Informal Exec RD - 7 June | PFH Report - Community | |
| SMT RD - 25 May | | |
| 27 July 2022 | (SLM) Everyone Active Bi-Annual Report | Stuart Noyce / PFH Sports, Parks & Leisure |
| SRD = 15 July | Review of Parking Strategies (TDBC & WSC) | Stuart Noyce / PFH Planning and Transport |
| Exec RD - 5 August | CCTV Review | S. Weetch / PFH Community |
| Informal Exec RD - 5 July | | |
| SMT RD - 22 June | | |
| 31 August 2022 | HRA Financial Performance 2022/23 Q1 | Kerry Prisco |
| SRD = 18 August | | |
| Exec RD - 9 September | | |
| Informal Exec RD - 9 August | | |
| SMT RD - 27 July | | |
| 28 September 2022 | | |
| SRD = 16 September | | |
| Exec RD - 7 Oct | | |
| Informal Exec RD - 6 Sept | | |
| SMT RD - 24 August | | |
| 26 October 2022 | Marina Lease | J Stevens |
| SRD = 14 Oct | | |
| Exec RD - 4 November | | |
| Informal Exec RD - 4 Oct | | |
| SMT RD - 21 Sept | | |
| 30 November 2022 | HRA Financial Performance 2022/23 Q2 | Kerry Prisco |
| SRD = 18 Nov | Housing Revenue Account 2023/24 Draft Budget Update | Kerry Prisco |
| Exec RD - 9 Dec | | |
| Informal Exec RD - 8 Nov | | |
| SMT RD - 26 Oct | | |
| 25 January 2023 | | |
| SRD = 13 Jan | | |
| Exec RD - 3 Feb | | |
| Informal Exec RD - 3 Jan | | |
| SMT RD - 14 Dec | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|
| BUDGET CYCLE | Housing Revenue and Capital Budget Setting 2023/24 including Dwelling Rent Setting 2023/24 and 30 Year Business Plan Review | Paul Fitzgerald |
| 22 February 2023 | HRA Financial Performance 2022/23 Q3 | Kerry Prisco |
| SRD = 10 Feb | | |
| Exec RD - 3 March | | |
| Informal Exec RD - 1 Feb | | |
| SMT RD - 18 Jan | | |

EXECUTIVE

| Executive Meeting | Draft Agenda Items | Lead Officer |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 15 June 2022 | Ecological Vision and Action Plan | Katherine Church |
| venue = | Task and Finish Group Report on Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit | Marcus Prouse/Cllr Dave Mansell/Cllr |
| Exec RD = 3 June | Green Space Acquisition (confidential) | Jo O'Hara |
| Informal Exec RD = 4 May | North Taunton Woolaway Project Purchases | Jane Windebank |
| SMT RD = 20 April | | |
| 20 July 2022 | GF Financial Monitoring – Outturn Position 2021/22 | Emily Collacott |
| venue = | HRA Financial Monitoring – Outturn Position 2021/22 | Kerry Prisco |
| Exec RD = 8 July | Corporate Performance Report - Outturn Position 2021/22 | Malcolm Riches |
| Informal Exec RD = 7 June | Information and Records Management Policy | Lauren Davis |
| SMT RD = 25 May | Digital Information Policy | Lauren Davis |
| | Member Information Policy | Lauren Davis |
| | Connecting our Garden Communities | Graeme Thompson |
| 17 August 2022 | CCTV | Sally Parry/Scott Weetch |
| venue = | | |
| Exec RD = 5 August | | |
| Informal Exec RD = 5 July | | |
| SMT RD = 22 June | | |
| 21 September 2022 | GF Financial Performance 2022/23 Q1 | Emily Collacott |
| venue = | HRA Financial Performance 2022/23 Q1 | Kerry Prisco |
| Exec RD = 9 September | Corporate Performance Report Q1 | Malcolm Riches |
| Informal Exec RD = 9 August | Firepool | Graeme Thompson |
| SMT RD = 27 July | NO MORE ITEMS | |
| 19 October 2022 | | |
| venue = | | |
| Exec RD = 7 October | | |
| Informal Exec RD = 6 September | | |
| SMT RD = 24 August | | |
| 16 November 2022 | Marina Lease | Andrew Pritchard/Jonathan Stevens |
| venue = | | |
| Exec RD = 4 November | | |
| Informal Exec RD = 4 October | | |
| SMT RD = 21 September | | |

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| | | |
| 21 December 2022 | GF Financial Performance 2022/23 Q2 | Emily Collacott |
| venue = | HRA Financial Performance 2022/23 Q2 | Kerry Prisco |
| Exec RD = 9 December | Corporate Performance Report Q2 | Malcolm Riches |
| Informal Exec RD = 8 November | Housing Revenue Account 2023/24 Draft Budget Update | Kerry Prisco |
| SMT RD = 26 October | General Fund 2023/24 Draft Budget Update | Emily Collacott |
| | | |
| 18 January 2023 | | |
| venue = | | |
| Exec RD = 6 January | | |
| Informal Exec RD = 6 December | | |
| SMT RD = 23 November | | |
| | | |
| Budget - TBC | Capital, Investment and Treasury Strategy 2023/24 | John Dyson |
| venue = | General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Estimates 2023/24 | Paul Fitzgerald |
| Exec RD = | Housing Revenue and Capital Budget Setting 2023/24 including Dwelling Rent Setting 2023/24 and 30 Year Business Plan Review | Paul Fitzgerald |
| Informal Exec RD = | | |
| SMT RD = | | |
| | | |
| 15 February 2023 | | |
| venue = | | |
| Exec RD = 3 February | | |
| Informal Exec RD = 3 January | | |
| SMT RD = 14 December | | |
| | | |
| 15 March 2023 | GF Financial Performance 2022/23 Q3 | Emily Collacott |
| venue = | HRA Financial Performance 2022/23 Q3 | Kerry Prisco |
| Exec RD = 3 March | Corporate Performance Report Q3 | Malcolm Riches |
| Informal Exec RD = 1 February | SWT Pay Policy | Nicky Rendell |
| SMT RD = 18 January | | |
| | | |
| Items to be Confirmed | RIPA Policy | Amy Tregellas |
| | Firepool Design Guidance and Masterplan | Graeme Thompson/Tim Bacon |
| | | |
| | | |
| Officer/Portfolio Holder Key Decision | Title | Lead Officer/PFH |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Portfolio Holder Key Decision | Contract - The Award of a Contract to MD Building Services to provide support to the Housing Property team in respect of responsive maintenance , works to major voids and out of hours support. | David Carpenter/Cllr Fran Smith |
| Portfolio Holder Key Decision | Approval to award a contract to carry out an annual programme of electrical testing and associated remedial works on circa. 1200 properties | David Carpenter/Cllr Fran Smith |
| Portfolio Holder Key Decision | ancillary roofline products (soffits and fascias) and insulation where deemed necessary | Ian Candlish/Cllr Fran Smith |

FULL COUNCIL

| Meeting | Report Deadline | Draft Agenda Items | Lead Officer |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 24 May 2022 | 12 May 2022 | Annual Council Meeting | |
| | | Council Committees for 2021/2022 and their Terms of Reference | Amy Tregellas |
| | | Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies | Clare Rendell |
| | | To authorise the sealing or signing of documents to give effect to any decisions taken | Amy Tregellas |
| | | Decision taken under the urgency rules regarding the Council Tax Discretionary Energy Payment Scheme | Paul Harding |
| | | Delegation Powers to the Parish Councils | Alison Blom-Cooper/Amy Tregellas |
| | | Temporary Appointment of Members to Town and Parish Councils | Kevin Williams/Marcus Prouse |
| 05 July 2022 | 23 June 2022 | PFH Reports | |
| | | Green Space Acquisition (confidential) | Jo O'Hara |
| | | Ecological Vision and Action Plan | Katherine Church |
| | | Decision taken under the urgency rule | Chris Hall |
| | | Petition - TACC | Sarah Ellwood |
| | | Scheme of Delegation | Kevin Williams/Marcus Prouse |
| | | Capital Supplementary Budget for the Blue Anchor Coastal Defence Scheme | Steve Hughes |
| | | Six Monthly Commercial Property Investment Performance | Joe Wharton |
| | | Placeholder | Joe Wharton |
| 06 September 2022 | 24 August 2022 | PFH Reports | |
| | | Constitution Update | Amy Tregellas/Kevin Williams |
| | | Community Governance Review for the Unparished Area of Taunton | Marcus Prouse/Kevin Williams |
| | | CCTV | Sally Parry/Scott Weetch |
| | | | |
| 05 October 2022 | TBC | Firepool | Graeme Thompson |
| | | SPECIAL MEETING - TO BE CONFIRMED | |
| 06 December 2022 | 24 November 2022 | Marina Lease | Andrew Pritchard/Jonathan Stevens |
| | | PFH Reports | |
| | | Review of the Commercial Property Investment Activity and Performance Report | Joe Wharton |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------|
| | | | |
| 07 February 2023 | 26 January 2023 | PFH Reports | |
| | | Delegation of Returning Officer for Potential Parish Election 2023 | |
| | | | |
| 23 February 2023 | TBC | Housing Revenue and Capital Budget Setting 2022/23 including Dwelling Rent Setting 2022/23 and 30 Year Business Plan Review | Paul Fitzgerald |
| Budget Only | | General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Estimates 2022/23 | Paul Fitzgerald |
| | | Council Tax Setting 2022/23 | Paul Fitzgerald |
| | | Capital, Investment and Treasury Strategy 2023/24 | John Dyson |
| 28 March 2023 | 16 March 2023 | PFH Reports | |
| | | SWT Pay Policy | Nicky Rendell |
| | | Scrutiny Annual Reports x 2 | |
| | | Audit and Governance Annual Report | |

Report Number: SWT 66/20

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Community Scrutiny Committee – 25 May 2022

Somerset West and Taunton, Department for Transport Scooter Trial (Review of the learning, feedback and strategy to date)

This matter is the responsibility of the Executive Member for Climate Change

Report Author: Sue Tomlinson, Programme Manager for Climate Change

1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The scooter trial in Somerset West and Taunton is an approved scheme which forms part of the Department for Transport scooter trials, launched in July 2020.
- 1.2 The Department for Transport is collecting data from all trial areas and this data will inform decision making regarding any new legislation.
- 1.3 The Somerset West and Taunton trial went live 30 October 2020 in Taunton and 5 June 2021 in Minehead. All trials are due to end 30 November 2022.
- 1.4 This report provides an update on the scheme based on questions raised by the Community Scrutiny Committee.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 There are no recommendations within this report; the detail is for information only.

3 Background

- 3.1 To support a 'green' restart of local travel and help mitigate reduced public transport capacity, in July 2020 the Department for Transport made regulation allowing trials of rental scooters to be fast tracked and expanded.
- 3.2 All trial proposals had to come from local authorities and the deadline to express an interest in taking part was 31 August 2020.
- 3.3 Scooter operators were only able to take part in the trials through a local authority procurement exercise and with necessary permission from the Department for Transport.
- 3.4 The Department for Transport confirmed the Somerset West and Taunton trial by issuing

a Vehicle Special Order for the scheme.

- 3.5 Trials are now live in 31 local authority regions across England and the Department for Transport have a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation programme underway to assess the safety of scooters and their wider impacts.
- 3.6 The Somerset West and Taunton trial is managed by our scooter rental operator Zipp Mobility.
- 3.7 Scooters fall within the statutory definition of a motor vehicle, and the Department for Transport has defined a subcategory for an scooter.
- 3.8 The scooters used with in the Somerset West and Taunton trial have passed the Department for Transport minimum technical requirements and are tracked by GPS and geofencing, controlled via a dashboard managed by Zipp. The scooters will only work inside of the agreed service area for Taunton and Minehead, these areas are identified on the maps within Appendix A.
- 3.9 The original expiry date for the Somerset West and Taunton trial was 25 October 2021, but all trials were extended by the Department for Transport until 31 March 2022, this was to take account of the slower start to trials because of the pandemic.
- 3.10 Trials were extended further in October 2021 by the Department for Transport to the 30 November 2022, and new Vehicle Special Orders have been issued for this change.
- 3.11 Extending the trials allows the Department for Transport to fill the data gaps, make necessary changes to ensure the trials are as safe as possible and establish best practice for shared micromobility services.
- 3.12 The Department for Transport were due to issue an interim report late last year, this report will now not be published. Ministers have decided to publish all findings as part of a final report, rather than issue a standalone publication with interim findings as originally planned. The evaluation contractor prepared an interim report with data up to June 2021. The decision not to publish was taken on the basis that this report no longer had the latest findings and the final report is due to be published shortly, although we do not currently know when.
- 3.13 The Department for Transport updated their guidance for local authorities and rental operators on the 22 February 2022. [E-scooter trials: guidance for local authorities and rental operators - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108421/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-local-authorities-and-rental-operators.pdf)
- 3.14 The Queen's Speech on Tuesday 10 May 2022 announced the Government's intention to introduce legislation on the future of transport in the new parliamentary session as part of a Transport Bill.
- 3.15 The current regulations for scooters still apply, and importantly private e-scooters remain illegal to use on public roads.
- 3.16 This week's announcement does not mean a change to the rental trials. The trials will continue to run until 30 November 2022. No decision has been made about what will happen to trials after that date.

4 Escooter Usage

4.1 Zipp provide weekly usage stats for both schemes, the table below shows the cumulative figures up to 8 May 2022.

| | Taunton | Minehead |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Total Number of Rides | 92,618 | 19,550 |
| Total Distance Travelled | 182,003 miles | 30,458 miles |
| Average Trip Length | 2.08 miles | 1.68 miles |
| Average Trip Duration | 00:15:37 | 00:16:14 |
| Average Speed | 7.98 mph | 6.23 mph |
| Total Time Spent on Scooters | 24,114 hrs | 5,287 hrs |
| Users | 12,364 | 7,506 |

4.2 The operating hours for the Somerset West and Taunton escooters were originally 6:30am until 10:30pm, this was changed in November 2021 to 5:00am until 10:30pm. Outside of these times the escooters are turned off and cannot be used.

4.3 Using daylight hour data from the WorldData website, total rides across both schemes during 2021 for daytime were 54,684 which equates to 74% of all rides and night-time rides were 19,044 which equates to 26% of all rides, see Appendix B for more detail.

5 Age of Users

5.1 All escooter users must be at least 16 years of age with a minimum of a provisional driving licence, which is used to verify their identify when they register as a new user on the Zipp App. Zipp use a third party for this verification process.

5.2 Whilst the minimum legal age to ride an escooter is 16 the number of registered users at that age is very low, currently 150 in Taunton which is 1.21% of all Taunton users and 23 in Minehead which is 0.31% of all Minehead users.

5.3 The number of rides for those aged 16 is also very low with 1,609 in Taunton which is 1.74% of all rides for Taunton and 135 in Minehead which is 0.69% of all rides in Minehead.

5.4 The table below shows the age range of those users who ride escooters the most. Most rides in both Taunton and Minehead are by users within the 21-30 age range.

| Age Range | Taunton | | Minehead | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| | Scheme Started 30 October 2022 | | Scheme Started 5 June 2021 | |
| | Number of Riders | Percentage of Riders | Number of Riders | Percentage of Riders |
| 16-20 | 3109 | 25.15% | 1697 | 22.61% |
| 21-30 | 4895 | 39.59% | 3294 | 43.88% |

| | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| 31-40 | 2689 | 21.75% | 1499 | 19.97% |
| 41-50 | 1103 | 8.92% | 624 | 8.32% |
| 51-60 | 482 | 3.90% | 315 | 4.19% |
| 61-70 | 78 | 0.63% | 67 | 0.89% |
| 71-80 | 8 | 0.06% | 10 | 0.14% |
| Totals | 12,364 | 100% | 7,506 | 100% |

5.5 The table below shows the age of user and the number of rides for each of the top 10 users in both Taunton and Minehead.

| Rank | Taunton Scheme Started 30 October 2020 | | Minehead Scheme Started 5 June 2021 | |
|------|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| | Age of User | Number of Rides | Age of User | Number of Rides |
| 1 | 28 | 306 | 21 | 387 |
| 2 | 46 | 277 | 18 | 301 |
| 3 | 39 | 261 | 31 | 185 |
| 4 | 21 | 260 | 17 | 180 |
| 5 | 35 | 254 | 56 | 142 |
| 6 | 21 | 237 | 35 | 137 |
| 7 | 18 | 229 | 18 | 126 |
| 8 | 23 | 214 | 19 | 120 |
| 9 | 29 | 205 | 17 | 116 |
| 10 | 21 | 203 | 35 | 114 |

5.6 See Appendix C for graphs related to age of users.

6 Carbon Savings

6.1 The Department for Transport has been collecting data from a user survey (currently this data is not widely available and is yet to be published in their final report) using this information Zipp have been able to calculate indicative carbon savings by using the miles of all rides where the rider answered that they would have taken a car as either a driver or a passenger, had they not taken an scooter.

6.2 The table below shows indicative carbon savings to date of 41.4 tonnes for Taunton and 1.4 tonnes for Minehead.

| Taunton Carbon Savings | |
|---|-------------|
| Total Miles | 182.003 |
| Emissions Per Mile | 0.404 kg * |
| Average Distance Replacing Car Journeys | 56% |
| Indicative Replaced Emissions | 41.4 Tonnes |

| Minehead Carbon Savings | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Total Miles | 30,458 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Emissions Per Mile | 0.404 kg * |
| Average Distance Replacing Car Journeys | 12% |
| Indicative Replaced Emissions | 1.4 Tonnes |

*0.404kg comes from the United States Environmental Protection Agency

- 6.3 Based on the post ride survey 15% of journeys have replaced a private car journey.
- 6.4 In addition, 15% of journey responses were '*I would not have made this journey*', which is an indicator that escooters are maybe encouraging people to get out and about.
- 6.5 The post ride survey was a nationwide survey introduced by the Department for Transport in July 2021 and it ran until the end of March 2022. During this time 100,000 data points were collected and the survey has now closed.

7 Parking Bay Usage and Journey Flow

- 7.1 The Somerset West and Taunton trial uses virtual parking bays where escooters are located across the service area. Each parking bay is identified on a map within the Zipp App and is geofenced, which means a rider must return the escooter to a specific area to end their ride. There are no infrastructure requirements for these bays, which are identified on the ground by a painted rectangle to help users locate them.
- 7.2 Taunton currently has 57 escooter parking bays and Minehead has 27. Users can start and end a ride at any of the parking bays, they do not need to ride the escooter back to where their journey started.
- 7.3 Journeys have been categorised as circular, which is where the journey started and ended at the same parking bay, and non-circular, which where the journey started and ended at different bays.
- 7.4 Appendix D shows a heat map of all journeys and a breakdown of the top circular and non-circular routes for Taunton and Minehead.

8 Changes During the SWT Trial

- 8.1 Some of the first local authority trials went live as early as July 2020, which meant there was the opportunity for Somerset West and Taunton and Zipp to implement lessons learnt from those early days. As a result, both the Taunton and Minehead schemes started with a small number of escooters. Zipp have grown the size of their fleet, based on demand, slowly throughout the trial. Taunton started with 25 scooters and currently has a maximum fleet size of 100 and Minehead started with 15 and currently has a maximum fleet size of 50.
- 8.2 Zipp have implemented several changes during the trial, most importantly they have introduced safety measures that include individual vehicle registration numbers and safety information stickers on every escooter within their fleet. Somerset West and Taunton made a small financial contribution from the Carbon Neutrality and Climate

Resilience budget to support this implementation.

- 8.3 Safety street signs were launched in Minehead in September 2021, these are in prime positions along the seafront and within the town. The signs have been designed in association with Avon and Somerset Constabulary and are there to help users and non-users understand the rules and enforcement. Funding came from the 'Reopening High Streets Safely' fund.
- 8.4 The same signage has now been implemented in Taunton town centre too.
- 8.5 Operating hours have been amended and extended so that the scooters are usable between the hours of 5:00am and 10:30pm, this has given more convenient access to early morning commuters.
- 8.6 As demand has grown more parking bays have been added to both service areas. Zipp often receive requests from members of the public and local businesses for more parking bays, and we have a process in place to assess and approve these requests.
- 8.7 Zipp have also launched a variety of promotional schemes including free rides for NHS staff during lockdown, 10% off rides for world car free day, 1 day, 7 day and 30 day passes, refer a friend scheme, and they have also supported the Taunton litter picking group with free user credit. The most recent promotional schemes have been to support International Women's Day and the Eat Festival in Minehead and Taunton.
- 8.8 The frequently asked questions have been improved and are available on both the Somerset West and Taunton scooter webpage and the Zipp website.
- 8.9 Following a recent audit of all scooters within their fleet, Zipp have implemented a new weekly maintenance and recording schedule.
- 8.10 The Department for Transport updated their guidance for local authorities and rental operators on the 22 February 2022. The update includes enhancing safety measures and improving public perceptions, and Somerset West and Taunton officers are working with Zipp to address the additional requirements.

9 Insurance Cover

- 9.1 During the trials scooters are classed as motor vehicles, meaning there is a requirement to have insurance and the correct type of driving licence. It is the responsibility of the scooter operator to ensure there is motor insurance in place.
- 9.2 Zipp have motor insurance through ZEGO, and the cover is for social, domestic and personal use for any vehicle within the Zipp Mobility UK Ltd fleet, leased to a user approved by ZEGO in accordance with their underwriting criteria. The level of cover is liability to third parties and personal accidents. Sum insured per claim, third party property damage: £1.2m, bodily injury: unlimited, death: £45k, repatriation: £4.5k, permanent total disablement: £45k and permanent partial disablement £45k.
- 9.3 There is an extension of cover for Somerset West and Taunton but only insofar as

Somerset West and Taunton are legally liable for any accidents occurring on their private property, and strictly subject to the same terms, conditions and exclusions as are set out in the policy and which apply to any user.

- 9.4 Zipp also have professional indemnity for public and products liability, employers' liability, directors' and officers' liability, corporate legal liability, cyber 1st & 3rd party losses and cyber-crime & fraud liability cover in place.

10 Incidents and Accidents

- 10.1 The Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Traffic Management Supervisor reports all scooter incidents across their force area to Somerset West and Taunton and Zipp monthly. The table below shows all scooter related calls from members of the public to the police, both trial related and non-trial related (private use) that have been reported since November 2020. In general, these reports are wide ranging, and the majority are incidental to the report, e.g. the offender for a theft/burglary/damage etc had made off on an scooter.

| | Taunton Scheme Started 30 October 2020 | | Minehead Scheme Started 5 June 2021 | |
|----------------|--|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| | Non-Trial Related | Trial Related | Non-Trial Related | Trial Related |
| November 2020 | 4 | 5 | N/A | N/A |
| December 2020 | 3 | 3 | N/A | N/A |
| January 2021 | 4 | 9 | N/A | N/A |
| February 2021 | 10 | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| March 2021 | 7 | 3 | N/A | N/A |
| April 2021 | 12 | 0 | N/A | N/A |
| May 2021 | 13 | 0 | N/A | N/A |
| June 2021 | 23 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| | Taunton and Minehead | | Taunton and Minehead | |
| | Non-Trial related | | Trial Related | |
| July 2021 | 27 | | 2 | |
| August 2021 | 13 | | 2 | |
| September 2021 | 16 | | 2 | |
| October 2021 | 5 | | 0 | |
| November 2021 | 13 | | 2 | |
| December 2021 | 14 | | 5 | |
| January 2022 | 27 | | 1 | |
| February 2022 | 23 | | 3 | |
| March 2022 | 13 | | 8 | |
| April 2022 | 24 | | 6 | |

- 10.2 The increase of trial related calls in March and April 2022 have been due to component

theft.

- 10.3 During the trial Zipp have issued 43 final warnings in Taunton and 25 in Minehead, for reasons such as pavement riding, a rider allowing someone else to use their account, riding dangerously or riding with a passenger. Zipp have also banned 8 users in Taunton and 1 in Minehead, these have been due to reckless riding or riding with a passenger following a previous warning, and an incident of fraudulent card use.
- 10.4 Zipp have reported 6 incidents in Taunton and 1 in Minehead to their insurance company since the start of the trial, of these cases 3 have resulted in a visit to the hospital at the time of reporting, and the police were present at the incident in Minehead. All cases have been classified as crash/impact by the insurance company, and to date none of these cases have resulted in claims, however 6 cases have a status of open, which means the insurance company may still be gathering information or they may be unable to contact the involved parties.

11 Zero Ebikes

- 11.1 The Zipp zero ebikes are out of scope of this report, they do not form part of the scooter trial and therefore Somerset West and Taunton do not have any contractual agreement in place with Zipp.

12 Links to Corporate Strategy

- 12.1 Our Environment and Economy - work towards making our District carbon neutral by 2030 - deliver projects based on a Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan that work toward this goal.

13 Finance / Resource Implications

- 13.1 There are no finance / resource implications related to this report; the contract with Zipp has no cost to Somerset West and Taunton or our residents.

14 Legal Implications

- 14.1 Somerset West and Taunton have a contract in place with Zipp for them to manage the scheme for the duration of the trial, until 30 November 2022.
- 14.2 The Queen's Speech on Tuesday 10 May 2022 announced the Government's intention to introduce legislation on the future of transport in the new parliamentary session as part of a Transport Bill.
- 14.3 Baroness Vere of Norbiton added more detail to this in the House of Lords, outlining that one aim of the Transport Bill will be to create a new regime for regulating micromobility. Further details will be announced over the coming months.

- 14.4 The Department for Transport have confirmed that the Government intends to create a new, low-speed, zero-emission vehicle (LZEV) category which is independent from the cycle and motor vehicle categories, covering both new vehicles that are familiar to us today, such as scooters, and vehicles that have yet to be invented.
- 14.5 New powers, to be set out in the Transport Bill, would allow the Government to decide which vehicles fall into this category in future and establish how they should be regulated to make sure that they are safe for users, pedestrians, and other road users, while still facilitating growth and innovation. The primary benefit of this is that the new framework would be more adaptable, enabling regulations to keep up with this fast-moving sector and evolving user behaviours.
- 14.6 The Department for Transport anticipate using the powers within the Bill to subsequently create regulations that will legalise scooters, but under new rules. These rules would include robust technical requirements and, most likely, a set of requirements for users.
- 14.7 The Bill will also propose new powers for local transport authorities to shape and manage rental operations, for pedal cycles, e-cycles, and scooters. The details of this scheme will be set out in subsequent regulations.
- 14.8 The Department for Transport will consult publicly before any secondary regulations for scooters and the rental schemes are made. This means that no final decisions about regulations have been made, nor will they be until such point that the Transport Bill becomes law.
- 14.9 The current regulations for scooters still apply, and importantly private e-scooters remain illegal to use on public roads.
- 14.10 This week's announcement does not mean a change to the rental trials. The trials will continue to run until 30 November 2022. No decision has been made about what will happen to trials after that date.

15 Climate and Sustainability Implications

- 15.1 The scooter trial supports the Council's climate emergency declaration and ambitions to work towards making our district carbon neutral by 2030.
- 15.2 Scooters are a green form of public transport which can help to reduce carbon emissions when used to replace journeys that would otherwise have been taken using a traditional internal combustion engine vehicle, such as a car or van.

16 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 16.1 An equalities impact assessment was carried out as part of the Somerset West and Taunton bid submission to the Department for Transport, in August 2020.
- 16.2 The assessment identified; *the possibility of negative impact, real or perceived, of this*

proposal exists in relation to people who share the protected characteristic of 'Disability' and particularly those who are blind or partially sighted.

- 16.3 We therefore approached the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) for advice and used their published material on the subject.
- 16.4 We consulted with the RNIB, Somerset Sight, The Macular Society and Compass Disability prior to submitting our bid to the Department for Transport. Since then, Somerset West and Taunton officers and Zipp colleagues have had joint monthly review meetings with representatives from these groups.
- 16.5 Somerset West and Taunton and Zipp have also jointly attended a 'blind walk' in both Taunton and Minehead organised by the RNIB to help us understand and appreciate the obstacles those who are visually impaired face every time they come into town.

17 Social Value Implications

- 17.1 Zipp Mobility were procured as part of the Somerset West and Taunton bid submission to the Department for Transport, in August 2020.
- 17.2 When appointed in October 2020 Zipp recruited locally for their operatives, who are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the scheme. Zipp now have 3 full time employees across the district.
- 17.3 The contract with Zipp has no cost to Somerset West and Taunton or our residents.

18 Partnership Implications

- 18.1 There are no partnership implications; Somerset West and Taunton officers have a strong working relationship with Zipp senior managers and local operatives.

19 Consultation Implications

- 19.1 The Department for Transport held a public consultation related to defining an escooter, its maximum speed and power, and setting the rules that users must follow in escooter trials. The consultation ran from 18 May 2020 to 2 June 2020.
- 19.2 The outcome and summary of responses are available online [Legalising rental e-scooter trials: outcome and summary of responses - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/legalising-rental-e-scooter-trials)
- 19.3 The Department for Transport will consult publicly before any secondary regulations for escooters and the rental schemes are made. This means that no final decisions about regulations have been made, nor will they be until such point that the Transport Bill becomes law.

Democratic Path:

- **Scrutiny Committee – Yes (25th May 2022)**
- **Executive – No**
- **Full Council – No**

Reporting Frequency: Once only**List of Appendices**

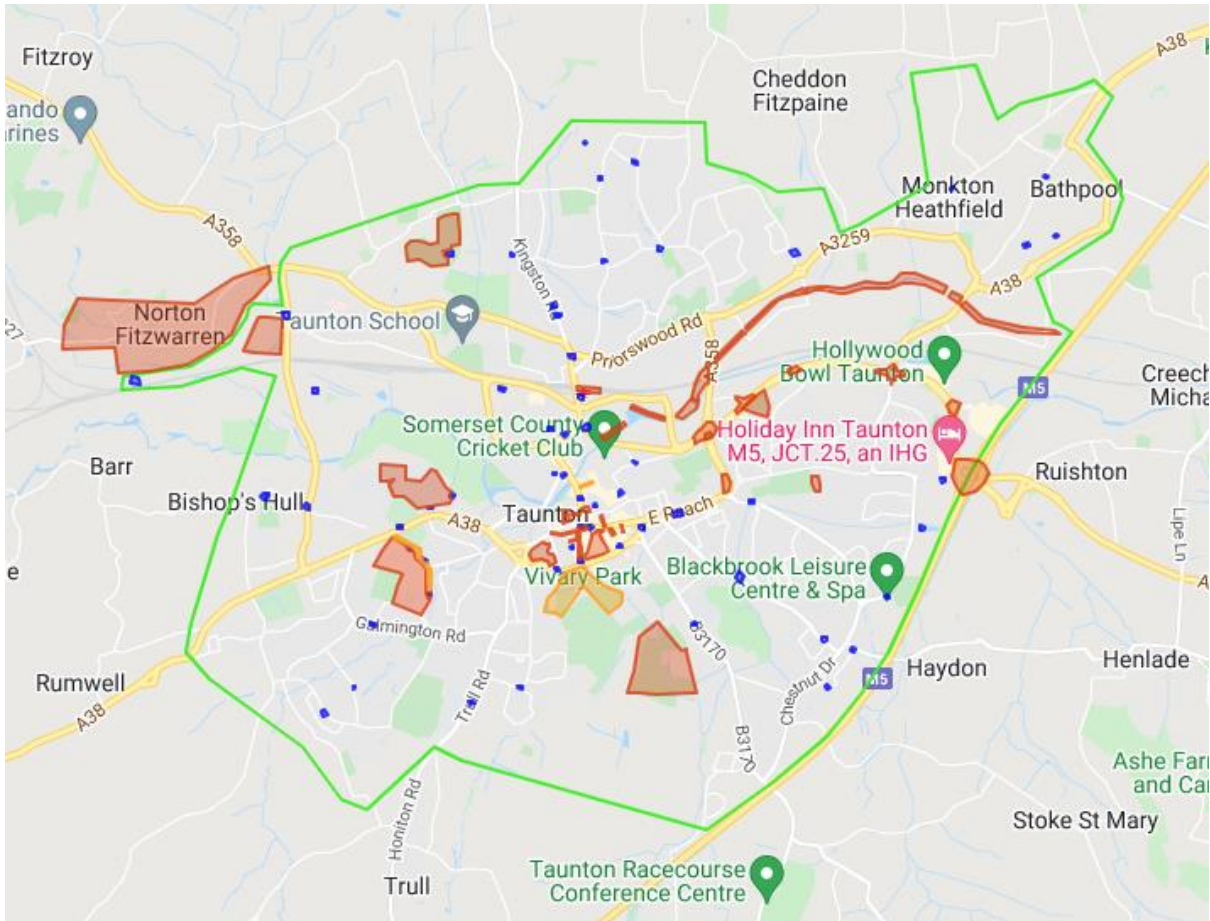
| | |
|------------|---|
| Appendix A | Escooter Trial – Service Areas |
| Appendix B | Escooter Trial – Usage After Dark |
| Appendix C | Escooter Trial – Age of Users |
| Appendix D | Escooter Trial – Parking Bay Usage and Journey Flow |

Contact Officers

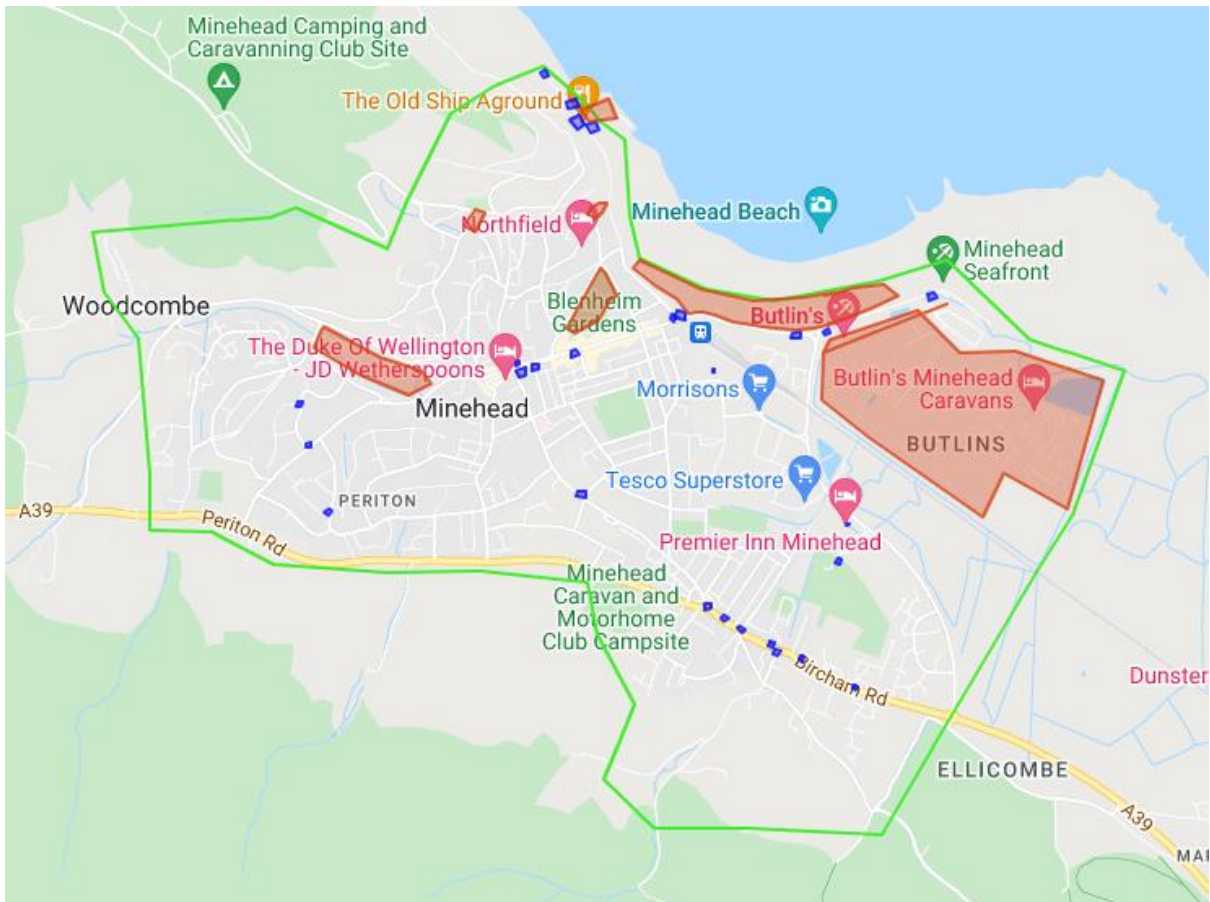
| | |
|-------------|--|
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Appendix A - Scooter Trial Service Areas

Taunton Service Area



Minehead Service Area



Key: ■ Service area, ■ Parking Bay, ■ No Go Zone, ■ Slow Zone

Appendix B – Scooter Trial - Usage After Dark

Daylight Hours from WorldData

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Sun Rise (am) | 08:00 | 07:00 | 06:00 | 06:00 | 05:00 | 04:30 | 05:00 | 06:00 | 06:30 | 07:00 | 07:30 | 08:00 |
| Sun Set (pm) | 16:30 | 17:00 | 18:00 | 20:00 | 21:00 | 21:30 | 21:30 | 20:30 | 19:30 | 18:00 | 16:00 | 16:00 |

**Number of Light Hours and Dark Hours Per Day Based on Zipp Operating Hours
(06:30 until 22:30 from October 2020 to October 2021 and then 05:00 until 22:30 from November to December 2021)**

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Light Hours | 8.5 | 10 | 11.5 | 13.5 | 14.5 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 8.5 | 8 |
| Dark Hours | 7.5 | 6 | 4.5 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 9.5 |

**Total Rides Each Month During 2021
(Taunton was operational throughout 2021 and Minehead started during June 2021)**

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total Rides | 3201 | 3220 | 3495 | 4134 | 5498 | 8120 | 8948 | 8175 | 7995 | 7429 | 6553 | 6960 |

**Light Rides Each Month During 2021
(Taunton was operational throughout 2021 and Minehead started during June 2021)**

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Light Rides | 1798 | 1930 | 2412 | 3484 | 4964 | 7432 | 8244 | 6790 | 6264 | 5096 | 3193 | 3077 |
| % of Rides | 56% | 60% | 69% | 84% | 90% | 92% | 92% | 83% | 78% | 69% | 49% | 44% |

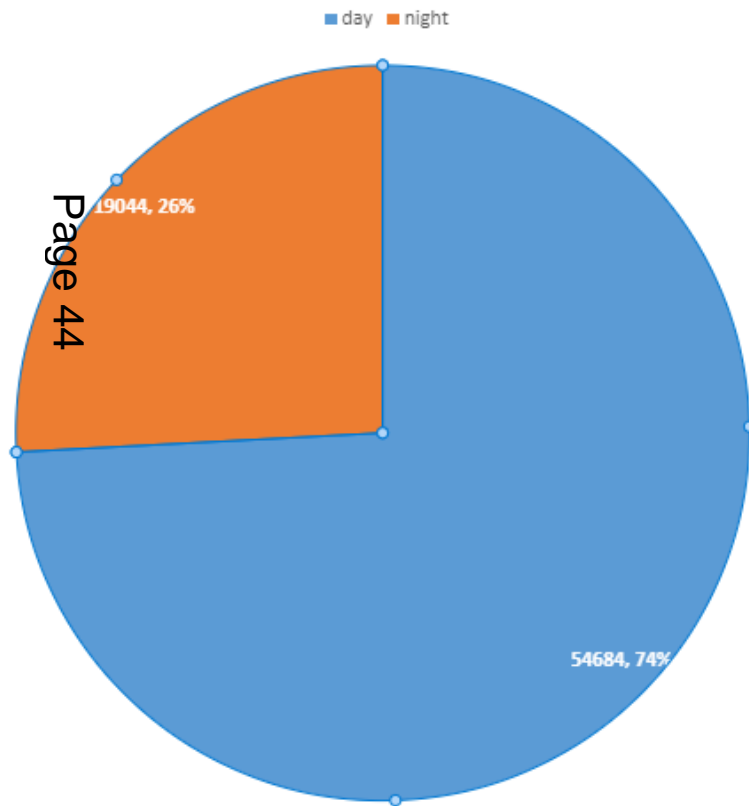
**Dark Rides Each Month During 2021
(Taunton was operational throughout 2021 and Minehead started during June 2021)**

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Dark Rides | 1403 | 1290 | 1083 | 650 | 534 | 688 | 704 | 1385 | 1731 | 2333 | 3360 | 3884 |
| % of Rides | 44% | 40% | 31% | 16% | 10% | 8% | 8% | 17% | 22% | 31% | 51% | 56% |

Total light rides during 2021 were 54,684 which equates to 74% of all rides.

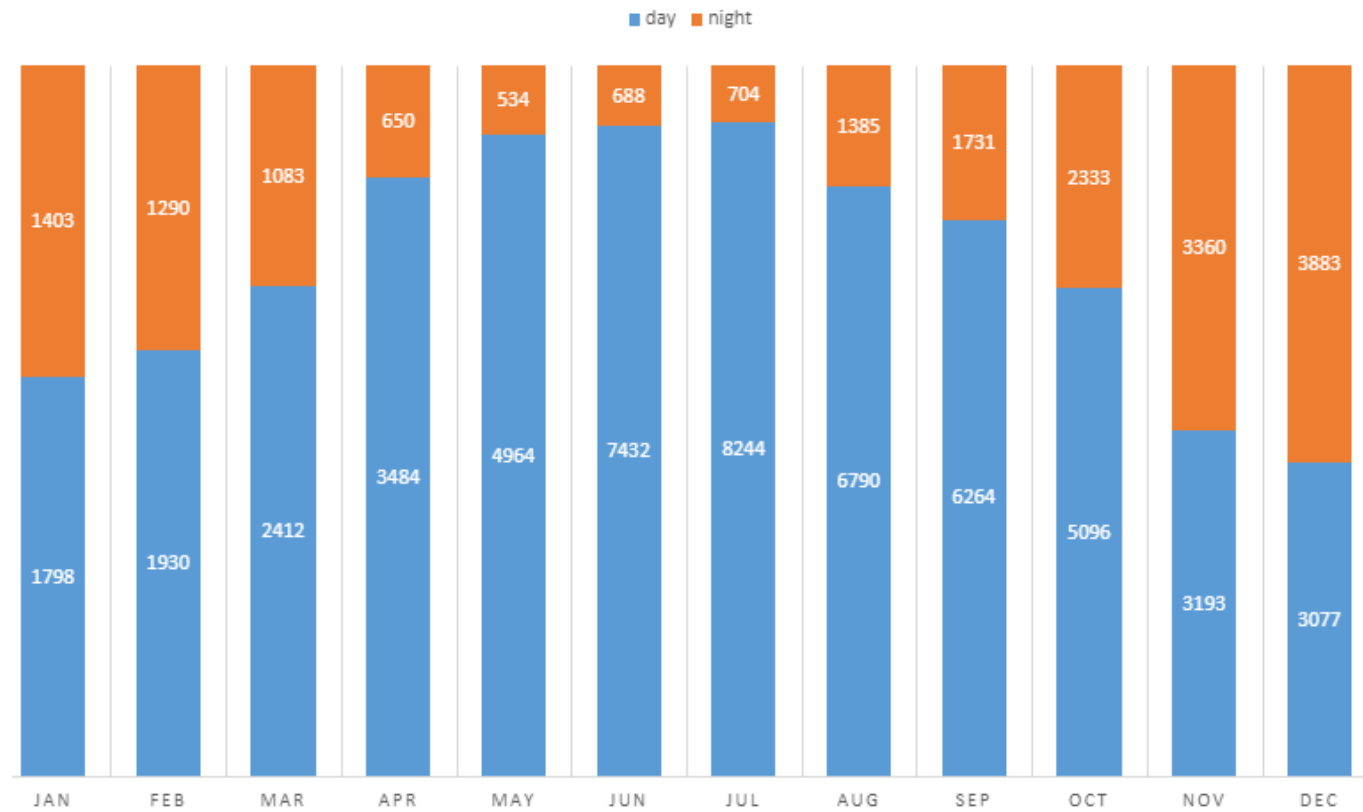
Total dark rides during 2021 were 19,044 which equates to 26% of all rides.

TOTAL RIDES 2021



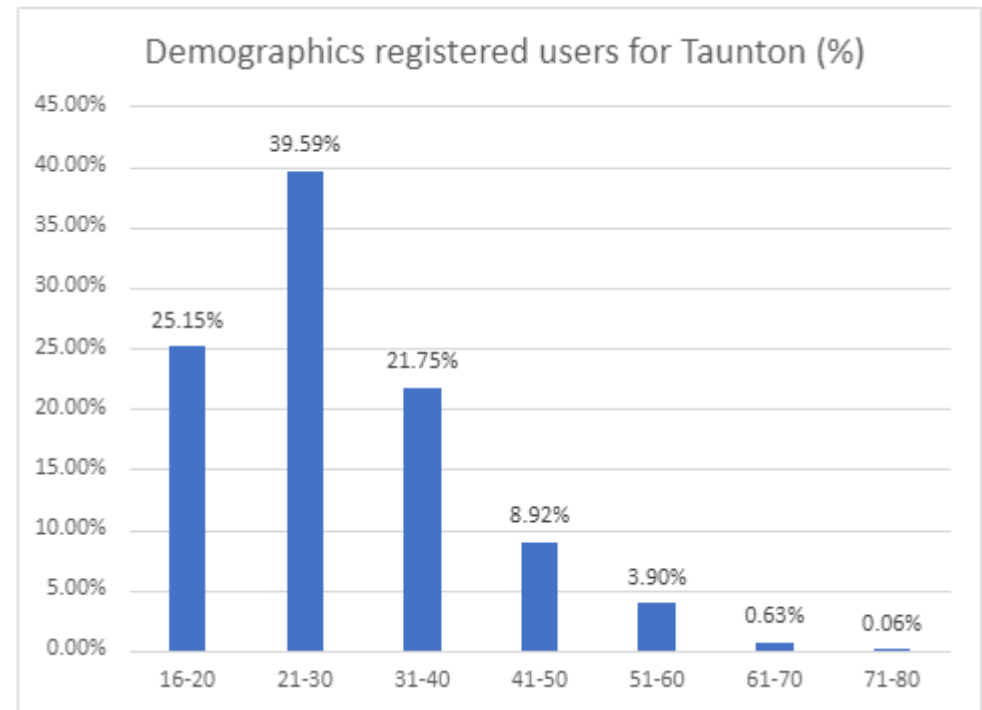
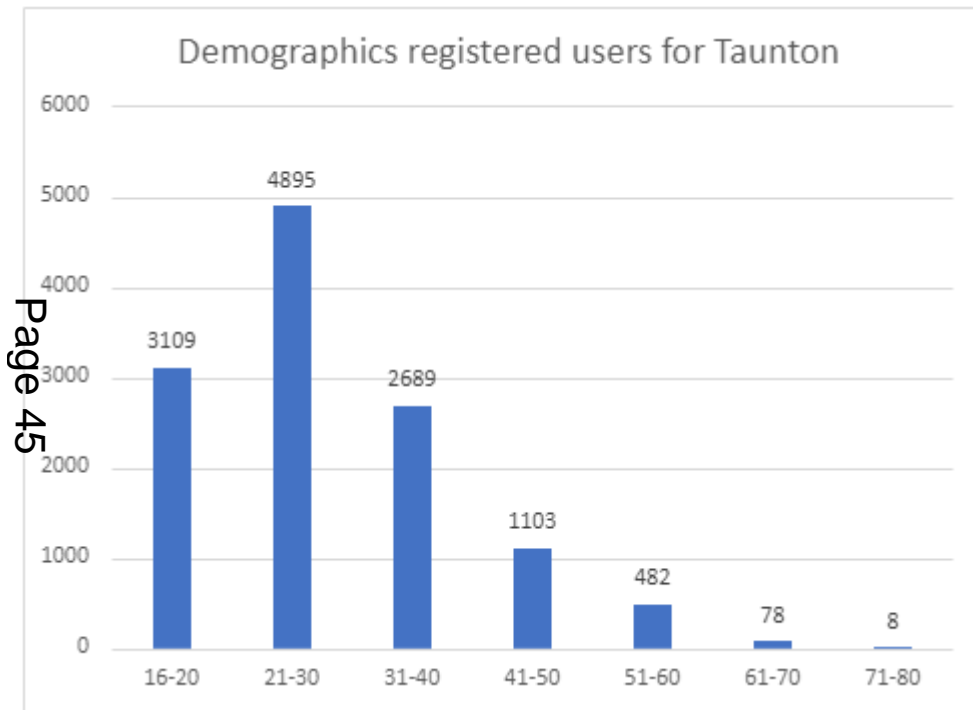
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AFTER DARK RIDERSHIP 2021

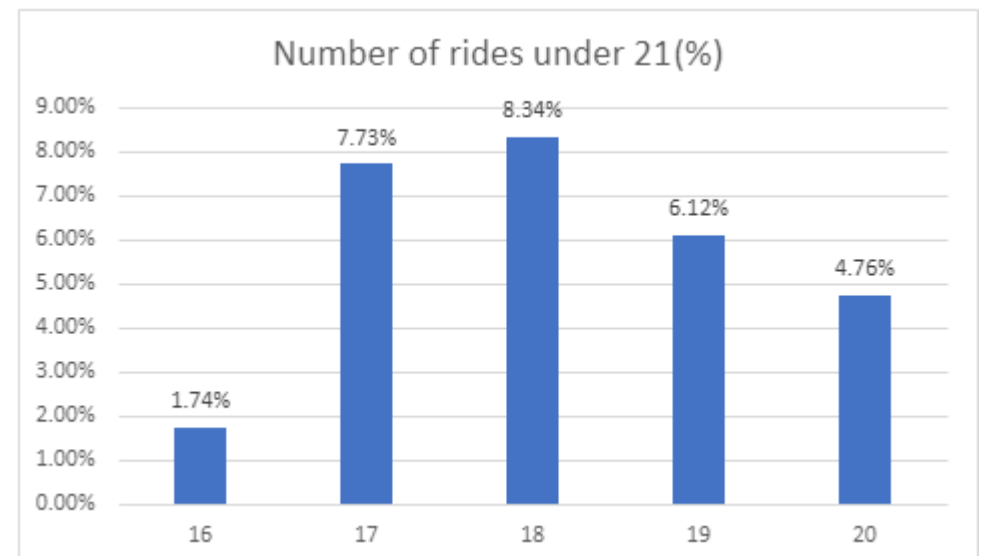
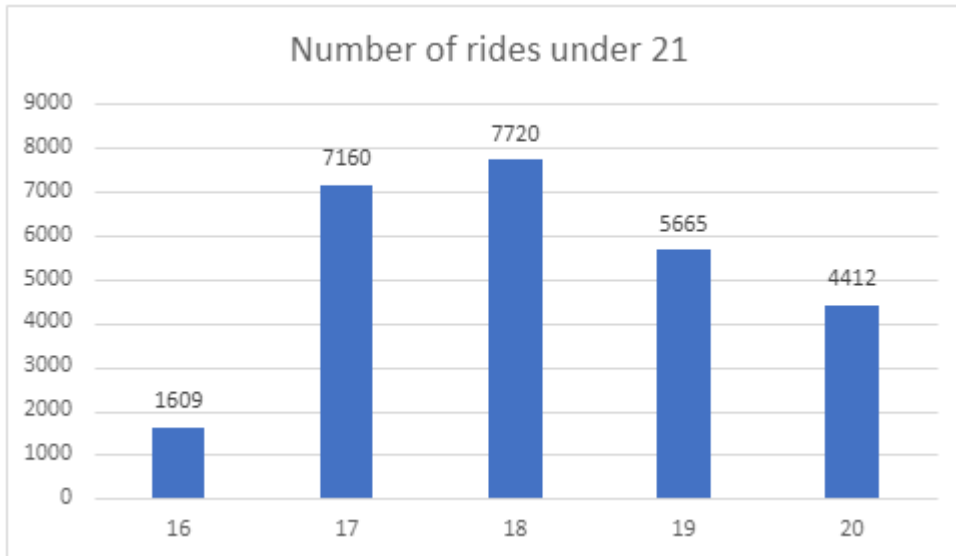
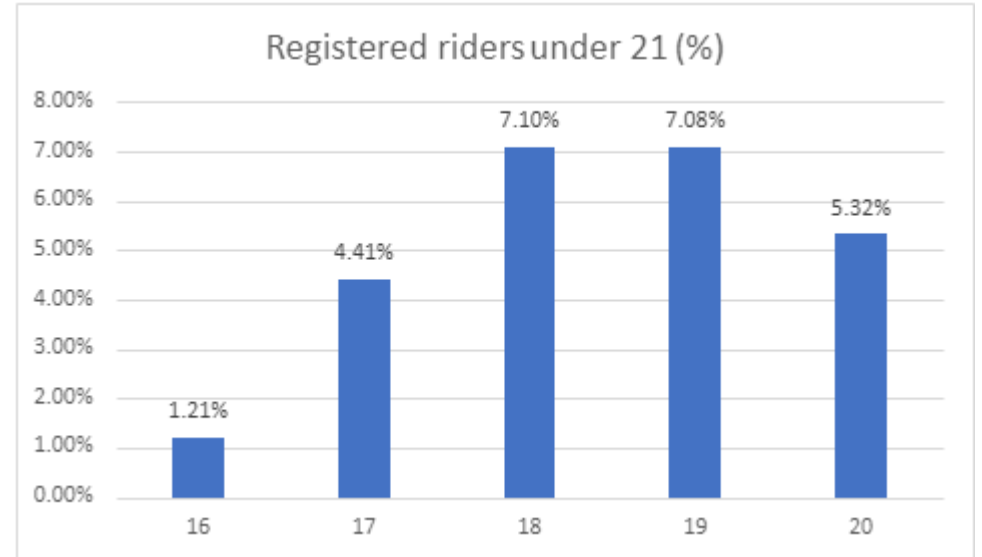
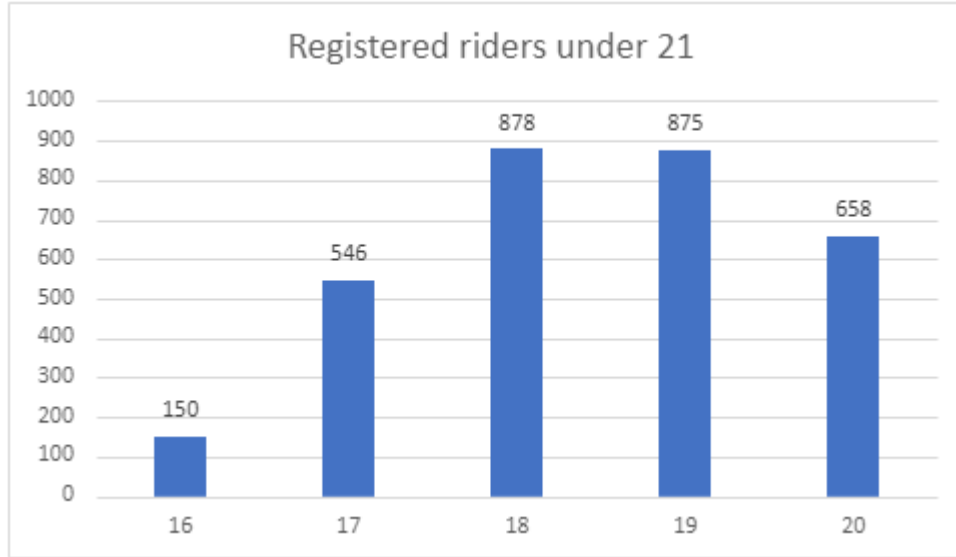


Appendix C – Scooter Trial – Age of Users

Age Range - Taunton



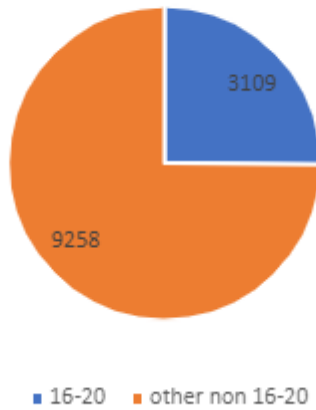
Riders under the age of 21 - Taunton



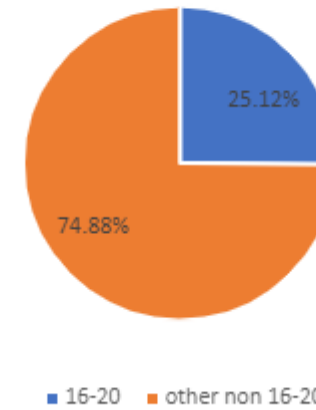
Registered Riders Aged 16-21 and Over 21 – Taunton

Registered riders aged 16-20 equals 3,109 which is 25.12%
Registered riders over 21 equals 9,258 which is 74.88%

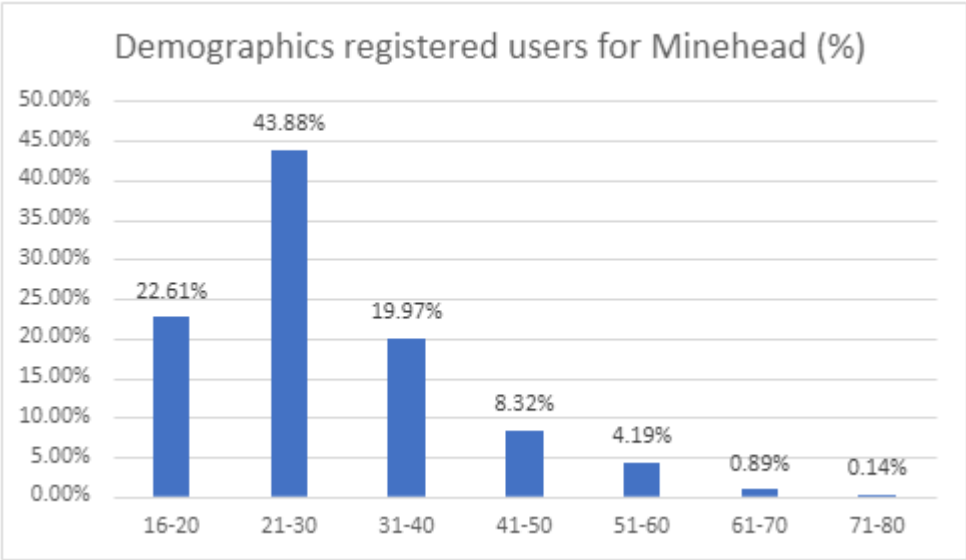
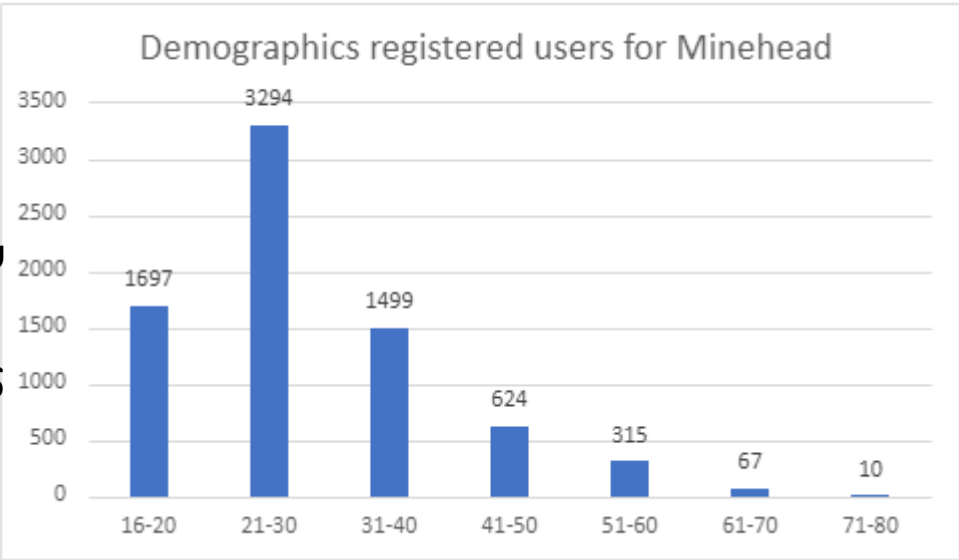
Registered Riders 16-20 and Over 21



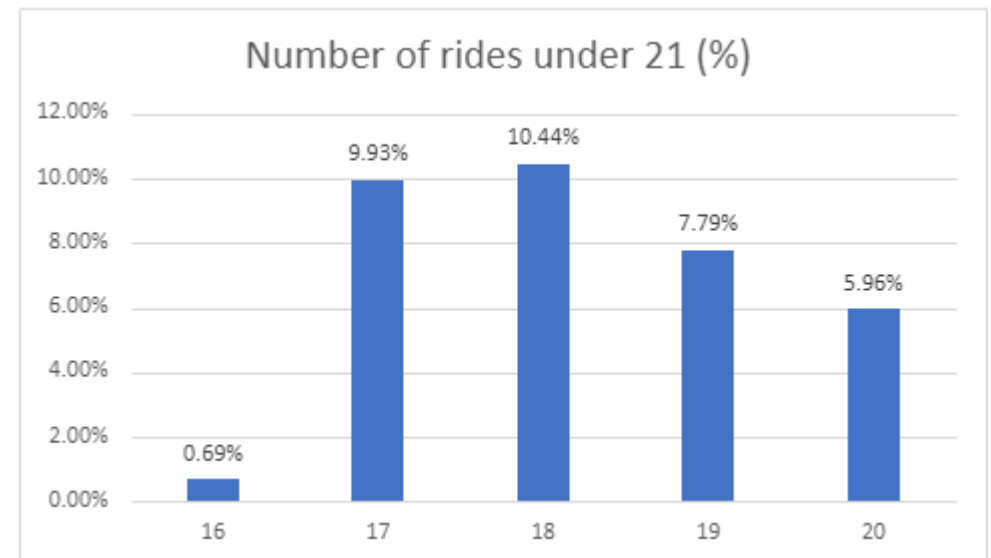
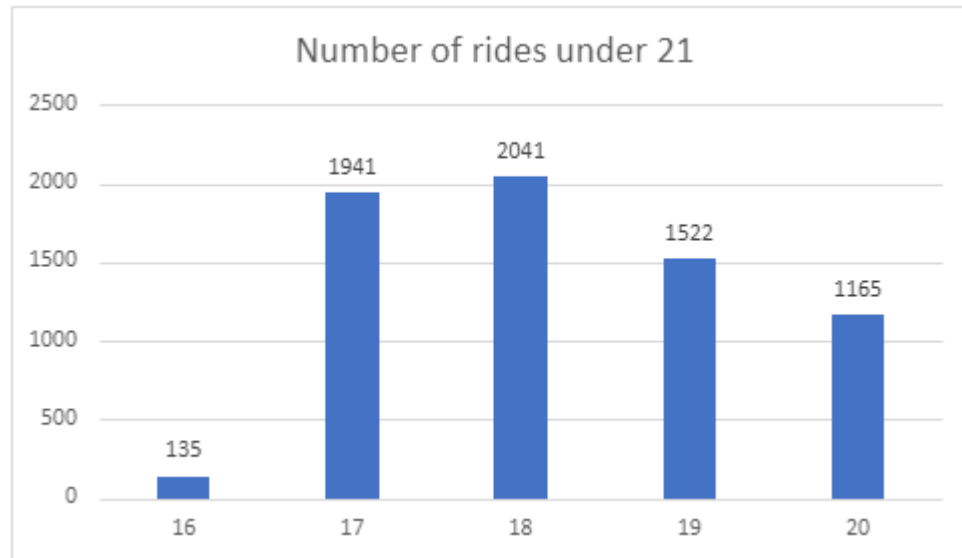
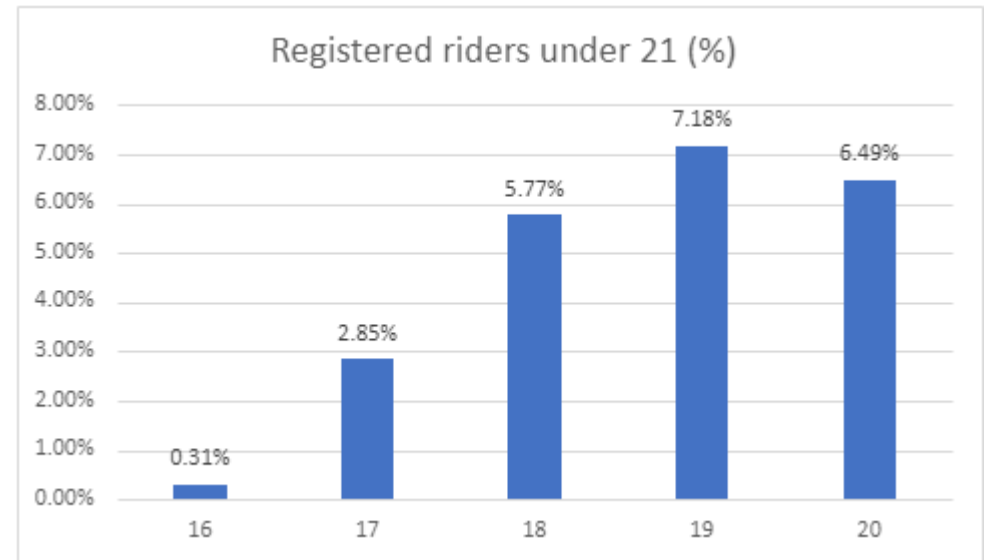
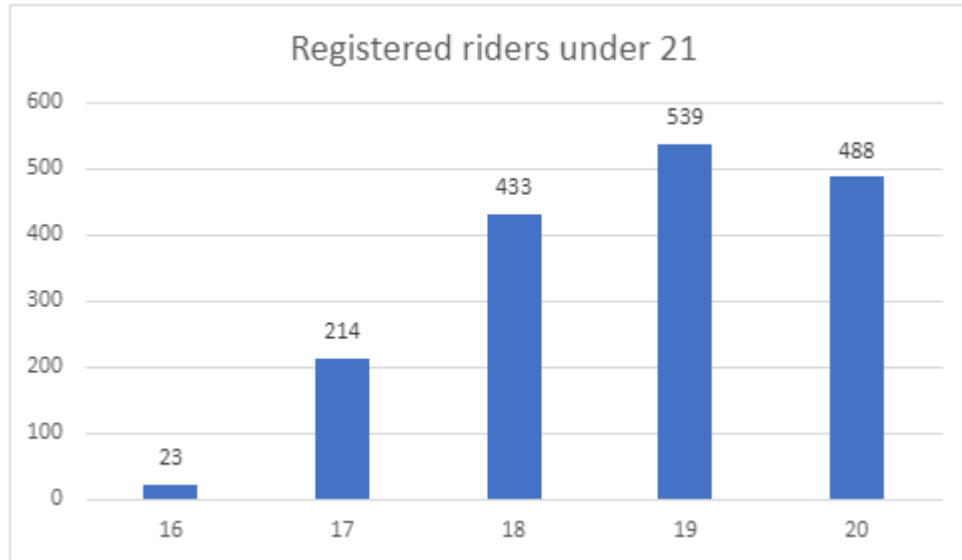
Registered Riders 16-20 and Over 21 (%)



Age Range – Minehead

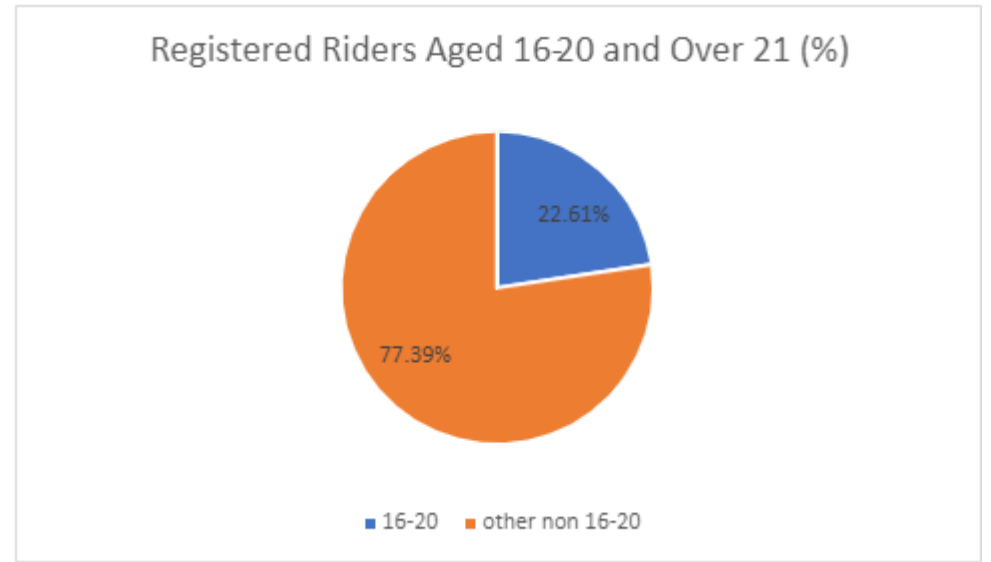
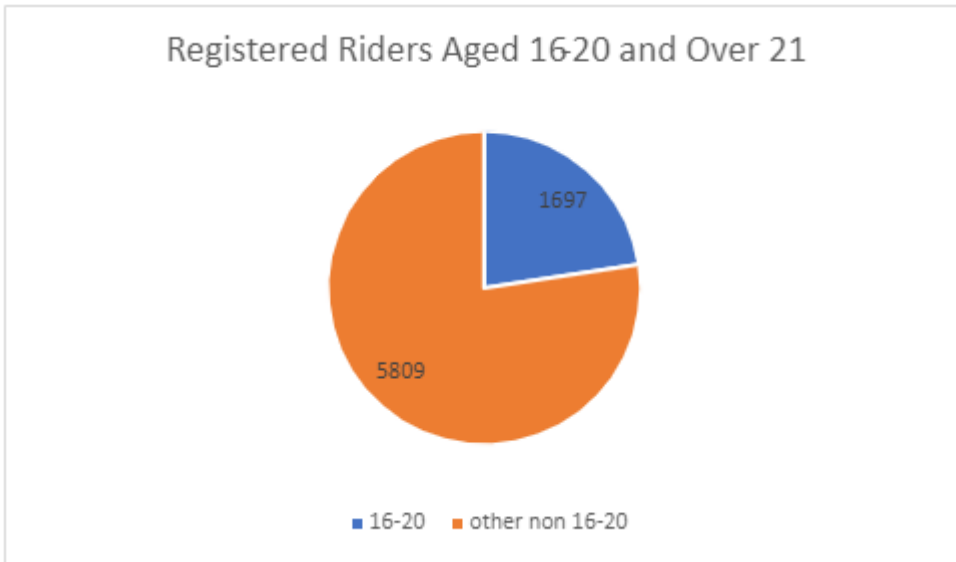


Riders under the age of 21 – Minehead



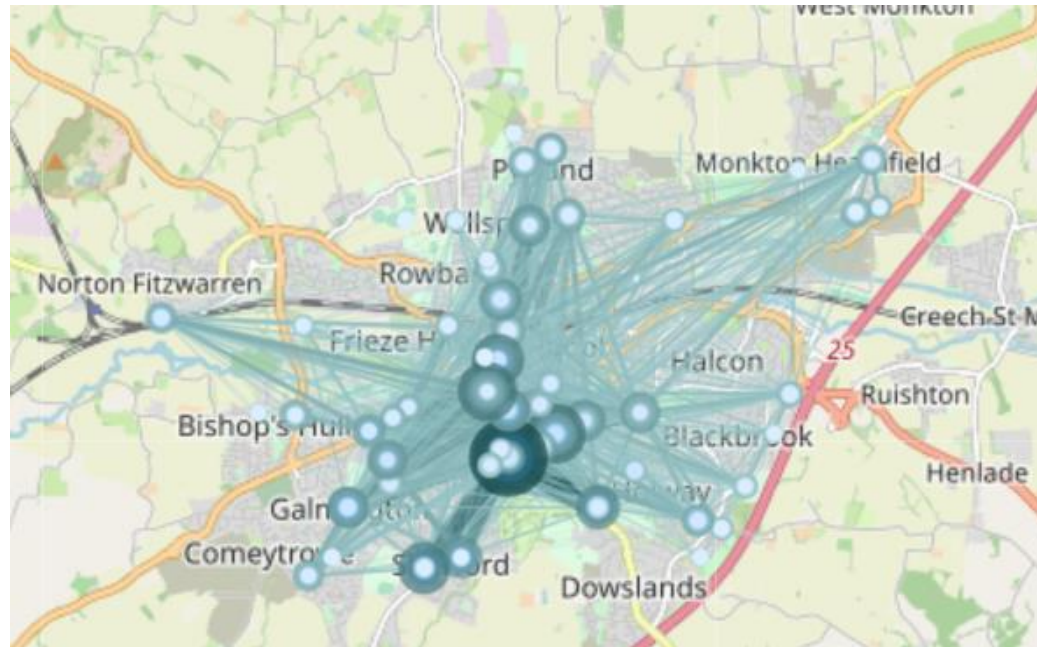
Registered Riders Aged 16-21 and Over 21 – Minehead

Registered riders aged 16-20 equals 1,697 which is 22.61%
Registered riders over 21 equals 5,809 which is 77.39%



Appendix D – Scooter Trial - Parking Bay Usage and Journey Flow

Taunton - All Routes



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Circular Routes

| | |
|--|-----|
| Wood Street Car Park to Wood Street Car Park | 579 |
| Upper High Street to Upper High Street | 397 |
| Pippin Rd 2 to Pippin Rd 2 | 358 |
| Station / Belvedere Road to Station / Belvedere R... | 270 |
| Taunton Football Club to Taunton Football Club | 237 |
| Hair Academy to Hair Academy | 235 |
| Priory Avenue to Priory Avenue | 232 |
| North Street to North Street | 229 |
| Galmington Rd to Galmington Rd | 224 |
| QueensWay to QueensWay | 217 |
| St. Andrew's Road to St. Andrew's Road | 204 |
| Bridgwater & Taunton College 2 to Bridgwater & ... | 194 |
| Great Western Way to Great Western Way | 188 |
| Ladymead road to Ladymead road | 188 |
| Wellsprings Rd to Wellsprings Rd | 183 |
| Richard Huish College to Richard Huish College | 166 |
| George Street to George Street | 164 |
| Sherford Road to Sherford Road | 162 |
| Lyngford Park to Lyngford Park | 154 |
| Billet Street to Billet Street | 150 |

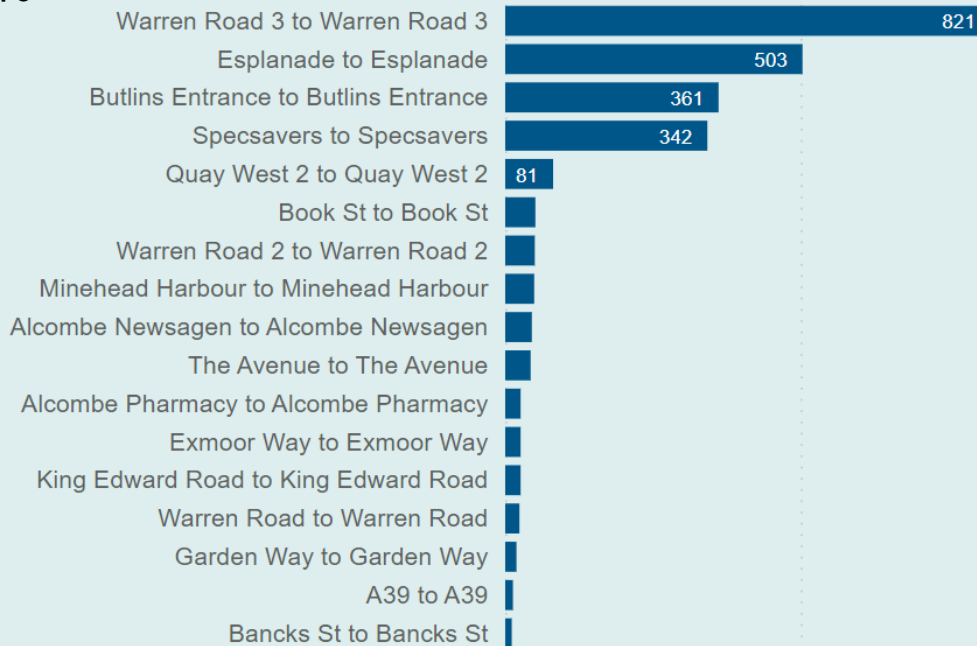
Non-Circular Routes

| | |
|---|-----|
| Upper High Street to Richard Huish College | 273 |
| Upper High Street to Trull Rd | 232 |
| Taunton Warehouse to Galmington Rd | 186 |
| Wood Street Car Park to Musgrove Park Hospital 2 | 179 |
| Station / Belvedere Road to Musgrove Park Hosp... | 165 |
| Trull Rd to Upper High Street | 162 |
| Upper High Street to Sherford Road | 156 |
| Taunton Warehouse to Taunton Football Club | 148 |
| Taunton Warehouse to Richard Huish College | 143 |
| Richard Huish College to Upper High Street | 136 |
| Station / Belvedere Road to Wellsprings Rd | 133 |
| Taunton Warehouse to Mountway Road | 125 |
| North Street to Station / Belvedere Road | 124 |
| Taunton Warehouse to Bridgwater & Taunton Coll... | 124 |
| Wood Street Car Park to Mountway Road | 122 |
| Sherford Road to Upper High Street | 120 |
| St. Andrew's Road to North Street | 118 |
| Station / Belvedere Road to North Street | 118 |
| Hair Academy to Taunton Football Club | 116 |
| Taunton Warehouse to Musgrove Park Hospital 2 | 116 |

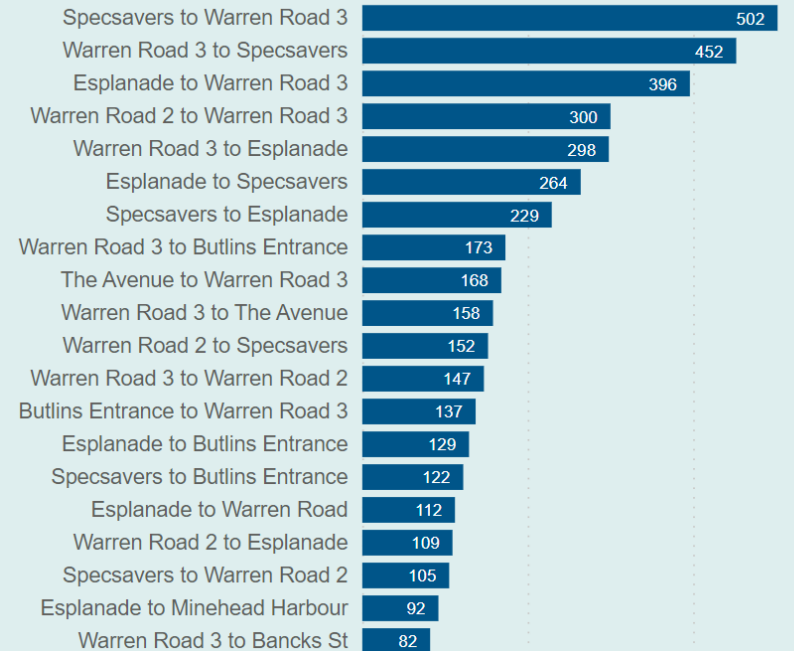
Minehead - All Routes



Circular Routes



Non-Circular Routes



Report Number: SWT 67/22

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Community Scrutiny Committee – 25 May 2022

Ecological Emergency Vision and Action Plan

This matter is the responsibility of the Executive Member for Climate Change

Report Author: Katherine Church, Project Manager, Climate Change

1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Ecological Emergency Vision and Action Plan (EEVAP) is a joint initiative between Somerset West and Taunton and Sedgemoor District Councils. The vision sets out our ambitions for nature recovery and the action plan is the framework through which we will deliver these ambitions. This work builds on the nature-based actions listed within the Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Action Plan (CNCR) with a particular focus on nature recovery.
- 1.2 If approved, the vision and action plan will embed ecological actions across work streams and will deliver ecological enhancement and protection across the two districts and beyond. In the advent of unitary, the EEVAP sets a precedent and a template for collaboration which can be duplicated across the county after vesting day.

2 Recommendations

Community Scrutiny Committee are invited to comment on the recommendations that will be put to Executive and Full Council:

- 2.1 The ecological vision and action plan are approved.
- 2.2 Existing governance arrangements identified in the Somerset West and Taunton /Sedgemoor District Council Joint Climate Change Delivery Partnership are maintained and used as a framework for delivery and monitoring of the action plan.
- 2.3 Somerset West and Taunton with Sedgemoor District Council lead the creation and delivery of ecological recovery.
- 2.4 Annual reporting will be undertaken in conjunction with CNCR reporting.

3 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 The action plan is an extensive list of aspirational activities to be completed by 2030 whereby many of them will be delivered after unitary. The EEVAP is included within the LGR (Local Government Reorganisation) Environment and Climate Change Sub Group 1 workstream to ensure it remains within the ongoing workplan under the new Somerset Council.
- 3.2 The action plan is ambitious and requires the council to go above and beyond business as usual with a considerable amount of work to deliver its desired outcomes. Any draw on operational teams outside the agreed business plan will impact delivery performance. Immediate actions are therefore based on existing commitments although it is recognised that more resource is required as part of the council's statutory requirements to meet its obligations under the Environment Act 2021
- 3.3 The EEVAP requires adoption by both Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset West and Taunton to succeed. The plan has been developed in close collaboration with operations teams and input from Members from both councils with the partnership consultation panel being a critical point for review.

4 Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 In September 2020 Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT) declared an Ecological Emergency (EE) complementing its Climate Emergency declaration made in February 2019.
- 4.2 SWT and SDC formed the Joint Climate Change Delivery Partnership in August 2021 optimising resources to deliver their joint ambitions to tackle climate change and the ecological emergency. A joint consultation panel forms part of the governance arrangements for this partnership and allows cross party members the opportunity to review activity and make recommendations to portfolio holders.
- 4.3 The EEVAP is owned by the Climate Change team, however actions are assigned to and delivered by services across SWT. Some of the actions will also be delivered by or in collaboration with partners.
- 4.4 The vision and action plan has been developed through an extensive collaborative process with input from both Members and staff across both SWT and SDC. SWT Members were briefed in January 2022 and this was followed by a Members' workshop in which ideas were captured and fed into the action plan draft prior to consultation with operational services. The inclusive approach means that we have been able to work quickly so that the action plan will be adopted in July 2022 and immediate actions delivered in financial year 22/23 prior to unitary. The plan also includes existing nature and ecological actions from the Council's Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience plan, as well as formalising activities the Council is already undertaking.
- 4.5 The vision provides a succinct overview of the challenges our natural world faces and our commitment to deliver ecological recovery. It sets out our four overarching

ambitions:

- **Wildlife and habitats**
Wildlife flourishes across our district's designated sites and wider ecological networks
- **Assets and Opens spaces**
Our open spaces and buildings are maintained and enhanced to enable wildlife to thrive and be more resilient to climate change
- **Our values**
We value the natural environment, and the ecosystem services it provides, informing our decision making.
- **People and nature**
Citizens engage with the natural environment through our well managed, accessible open spaces and through their informed lifestyle choices.

4.6 These four pillars are underpinned by our collaboration with partners at a national, regional and local community level.

4.7 There are a number of targets under each ambition which we are committed to achieving by 2030. This aligns with national and international ambitions. These sit within the vision document.

4.8 The actions within the plan are categorised under four main themes:

- ***Embedding nature recovery throughout all our own work within SWT and SD councils.***
Actions that the council can deliver directly through its decision making, policies and operational work streams.
- ***Working with partners including businesses to deliver ecological enhancement and protection.***
Actions that identify projects and initiatives in which SWT will influence and support other organisations to deliver shared goals for nature recovery across the district and further afield.
- ***Enabling citizens to connect and take action for nature***
Actions that work enable the local community and householders to engage with nature through direct action and through lifestyle choices.
- ***Governance: funding, measurement and reporting progress over time***
Actions that focus on building the framework through which all actions will be monitored and progress towards our targets and ambitions can be reported.

4.9 The action plan is structured into high level actions, which are broken down into projects and then sub-projects depending on the scale and strategic importance of the action. This structure supports delivery and reporting going forwards.

- 4.10 Many actions are not within the control of the Council to directly deliver and will be carried out by external partners and bodies. Council has a role to enable and support. In addition, there are a number of lobbying and awareness raising activities that appear in the plan.
- 4.11 Each action has a time scale assigned to it. 'Immediate' will be delivered by end of 2022/23, and 'long term' by 2030.
- 4.12 This work demonstrates how we can work collectively across districts and shows leadership and commitment to nature recovery. The EEVAP provides a framework which is compatible with Local Nature Partnership outcomes and has the flexibility to be adopted by the new unitary Council.

5 Links to Corporate Strategy

- 5.1 This work falls under our Environment and Economy strategic priority “A low-carbon, clean, green and prosperous district that attracts high quality employment opportunities and encourages healthy lifestyle.”

The document links to the following objectives:

Shape and protect our built and natural environment, supported by a refreshed Local Plan and develop our heritage, cultural and leisure offer including a clear vision and delivery plan for the Taunton Garden Town.

Provide and maintain green open spaces and parks, enhanced public spaces, as well as additional opportunities to safely walk or cycle in order to encourage active and healthy lifestyles

6 Finance / Resource Implications

- 6.1 Immediate actions are within the work plan and therefore do not have additional financial implications. However, there are several short – long term actions (post 2023 delivery) where additional resources will be required and will need to be agreed by the unitary authority from 2023/24 e.g. planning will require more resources to deliver the Local Plan and Biodiversity Net Gain.

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no identified implications from this report.

8 Climate, Ecology and Sustainability Implications

- 8.1 The EEVAP is the Council's comprehensive commitment to ecological protection and enhancement.

9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications

9.1 There are no identified implications of this report.

10 Equality and Diversity Implications

10.1 There are no identified implications of this report.

11 Social Value Implications

11.1 There are no identified implications of this report

12 Partnership Implications

12.1 The Council continues to work in partnership with other bodies to deliver ecological recovery, particularly through the Local Nature Partnership.

12.2 This is a joint piece of work with Sedgemoor District Council and timelines for adoption are slightly different. In Somerset West and Taunton, we aim to achieve adoption at Full Council scheduled on 5th July 2022 whilst in Sedgemoor District Council this is to be 20th July.

13 Health and Wellbeing Implications

13.1 Access to nature and open spaces plays an important role in our health and wellbeing. The EEVAP includes actions that will support this.

14 Asset Management Implications

14.1 Some of the actions require use of existing assets such as Somerset West and Taunton local nature reserves and open spaces, however the extent of our assets is limited and therefore ecological improvements will be delivered beyond the boundaries of our assets.

15 Consultation Implications

15.1 A Members' briefing was held in January 2022, with a subsequent workshop in February. The action plan has been developed in consultation with participants of these events.

Democratic Path:

- **Scrutiny Committee – Yes (25/05/22)**
- **Executive – Yes (15/06/22)**
- **Full Council – Yes (5/07/22)**

Reporting Frequency: Annually

List of Appendices

| | |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| Appendix A | Ecological Emergency Vision |
| Appendix B | Ecological Emergency Action Plan |

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| Email | s.tomlinson@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk |

Sedgemoor, and Somerset West and Taunton, District Councils' Joint Ecological Emergency Vision Document

Introduction

This Vision sets out our ambitions to address the ecological deterioration within our districts and further afield. It is accompanied by a comprehensive action plan that provides the practical steps to deliver ecological recovery. It builds on previous work to address the Climate Emergency, but with a specific focus on wildlife and habitats.

Background

In September 2020 Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWTC) declared an Ecological Emergency (EE) complementing its Climate Emergency declaration made in February 2019. Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) recognises the need to protect and enhance its natural environment and although it is yet to declare an EE, it released its Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan in January 2021 which includes nature focussed actions.

Never has the need for change been more critical. Our fragmented habitats and their wildlife are increasingly at risk from human activity including climate change, farming, pollution, land use change, overfishing, pesticide use and deforestation. These activities often occur within supply chains as we seek to satisfy the demand for more goods and services, at the expense of the world's natural resources, habitats and wildlife. Globally mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish populations have declined by an average 68% between 1970-2016¹. Freshwater animals have experienced one of the largest declines (88%), with nearly one in three freshwater species being threatened with extinction².

In the UK, our actions continue to threaten species and since 1970, 41% of species are experiencing a decline in numbers, 15% are threatened with extinction and 27% are found in fewer places³. Without swift action further decline will continue and iconic species that are vulnerable to extinction such as the hedgehog will disappear from our shores.

In Sedgemoor and Somerset West and Taunton we are blessed with a rich tapestry of landscapes and habitats. These include the coastline along the Bristol Channel, the magnificent uplands of Exmoor National Park, the Mendip, Quantock and Blackdown Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), the lowland expanses of the Somerset Levels and Moors and our urban centres such as Bridgwater, Minehead and Taunton. Our districts are home to a mosaic of statutory designated sites, designated for particular habitats or species and include Special Protected Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Ramsar (internationally recognised waterfowl habitats), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and local nature

¹ Lambertini, M., 2020. Living Planet Report 2020: Bending the Curve of Biodiversity Loss.

² Collen, B., Whitton, F., Dyer, E.E., Baillie, J.E.M., Cumberlidge, N., Darwall, W.R.T., Pollock, C., Richman, N.I., Soulsby, A.-M., Böhm, M., 2014. Global patterns of freshwater species diversity, threat and endemism. *Glob. Ecol. Biogeogr.* 23, 40–51. <https://doi.org/10.1111/geb.12096>

³ State of Nature Partnership, State of Nature 2019.

reserves (LNRs). All deliver a multitude of functions e.g., flood alleviation and recreation; comprise a range of habitats; and are home to a variety of species.

These important sites play a significant role in supporting wildlife, yet recent studies show that many are in an unfavourable condition. In Sedgemoor, 63% of its terrestrial SSSI habitat which should be in pristine condition is in an unfavourable declining or partially destroyed condition and in Somerset West and Taunton only 11 out of 35 describe as being in a favourable condition.

Our river catchments and waterways including the Rivers Axe, Sheppey, Brue in the north and Cary, Yeo, Tone and Parrett to the south are the lifeblood of our districts' habitats. Yet in 2019, none were in a good condition for nature in Sedgemoor. Similarly, in Somerset West and Taunton, catchments that had been previously rated as good for wildlife before 2013 have deteriorated in condition and more categorised as moderate or poor for nature according to Environment Agency's classification hierarchy. The plight of our rivers is influenced by human activity, particularly from farming and sewage disposal. The Somerset Levels and Moors (SLMs) is a designated RAMSAR wetland landscape recognised for its internationally important waterfowl, and resident insects, yet it is experiencing high levels of phosphate enrichment which threatens the nutrient balance of its waterways and the wildlife that depend on it.

The loss of habitats and species can have a wider impact affecting our communities and economy. Each species has an ecological role to play within a functioning ecosystem and their decline can negatively influence the ecosystem services that they provide. Insects, for example, are responsible for pollination, which is essential for agricultural and horticultural production, and for sustaining wildflowers. If pollinating insects went into serious decline the health of England's £100 billion food industry would be seriously damaged.⁴ Our natural world is essential for us to prosper and thrive and we must take action to protect and enhance it.

The crises of biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, and climate change are inter-connected; we cannot have a thriving natural world without a healthy climate. Our natural environment can play a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change through nature-based solutions but equally it can enable us to adapt to changes that we are already starting to experience. As such they are not considered in isolation of each other, however both councils recognise the need for a dedicated Ecological Vision and Action Plan (EEVAP). We will build on Somerset's Climate Emergency Strategy, SWTC's Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience (CNCR) Action Plan and SDC's Climate Emergency Action Plan which have already identified over 150 potential actions to support biodiversity enhancement and recovery.

Time for action

Nature has moved up the international, national and local political agenda. 2021's COP26 focussed more on nature than ever before, calling all governments to endorse the *Leaders' Pledge for Nature*. Now over 90 world leaders are committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 for sustainable development. In addition, the Environment Act achieved Royal Assent in November 2021. This will lead to the setting of national targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment through increasing biodiversity, halting species decline by 2030, restoring habitats, improving air and water quality, and the transitioning to a circular economy through better resource efficiency and waste reduction.

Of particular importance will be the requirement for a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) from all new developments (from 2023) and the delivery of the National Nature Recovery Network

⁴ Defra, The National Pollinator Strategy: For bees and other pollinators in England Nov 2014

(NRN) through Local Nature Recovery Strategies which will be delivered in partnership with local government, NGOs, the private sector and the public.

In addition, improvement to water and air quality will over time reduce the risk of pollution and nutrient enrichment. These legally binding commitments provide the statutory framework through which we can help nature recover across our two districts and beyond.

With the charge of political momentum, we have an opportunity to lead changes at a local level, setting an example, encouraging and influencing others. This vision and the accompanying action plan will balance the urgency for carbon neutrality and resilience with the need to protect and build wildlife corridors, support natural processes and improve the condition of habitats to enable nature to recover.

We can support our natural environment by:

- Promoting and implementing sustainable land and woodland management,
- Protecting habitats and avoiding land use change that degrades the landscape and its inhabitants,
- Creating connectivity and wildlife corridors to improve species resilience,
- Improving soil, air and water quality,
- Maintaining genetic diversity,
- Reducing invasive species, reducing pollution e.g. plastics, chemicals excess nutrients and hazardous waste,
- and developing climate resilience in habitats.

Vision Statement

Our vision is a district where the needs of wildlife, people, and our local economies are integrated in a way that enables nature and our communities to thrive now and in the future.

Our Ambitions

There are four pillars through which we will achieve ecological recovery. These focus specifically on wildlife and habitat conservation; managing our own assets in a way that supports wildlife, through our decision making and policies and through our communities. All our ambitions are underpinned by the need to collaborate with partners at a local, regional and national level.

1) Wildlife

Wildlife flourishes across our districts' designated sites and wider ecological networks

To give wildlife the best chance of thriving, the habitats on which they depend need to be in a favourable condition. Our designated sites, such as local nature reserves and SSSIs, play a key role, along with the wider environment and wildlife corridors such as rivers, roads and urban centres. These will be managed in a way that supports wildlife and builds resilience to climate change. Key species that are both on the IUCN's Red List of threatened species⁵ and are County Notable such as the hazel dormouse will be monitored as indicators of success of habitat

⁵ The IUCN Red List of threatened species is a critical indicator of the health of the world's biodiversity. Currently, there are more than 142,500 species on The IUCN Red List, with more than 40,000 species threatened with extinction. <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

condition. Working with partners will be key in delivering this ambition, particularly through the Somerset Local Nature Partnership (SLNP) – a collaboration of over 20 organisations working together to deliver the statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the NRN.

2) Assets and open spaces

Our open spaces and buildings are maintained and enhanced to enable wildlife to thrive

We own and manage a variety of open spaces and properties across the districts and there are many ways in which these can contribute to nature recovery, for example, through pollinator friendly grassland management practices. When carried out appropriately these approaches offer positive ways to support wildlife whilst still delivering other functions such as recreational use.

3) Our values

We value the natural world and ecosystem services it provides, informing our decision making

As a council we value nature for its intrinsic value and for the ecosystem services that it provides, helping to protect against the effects of climate change. We recognise the part it plays in our sense of place and cultural heritage; in providing us with food and fuel, in regulating natural processes such as water and air purification and how all these supporting our local economy. Our policies and procedures reflect this, empowering our staff to make decisions and deliver services that minimise ecological impact both locally and globally to go beyond our statutory obligations to protect nature.

4) People and Nature

Citizens engage with the natural environment through our well managed, accessible open spaces and through their informed lifestyle choices

Whilst policies drive the platform for change, ecological protection and improvements can only be implemented at a localised, grassroot level. The more citizens engage and value nature, the more they will take steps to look after it too. Often it is our open spaces that provide the opportunity for people to connect and take action for nature. Equally citizens can make informed choices in the home, whether in the garden or through their purchasing choices. We will work with partners to support and inform citizens on how they can get involved and be part of the solution.

Targets

| Targets to be delivered by 2030 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------|--|--------------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Wildlife | | Assets & open spaces | | Our values / Influencing | | People and nature | |
| 1a | Large scale tree planting and other nature recovery projects across the district and wider area are | 2a | Open spaces are well managed either directly by the council or through the community groups with | 3a | The environmental and ecological well-being of our district is integrated into all policy decisions | 4a | 1 in 4 citizens take action for wildlife (aligned with Somerset Wildlife Trust's Team Wilder campaign) |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|----|--|----|--|
| | delivered with partners | | the support of the council. | | made by the council. | | |
| 1b | Habitats across the district including the councils' designated sites are in a favourable condition. | 2b | All grassland areas are managed in accordance with best practice grassland management to support wildlife where appropriate | 3b | Procurement policies enable the purchase of products and services that support ecological protection and improvement at a local, national and international level. | 4b | All pupils complete one term of environmental education by the time they leave primary school |
| 1c | Our green and blue infrastructure connect to the wider environment and contribute to Somerset's NRN | 2c | The use of chemicals is minimised, and alternatives are used where possible. | 3c | All planning decisions consider ecological footprint of all new developments and contribute to a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain. | 4c | All publicly owned open spaces have a community group, good interpretation and signage and are accessible to the public. |
| 1d | Red List and County notable species (specifically Hazel dormouse, lapwing and Grizzled skipper) thrive in our district and wider area | 2d | All plants are grown or sourced in peat free growing medium and contribute to climate change resilience and nature recovery. | 3d | We collaborate with others and lobby government to ensure policies protect our wildlife and natural environment. | 4d | Businesses play their role in supporting wildlife recovery |
| | | | | 3e | Our staff understand the importance that nature plays and have the skills and knowledge to consider it in their decisions making and implementation of their roles | | |
| | | | | 3f | We monitor and communicate our progress towards nature recovery | | |

Mission

We will achieve our ambitions and target through four overarching activities:

1. Embed nature recovery throughout all our own work within SWTC/SDC
2. Work with partners including businesses to deliver ecological enhancement and protection
3. Enable citizens to connect and take action for nature
4. Measure and communicate progress over time

Embed nature recovery throughout all our own work within SWTC/SDC

AT SWTC/SDC we aim to reverse the degradation of our habitats and loss of biodiversity. We will embed nature in all our decision making and policies to deliver actions that protect and enhance it and build its resilience against climate change. This includes actions within our towns and villages through planning and through the management and maintenance of council owned assets.

We will:

- Build the business case for nature protection and enhancement by using appropriate methods based on natural capital and ecosystem services to inform all our decision making.
- Develop and implement planning policies to support ecological protection and improvement include +10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) for all new developments as soon as is reasonably possible;
- Develop and Implement a Green Procurement strategy which takes into account ecological impact for all purchases and enables staff to make sustainable choices.
- Embed ecological protection and enhancement within all green and blue infrastructure plans including Taunton Garden Town and river and coastal flood mitigation projects to contribute towards the delivery of the NRN;
- Manage our outdoor spaces in a way that supports wildlife enhancement alongside public accessibility and carbon sequestration;
- Prioritise management and maintenance of our LNRs to create exemplar sites;
- Develop and implement a grassland strategy to support pollinators and invertebrates;
- Develop a tree strategy to plant and maintain the right trees in the right place;
- Implement nature-based solutions to support climate mitigation and adaptation including flood and coastal flood management;
- Stop the use of peat-based composts;
- Committee and council reporting to include ecological implications, alongside those for climate and sustainability.

Work with partners including businesses to deliver ecological enhancement and protection

At the heart of our efforts is our collaboration with partners across the region. In particular, we will work with the Somerset Local Nature Partnership to develop the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and deliver the Nature Recovery Network (NRN), and align with initiatives such as [Somerset Wildlife](#)

Trust's Wilder Somerset 2030 plan and Exmoor's National Park's Nature Recovery Vision to deliver shared ambitions.

We will:

- Work with partners through the Local Nature Partnership to develop and deliver a Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Contribute towards State of Nature and NRN for Somerset by identifying opportunities to connect existing council land assets to create wildlife corridors, sequestration/stores and improve the landscape's resilience to climate change;
- Support efforts to secure land that will contribute to NRN and landscape scale projects.
- Work with Somerset Wildlife Trust, Exmoor National Park, the Mendip Hills, Quantock Hills and Blackdowns Hills AONBs, and other councils across Somerset in a co-ordinated approach to delivering shared goals such as a Peat Action Plan and Tree Strategy, a Pollinator Action Plan, and protocols around biosecurity and invasive species control;
- Work with partners to deliver good water and soil quality and healthy aquatic (including wetlands) and terrestrial habitats;
- Work with partners to deliver actions which address the issues of nitrate and phosphate loading within the two districts;
- Work with Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership and support businesses to help deliver nature recovery through their operations and supply chains;
- Promote ways to reduce, reuse and recycle and support initiatives to reduce single use plastics and fly tipping;
- Lobby government to support ecological enhancement and protection.

Enable citizens to connect and take action for nature

Our communities play a vital role in making the big step change needed to tackle the EE. There are many actions individuals and groups can take, from volunteering their time to restore sites for wildlife at home and within their locality to making lifestyle choices that support greener living or campaigning for systemic change. The pandemic highlighted how nature has a positive impact on our health, well-being and our sense of place. We will work with community groups to enable people to connect with nature and help them take an active role in engaging with and protecting it. We will also work with our partners to drive behaviour change in our homes, schools, and businesses.

We will:

- Create opportunities to connect the community e.g. ('Friends of' groups/mental health groups/behaviour change/schools/private gardens/businesses) with nature;
- Use our open spaces and nature reserves as opportunities to communicate to citizens about the importance of the natural world;
- Develop a communications plan linked with climate change to inform householders of actions taken by the councils and partners;
- Work with partners to deliver a behaviour change campaign to support householders to make informed lifestyle choices;
- Support campaigns that lobby government to support nature recovery.

Governance: Funding, monitoring, and reporting progress over time.

Monitoring progress towards nature recovery is vital in determining the efficacy of the actions taken to deliver it and enables SWTC/SDC to communicate progress and successes to our stakeholders. The Environment Act requires local authorities to produce a Biodiversity Report every five years, describing the actions taken and their impact, including action taken on BNG. Monitoring helps to develop a continuous improvement culture, facilitating a performance review, risk management and change process. Working with partners, we will set targets that will align with local, national, and international ambitions and we will develop KPIs, and SMART objectives. We will work with partners to develop baseline data and agree a methodology so that we have consistency across the county which will enable smooth transition into unitary.

We will:

- Co-ordinate and have oversight of all SDC/SWTC ecological improvement activities so that they can be reviewed and continually improved;
- Monitor our progress against targets and ambition and intervene where appropriate to ensure we keep on track;
- Work with new and established community groups to deliver best practice monitoring over time;
- Develop a fundraising strategy to deliver actions where there is insufficient budget and/or resources.

We will take action in broadly four ways:

Delivering – those actions where the Council can directly deliver a defined outcome;

Enabling – those actions where the Council’s role is to facilitate delivery of defined outcomes, for instance, funding or officer time;

Supporting – those actions where the Council can support or encourage the delivery of a defined outcome, namely working with groups or organisations;

Lobbying – those actions where the Council’s primary role is to promote and push for change, e.g., a change to policy, legislation or funding.

Unitary

Working in partnership, SDC and SWT are currently joint owners of the EEVAP and responsible for its delivery. As we move into unitary in 2023, this work will continue to be delivered by the new council. The framework by which this work has been created sets a precedent through which ecological recovery can be delivered and progress monitored by the rest of the county and which can be adapted in accordance with localised needs.

Definitions

Ecology – the study of the interactions between organisms and their environment

Ecological Emergency - organisms, the habitats in which they live are in severe decline and are threatened to the point where they are no longer self-sustaining.

Nature - the physical world, its processes and everything in it (such as flora, fauna, mountains, oceans etc.) that is not made by humans.

Wildlife – all organisms (fauna and flora) that live or grow wild in an area.

Ecosystem - the complex interaction of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit

Habitat - a place where an organism lives in which all the environmental conditions enable an organism to survive. For an animal, that means everything it needs to find and gather food, select a mate, and successfully reproduce. For a plant, a good habitat must provide the right combination of light, air, water, and soil.

Natural Capital - natural assets in their role of providing natural resource inputs and environmental services for economic production. They comprise three principal categories: natural resource stocks, land and ecosystems.

Ecosystem Services - the benefits provided by ecosystems that contribute to making human life both possible and worth living. They include:

- Products or provision services e.g. food and raw materials,
- Regulating services e.g. forested ecosystems provide carbon sequestration and climate regulation,
- Supporting services e.g. nutrient cycling, and
- Cultural services e.g. recreation, health and wellbeing.

Sedgemoor and Somerset West and Taunton Districts' Proposed Ecological Emergency Action Plan

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|--|---|--------|-------------|---------|--|-----------|----------|-----------|---|---|----------|---------------|
| Theme 1: Embed nature recovery throughout all our own work within SWT/SDC | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Action 1 Build the business case for nature protection to inform decisions across the council | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 | Pilot innovative projects that demonstrate the business case for nature. | short | SDC/ SWT | 1.1.1 | Undertake cost analysis of new grass cutting management plan. | Immediate | SWT | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2b/3d/3b | Deliver |
| 1.2 | Undertake review of mechanisms for decision making which include ecological improvement and protection. | short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1b/3a | Deliver |
| 1.3 | All staff undertake training to understand biodiversity loss and how they can have a role in supporting it. | Short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | | 3 | 3e | Enable |
| Action 2 Develop and implement planning policies that support ecological protection and improvement | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | As part of new unitary Local Plan develop policies that support nature recovery, including Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and Biodiversity Net Gain (links to CNCR 133). | medium | SDC/ SWT | 2.1.1 | Work with Somerset County Council and others to develop Interim Planning guidance statement that explicitly seeks to secure ecological | Immediate | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | 1c/ 3c | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type | |
|---------|---------|------|----------|---------|--|-------|----------|-----------|--|---|---------|---------------|---------|
| | | | | | protection and enhancement, supporting Biodiversity Net Gain and Nature Recovery Networks consistent with adopted Local Plans and NPPF requirements. | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 2.1.2 | Review and update existing local validation requirements/guidance and include multifunctional landscapes that deliver benefits such as SUDS; ecological protection and enhancement; climate mitigation; retention of soil function (structure and health). | short | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | | 1c/ 3c | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|---------|---------|------|----------|---------|---|--------|----------|-----------|--|---|---------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 2.1.3 | Develop Local Plan policies and guidance, setting out expectations with regards to on-site measures to protect habitats, biodiversity, protected species delivery a minimum of 10% BNG from new developments (links to CNCR 141). | Medium | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | 1c/ 3c | Deliver |
| | | | | 2.1.4 | Within interim planning guidance encourage the incorporation of simple on sites measures within development that can help contribute to addressing biodiversity decline (e.g. bee bricks, nesting, roosting and hibernation boxes) where appropriate. | short | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | 1c/ 3c | Support |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|---------|---------|------|----------|---------|---|--------|----------|-----------|--|---|---------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 2.1.5 | Develop Local Plan policies requiring retention and protection of ancient trees and habitats within new development sites (links to CNCR 134). | Medium | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | 1c/ 3c | Deliver |
| | | | | 2.1.6 | Develop Local Plan and corporate policies requiring replacement of any trees that are removed using right tree right place principle or with other habitats that have a better impact biodiversity, and are consistent with forthcoming Biodiversity Net Gain requirements. (Amended CNCR 135). | Medium | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | 1c/ 3c | Deliver |
| | | | | 2.1.7 | Develop local Plan policies that maximise brownfield site | Medium | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | 1c/ 3c | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type | |
|---------|---------|------|----------|---------|--|--------|----------|-----------|--|---|---------|---------------|---------|
| | | | | | development opportunities. | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 2.1.8 | Develop local Plan policies that support nature positive farming practices and diversification that can deliver more viable ecosystem services (CNCR Ref 114 amended). | Medium | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | | 1c/ 3c | Deliver |
| | | | | 2.1.9 | Develop Local Plan policies that protect existing and allocated land and set requirements to support new traditional orchards and allotments (CNCR 110 amended). | Medium | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | | 1c/ 3c | Deliver |
| | | | | 2.1.10 | Develop local plan and policies that protect and create pollinator habitats (CEAP 94). | Medium | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | | 1c/ 3c | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|---------|---|-------|-------------|---------|---|-------|----------|-----------|--|---|---------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.2 | Ensure ecological conditions of planned developments are enforced and where appropriate take action where breaches are identified. | short | SDC/ SWT | 2.2.1 | Build capacity and capability of planning team by appointment of additional tree, ecology, landscape and enforcement officers and provide training to existing staff to monitor compliance of tree and biodiversity net gain policies and deliver ecological protection under LGR (CNCR 288 amended). | short | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | 1c/ 3c | Deliver |
| 2.3 | Support developers to integrate high quality landscapes and SUDS in all new developments to support flood management and water quality (links to CEAP 100). | short | SDC/ SWT | 2.3.1 | Review and update existing local validation requirements/guidance and include multifunctional landscapes that deliver benefits such as SUDS; ecological protection and enhancement; | short | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | 1c/ 3c | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | Targets | Delivery Type | |
|---------|--|-------|----------|---------|--|-------|----------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| | | | | | climate mitigation; retention of soil function (structure and health). | | | | | | |
| | | | | 2.3.2 | Signpost developers to Somerset Council's SUDS guidance when published. | short | SDC/SWT | 1 | 3 | 1c/3d | Support |
| | | | | 2.3.3 | Provide guidance to developers on delivering phosphate neutral developments and monitor effect of measures P neutral measures. | short | SWT | 1 | 3 | 1c/3c | Support |
| 2.4 | Landscape management schemes on new developments deliver high quality habitats that support wildlife and have long-term maintenance plans in place meeting 10% Biodiversity Net Gain requirement as a minimum. | Short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | 3 | 1c/3c | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|----------|---------|-------------|------|----------|-----------|---|---|---------|---------------|---------|
| | | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| 2.5 | Request that all construction/ sustainability method statements for all new developments include soil resource plans for the best and most fertile soils. | short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | | 1c/3c | Deliver |
| 2.6 | Firepool development in Taunton is delivered as an exemplar site that integrates ecological protection and enhancement into the fabric of the site design. | long | SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | | 1c/3c | Deliver |
| 2.7 | Support and encourage parish or town councils to develop neighbourhood plans that protect and enhance biodiversity and habitat recovery. | ongoing | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 4 | 1c/3c/4a | Support |
| Action 3 | Embed ecological protection and enhancement within all green and blue infrastructure plans, and river and coastal flood mitigation projects to contribute towards the delivery of the Nature Recovery Networks | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 | Complete a new Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for the district drawing together opportunities to improve access to green spaces, active travel | Immediate | SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | | 1c/3c | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|---------|--|-------|-------------|---------|---|-----------|----------|-----------|--|---|---------|---------------|
| | linkages, reinstate and create green landscape linkages, improve biodiversity, re-wild and regenerate the landscape and increase carbon sequestration and climate resilience (CNCR 120). | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.2 | Review and integrate ecological improvements within green infrastructure design delivering multi-functional benefits that support nature recovery networks. | short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1c/3a | Deliver |
| 3.3 | Consider ecological protection and improvement within all coastal flood mitigation projects and where appropriate implement nature-based solutions. | Long | SDC/ SWT | 3.3.1 | Continue Berrow Dunes, Bridgwater (LNR/SSSI) management and The Meads Eco Park to support rare habitats and a nature-based solution for higher risk of tidal flooding (relates to CEAP 97). | Immediate | SDC | 1 | | 3 | 1c/ 3a | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|-----------------|---|------------------|----------|---------|---|-----------------|----------|-----------|---|---|----------|---------------|
| | | | | 3.3.2 | Deliver Longrun Meadow flood mitigation project. | Medium | SWT | 1 | | 3 | 1c/3a | Deliver |
| 3.4 | Consider ecological protection and improvement within all river flood mitigation projects and where appropriate implement nature-based solutions. | Medium | SDC/ SWT | 3.4.1 | Parrett Barrier includes mitigation measures to protect wildlife e.g. inclusion of eel and fish passes within the design. | short to medium | SDC | 1 | | 3 | 1c/3a | Enable |
| | | | | 3.4.2 | Deliver e-meandering of Tone in Vivary Park, Taunton supporting the creation of habitats and wildlife. | Medium | SWT | 1 | | 3 | 1c/3a | Deliver |
| Action 4 | Manage assets to support healthy habitats and biodiversity | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.1 | Retrofit artificial nesting, roosting and hibernations boxes to council owned property to support key species in region. | Immediate -short | SDC/ SWT | 4.1.1 | Identify opportunities to deliver nesting boxes in appropriate place. | Immediate | SDC/SWT | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1d/2e/3a | Deliver |
| 4.2 | Manage heritage properties to support nature recovery. | Long | SDC/ SWT | 4.2.1 | Incorporate ecological protection within development of Toneworks heritage site, | Long | SWT | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1d/2e/3a | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|-----------------|---|-----------|----------|---------|---|-----------|----------|-----------|---|---|---|-------------|---------------|
| | | | | | Wellington alongside cultural importance. | | | | | | | | |
| 4.3 | Sedgemoor software upgrade and refurbishment considers environmental impacts of equipment and manages old equipment following the waste hierarchy principles i.e. reuse and recycle where possible thus reducing impact of raw material extraction. | Immediate | SDC | | | | | 3 | | | | 3b | Deliver |
| Action 5 | Manage our outdoor spaces in a way that supports wildlife enhancement alongside public accessibility and usability; and carbon sequestration (links to CNCR 271) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5.1 | Develop and implement a grassland strategy to support pollinators and invertebrates (linked to CEAP 94). | Short | SDC/SWT | 5.1.1 | Conduct annual review of grassland management and determine success, continual improvement. | Medium | SDC/SWT | 1 | 2 | 3 | | 1b/2b/3a | Deliver |
| 5.2 | Review, update and implement LNR and other open spaces management plans to support wildlife (CNCR 142 adapted). | Immediate | SWT | 5.2.1 | Children's Wood & Hankridge improvements. | Immediate | SWT | 1 | 2 | | 4 | 1b/1d/2a/4c | |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|---------|---|-----------|-------------|---------|---|-----------|----------|-----------|---|---|---------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 5.4 | Work with Plantlife to develop wildflower areas to promote rare arable weed species. Improve reedbed habitats. | Immediate | SDC | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 1b/2c | Deliver |
| 5.5 | Nursery practices support ecological recovery. | medium | SWT | 5.5.1 | Replace peat compost with peat free compost within the nursery. | Immediate | SWT | | 2 | 3 | 2d/3b | Deliver |
| | | | | 5.5.2 | Review current nursery practices with a view to encouraging wildlife with plants grown and distributed across the districts e.g. bedding plant vs perennials; polinator attractors; and trees (target 2,000 whips) (relates to CNCR 144). | short | SWT | | 2 | 3 | 2a3b | Deliver |
| 5.6 | Review use of chemicals e.g. herbicides/ pesticides across outdoor spaces according to ecological value of sites. | short | SDC/ SWT | 5.6.1 | Review use of herbicide/ pesticides across council owned assets with ambition to | Immediate | SDC/SWT | | 2 | 3 | 2c/3b | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|---------|---|--------|----------|---------|---|-----------|----------|-----------|---|---|--------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | minimise usage and find alternatives where appropriate. | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 5.6.2 | Support Parish Councils to reduce the use of chemicals on parish owned sites. | Short | SDC/SWT | 2 | | | 2c | Support |
| 5.7 | Use drought-resistant / pollinator friendly plants in verges and flower displays to help prepare for the changing climate, such as extreme weather events like flooding, droughts (CEAP F18). | short | SDC/SWT | | | | | 2 | | | 2d | Deliver |
| 5.8 | Build capacity and capability of Open Spaces team to deliver ecological improvements across outdoor spaces. | medium | SWT | 5.8.1 | Upskill /train operatives to implement ecological best practices across districts. E.g. train the trainer opportunities/ peer to peer/ species identification such as invasive species. | Immediate | SDC/SWT | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1a, 1d, 2a, 2b, 3e | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|----------|---------|---|-------|----------|-----------|---|---|-----------|---------------|---------|
| | | | | 5.8.2 | Recruit strategic and planning expertise to oversee longer term ecological goals of open spaces. | short | SWT | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1b, 2a,3e | | |
| Action 6 | Develop and implement a tree strategy to plant and maintain the right trees in the right place | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.1 | Create a tree planting strategy for district. | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 1a/2d | Deliver | |
| 6.2 | Deliver right tree/right place planting, hedgerow creation and other relevant projects on Council owned land and other holdings contributing towards the Nature Recovery Network and Green infrastructure (CNCR 121 amended). | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | 6.2.1 | Work with partners to deliver and expand on proposals for planting at least 11,000 trees as part of the Somerset Forest (CNCR 298). | Short | SWT | 1 | | | 1a | Enable | |
| | | | | 6.2.2 | Working with the Highways Authority and Somerset County Council to identify roadside areas where tree planting is possible. | short | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | 1a/1c/3d | Deliver | |
| 6.3 | Support community groups to deliver right tree/ right place and develop a toolkit/ | short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 4 | 1a/1c/4a | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|---------|--|-----------|-------------|---------|--|-------|----------|-----------|---|--|---|----------|---------------|
| | guidance for community tree planting in line with the Nature Recovery Network Strategy (CNCR 285/143 amended). | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.4 | Work with partners to develop and deliver on an Ash Die Back Action Plan to ensure replacement of affected trees and utilisation of wood for biomass energy and also making sure some remain on site as invertebrate habitat (CNCR 131). | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1a/1c/2a | Deliver |
| 6.5 | Work with town and parish councils and community groups to identify opportunities to deliver community woodlands and other habitats to support biodiversity (CNCR 295 amended). | Short | SDC/ SWT | 6.5.1 | Deliver the Maidenbrook Country Park, including the planting of 4,500 trees and creation of active travel routes linking Monkton Heathfield and Nerrols (CNCR action 292). | Short | SWT | 1 | | | 4 | 1a/1b/4c | Support |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|-----------------|--|-----------|-------------|---------|-------------|------|----------|-----------|---|---|---------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 6.6 | Work with community groups to develop a Tree Warden Scheme to provide a network of volunteers to help water and maintain trees across the district (CNCR action 297)/ CEAP Ref 92). | Short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 1a/4c | Enable |
| 6.7 | Implement and monitor 3 for 1 trees principle across district. | Immediate | SWT | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 1a/4c | Deliver |
| 6.8 | Deliver major urban tree planting schemes on Council-owned land (CNCR action 128 amended). | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | | 1a | Deliver |
| 6.9 | Support partners to work with farmers and landowners to bring forward, encourage and enable tree planting and hedgerow creation, restoration and expansion (CNCR action 138 amended). | Short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1a/3d | Support |
| Action 7 | Develop and Implement a Green Procurement strategy that takes into account ecological impact for all purchases and enables staff to make sustainable choices that minimise our impact on globally important habitats. (links to CNCR 184) | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|---------|--|------------------|----------|---------|-------------|------|----------|-----------|---|--|---------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7.1 | Adopt an interim procurement statement setting out an expectation that suppliers and their supply chains are actively working towards reducing their carbon and ecological footprint (adapted CNCR action 91). | Immediate -short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | 3 | | 3b | Deliver |
| 7.2 | Review existing social value policy as part of LGR to include ecological protection and enhancement alongside climate change. | Short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | 3 | | 3b | Deliver |
| 7.3 | Procurement of food within local authority control (mainly corporate refreshments) from initially local, then national and international 'wildlife friendly' sources (CNCR 274 amended). | Short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | 3 | | 3b | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|--|---|-----------|-------------|---------|-------------|------|----------|-----------|--|---|----------|---------------|
| 7.4 | Deliver training to all officers responsible for commissioning services and purchasing goods to ensure they understand how they should take account of climate and ecological considerations during the procurement process (CNCR 266 amended). | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | | 3 | 3b/3e | Deliver |
| Theme 2: Work with partners including businesses to deliver ecological enhancement and protection | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Action 8 | Work with partners through the Local Nature Partnership to develop and deliver upon a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (CNCR 119) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8.1 | Work with the Local Nature Partnership to complete a Nature Recovery Network Strategy including an interactive online map and user guide (CNCR 120). | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1b/3c | Support |
| 8.2 | Working with partners, co-create a Vision for the natural environment in Somerset, develop a strategy for implementing the Vision (CNCR 122). | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1b/1c/3c | Support |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|-----------------|--|-----------|-------------|---------|-------------|------|----------|-----------|---|---|----------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 8.3 | Identify and map partners at national and local level including those with significant land holdings and designated sites. | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1b/1c/3c | Support |
| 8.4 | Promote Team wilder with Parish/Ward and community groups . | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | | 4 | 4a | Support |
| 8.5 | Work with partners to develop access to nature social prescribing programmes and communicate the health and wellbeing benefits of engaging with the natural environment (CNCR 287). | short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | | 4 | 4a/4b/4c | Support |
| 8.6 | Deliver training on the Nature Recovery Network Strategy, data and map to all relevant officers, Members and communities (CNCR 283). | short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1a/1c/2a/2b/2c/2d/2e/3a/3e | Support |
| Action 9 | Contribute towards State of Nature and National Recovery Network for Somerset by identifying opportunities to connect existing council land assets to wildlife corridors, and improving the landscape's resilience to climate change. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9.1 | Work with partners within the LNP to map beelines (Buglife) as | Short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1d/3d | Support |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type | |
|---------|--|-------|-------------|---------|--------------------------------------|------|----------|-----------|--|---|---------|---------------|---------|
| | part of pollinator action plan and LNRS. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9.2 | Work with partners to develop a Land Management Strategy to protect and enhance soils through more regenerative agricultural processes (CNCR 112). | short | | | | | | 1 | | 3 | | 1b/3d | Support |
| 9.3 | Work with town and parish councils and community groups to develop, co-ordinate, support and train a Community Nature Network of volunteers to help deliver the NRN (CNCR 284, links to CNCR 143). | Short | | | | | | | | 3 | 4 | 3d/4a | Support |
| 9.4 | Work with partners to establish a "Wilder Somerset Fund" aiming for a combined pot of £500,000 per year to deliver the actions of the Nature Recovery Network (CNCR 290). | Short | | | | | | | | 3 | | 3d | Support |
| 9.5 | Support efforts to secure land that will contribute to NRN and | Long | SDC/ SWT | 9.5.1 | Work with partners to seek long-term | Long | SWT | 1 | | 3 | | 1a/3d | Support |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|------------------|--|-----------|-------------|---------|--|--------------------|----------|-----------|--------|---|-----------|---------------|
| | large landscape-scale projects. | | | | phosphate mitigation | | | | | | | |
| 9.6 | Work with the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust to create large-scale wetland habitats at The Meads Eco Park, Bridgwater . | Immediate | SDC | | | | | 1 | 2 a | | 1b/ 1c/2a | Deliver |
| Action 10 | Work with Somerset Wildlife Trust; Exmoor National Park Authority, Quantock Hills AONB, Blackdowns Hills AONB, Mendips AONB and other council allies across Somerset in a co-ordinated approach to delivering shared goals such as Peat Action Plan and Tree strategy, pollinator action plan, and biosecurity and invasive species control | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10.1 | Provide funding to Exmoor National Park to help deliver SWT tree planting objective. | Immediate | SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1a/1b/3d | Enable |
| 10.2 | Work with partners to develop a Somerset Land Use Strategy comprising of a soil strategy, water quality strategy, peat strategy, land use capacity/potential, planning for sea level rise (CNCR action 289). | Short | SDC/ SWT | 10.2.1 | Work with Somerset County Council and other NE County Wide to deliver nutrient catchment management plan | short | SDC/SWT | | | 3 | 3d | Support |
| 10.3 | Work with partners to set out how to restore peatlands in Somerset by establishing a Peat Partnership, revitalising the Somerset Levels and | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | 10.3.1 | Support initiatives that help peat based businesses find alternative business models. | Immediate to short | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | 1a/3d | Support |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|------------------|---|-----------|-------------|---------|---|--------------------|----------|-----------|---|---|---------|---------------|
| | Moors Peatland Task Force and working with the IUCN Peatland Programme (CNCR 130). | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10.4 | Work with partners to deliver Somerset Forest (ring around the Levels) (CNCR 344). | Short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | | 1a | Support |
| 10.5 | Identify opportunities with partners and create nature-based projects that enhance coastal and offshore biodiversity e.g. salt marshes. | Short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | 3 | | 1a/3d | Support |
| Action 11 | Work with partners to deliver good water and soil quality and healthy aquatic (including wetlands) and terrestrial habitats | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11.1 | Work with partners and local groups to deliver actions which address the issues of nitrate and phosphate loading on RAMSAR sites. | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | 11.1.1 | Work with partners to seek longterm phosphate mitigation measures. | Long | SWT | 1 | | 3 | | Support |
| | | | | 11.1.2 | Support best farming practices and promote to farmers through partners. | Immediate to short | SDC/SWT | 1 | | 3 | 1a/3d | Support |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|------------------|--|-----------|----------|---------|--|--------|----------|-----------|---|---|----------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| | | | | 11.1.3 | Develop Cotford St Luke into a wetland habitat as part of Phosphate Mitigation Interim measures and put into place appropriate long term management plans. | Medium | SWT | | | | 1c/2a/3a | Deliver |
| Action 12 | Work with Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership and other partners to support businesses help deliver nature recovery through their operations and supply chains | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12.1 | Work with partners to encourage green business/technology / green jobs into district using Somerset's USP; university links (links to CNCR 89? 337 and 338). | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | | 3 | 3d | Enable |
| 12.2 | Support the LNP to develop a communications campaign to sell the economic case for landowners and farmers changing land use/management practices (CNCR 114, 280, 281, and 282). | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | | 3 | 3d | Support |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|------------------|--|--------|----------|---------|--|-------------------|----------|-----------|--|---|---------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12.3 | Signpost/support businesses to best practices to deliver ecological protection (links to CNCR 92, 242 and 244). | Short | SDC/SWT | 12.3.1 | Review options to incentivise businesses to take action for the wildlife e.g. grant opportunities/ tool and resources. | Immediate - short | SDC/SWT | | | 3 | 3d | Enable |
| | | | SDC/SWT | 12.3.2 | Support Leisure and tourism sector to support nature recovery e.g. avoidance of single use plastics. | Immediate - short | SDC/SWT | | | 4 | 4d | Support |
| 12.4 | Work with partners to develop a University in Taunton and Research and Innovation Park at Taunton with a focus on the circular economy, innovation in manufacturing processes, and delivering carbon neutrality and ecological recovery in the South West (adapted from CNCR 337). | Medium | SWT | | | | | | | 3 | 3d | Enable |
| Action 13 | Lobby government to support ecological enhancement and protection. | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type | |
|---|--|-----------|-------------|---------|--|-----------|----------|-----------|--|---|---------|---------------|--------|
| 13.1 | Lobby Government to introduce a national ban on peat extraction (CNCR action 129). | Immediate | SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1b/3e | lobby | |
| 13.2 | Lobby Highways England to plant hedges along the M5 motorway (CNCR 116). | Immediate | SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1b/3e | lobby | |
| 13.3 | Lobby government to get water companies to do necessary work to remove Phosphates. | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1b/3e | lobby | |
| 13.4 | Identify other key areas to lobby for wildlife enhancement & protection e.g. neonicotinoids, sewage discharge. | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1b/3e | lobby | |
| Theme 3: Enable citizens to connect and take action for nature | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Action 14 | Create opportunities to connect the community such as 'friends of' groups, schools, and householders with nature | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14.1 | Provide or signpost good practice guidance and funding opportunities to community groups on habitat creation (Links to CNCR 139,155, 292 and 318). | Short | SDC/ SWT | 14.1.1 | Develop an information pack, standard agreement and communications campaign for community groups and parish councils who wish to | Immediate | SDC/SWT | 1 | | | 4 | 1b/4a | Enable |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|---------|---|-----------|----------|---------|---|-----------|----------|-----------|---|---|----------|---------------|
| | | | | | manage Council-owned open spaces. | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 14.1.2 | Drive forward Environmental Champions Scheme to encourage residents of all ages and backgrounds to take action for wildlife (CEAP 6). | Immediate | SDC/SWT | | | 4 | 4a | Deliver |
| | | | | 14.1.3 | Work with partners to improve ecological benefits of Steam Coast Trail and communicate to users. | short | SWT | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1c/2a/4c | Deliver |
| 14.2 | Support local groups to take part in activities on council owned open spaces that support wildlife. | Short | SDC/SWT | 14.2.1 | Ecosculpture and skills development project in partnership with Hestercombe House. | Immediate | SWT | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1c/2a/4a | Enable |
| 14.3 | Support initiatives that help to remove litter particularly along our coastline. | Immediate | SDC/SWT | | | | | | 2 | 4 | 2a/4a/4c | Enable |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type | |
|------------------|---|-----------|-------------|---------|---|-----------|----------|-----------|--|---|---------|---------------|---------|
| | Work with town and parish councils and community groups to provide opportunities for local people to get involved with planting trees and habitat creation (CNCR action 296 adapted). | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 4 | 1c/2a/4a | Enable |
| | Investigate engagement with West Country Rivers Trust's citizen science program - monitoring water quality to feed into Natural England's County Water improve strategy 22/23. | Immediate | SWT | | | | | | | 3 | | 3f | Support |
| Action 15 | Use our open spaces and nature reserves as opportunities to communicate to citizens about the importance of the natural world | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15.1 | Develop communications for all open space sites to engage citizens about habitat and wildlife on site. | medium | SDC/ SWT | 15.1.1 | Create signage and interpretation for grassland management. | Immediate | | | | | 4 | 4c | Deliver |
| 15.2 | Maintain and where necessary improve access to council owned local wildlife sites and local nature reserves. | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | | | 4 | 4c | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | Targets | Delivery Type | | |
|------------------|---|-----------|----------|---------|---|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|---------------|----|---------|
| Action 16 | Develop an ecological emergency communications plan linked with climate change to inform householders of actions taken by the councils and partners and how they can get involved (links to CNCR action 123) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16.1 | Promote/signpost resources to support householders take action for nature. | Immediate | SDC/SWT | 16.1.1 | Make householders aware of Somerset prepared/ Team Wilder/Environmental Champions and other groups that deliver nature recovery. | Immediate | SDC/SWT | | | 4 | 4a | Deliver |
| Action 17 | Work with partners to deliver behaviour change campaigns and communications to support householders and businesses to make lifestyle choices to reduce consumption and protect local and globally important wildlife habitats. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17.1 | Work with partners linking up with existing communications e.g. Wildlife Trust's Team Wilder, active travel links to our AONBs. | Immediate | SDC/SWT | 17.1.1 | Promote nature recovery by protecting and Restoring Somerset - Pride in looking after our area including communities within it. Having pride in our home of Somerset. | | | | | 4 | 4a | Support |
| 17.2 | Working with partners communicate to council tenants and other householders about ideas that support wildlife within gardens e.g. wilding garden lawns. | Immediate | SDC/SWT | | | | | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4a | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|---------|---|-----------|----------|---------|-------------|------|----------|-----------|--|---|-------|---------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17.3 | Communication to allotment growers -best practice for wildlife (links to CNCR 107). | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | | 4 | 4a | Deliver | |
| 17.4 | Increase awareness in businesses and young people of the value of local pollinators, improving knowledge and understanding of pollinators in the area (CEAP 160). | Immediate | SDC | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 1d/4d | Support | |
| 17.5 | Develop an awards scheme focusing on celebrating climate and ecological action in the community (CNCR 323 adapted). | Short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | | 4 | 4a | Support | |
| 17.6 | Champion our nature recovery outside designated sites and link into Green Infrastructure strategy. | short | | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 1c/4a | Support | |
| 17.7 | Deliver community and school workshops building awareness about nature recovery and how they can take action for wildlife (and climate change) (relates to CEAP 102). | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | | 4 | 4a | Support | |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | Targets | Delivery Type |
|--|---|-----------|-------------|---------|-------------|------|----------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Action 18 | Promote ways to reduce, reuse and recycle; support product durability, energy efficiency and renewable energy generation. | | | | | | | | | |
| 18.1 | Work with Somerset Waste Partners on Recycle More (Refer to CNCR actions 253 - 270). | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 3 4 | 3d/4a | Support |
| Theme 4: Governance' funding, monitoring and reporting progress over time | | | | | | | | | | |
| Action 19 | Co-ordinate and have oversight of all SDC/SWTC ecological improvement activities so that it can be reviewed and continually improve. | | | | | | | | | |
| 19.1 | Develop methodology to enable the council to monitor progress towards ambitions and targets. | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 3 | 3f | Deliver |
| 19.2 | Agree method by which progress of actions will be monitored over time. E.g. through Pantana (SDC) or other. | Short | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 3 | 3f | Deliver |
| Action 20 | Work with partners to agree a methodology to measure progress against our KPIs and targets (relates to CNCR146) | | | | | | | | | |
| 20.1 | Committee and council reporting to include ecological impact, alongside those already for climate and sustainability. | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | 3 | 3f | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|------------------|--|-----------|-------------|---------|---|-----------|----------|-----------|--|---|---------|---------------|
| 20.2 | Work with partners to disseminate best practice monitoring methodology to local community groups in order to feed into Somerset species monitoring for LNRS. | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | | 3 | 3f | Deliver |
| Action 21 | Develop a fundraising strategy to deliver action plan where there are insufficient budget and resources. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21.1 | Produce and communicate a list of potential woodland creation grants, and forward plan bids where possible (Amended CNCR 138) | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | | | | | | | 3 | 3a | Deliver |
| 21.2 | Seek funds to support ecological protection and improvement projects. | Immediate | SDC/ SWT | 21.2.1 | Build Up a Tree Fund with businesses and stakeholders (already seeded by the council) to deliver tree planting days with local residents and community groups to increase tree coverage (SDCA CEAP 92). | Immediate | SDC | 1 | | | 1a | Deliver |

| Ref. No | Project | Term | District | Ref. No | Sub-project | Term | District | Ambitions | | | | Targets | Delivery Type |
|---------|---------|------|----------|---------|------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|---|---|---|-------------|---------------|
| | | | | 21.2.2 | Toneworks, Wellington. | Immediate | SWT | 1 | | 3 | 4 | 1d/2e/3c/4a | Deliver |
| | | | | 21.2.3 | Steam Coastal Trail | Immediate | SWT | 1 | | 3 | 4 | 1c/3c/4a | Deliver |
| | | | | 21.2.3 | Hibernation boxes | Immediate | SWT/SDC | 1 | 2 | | 4 | 1c/2e/4a | Deliver |

Key:

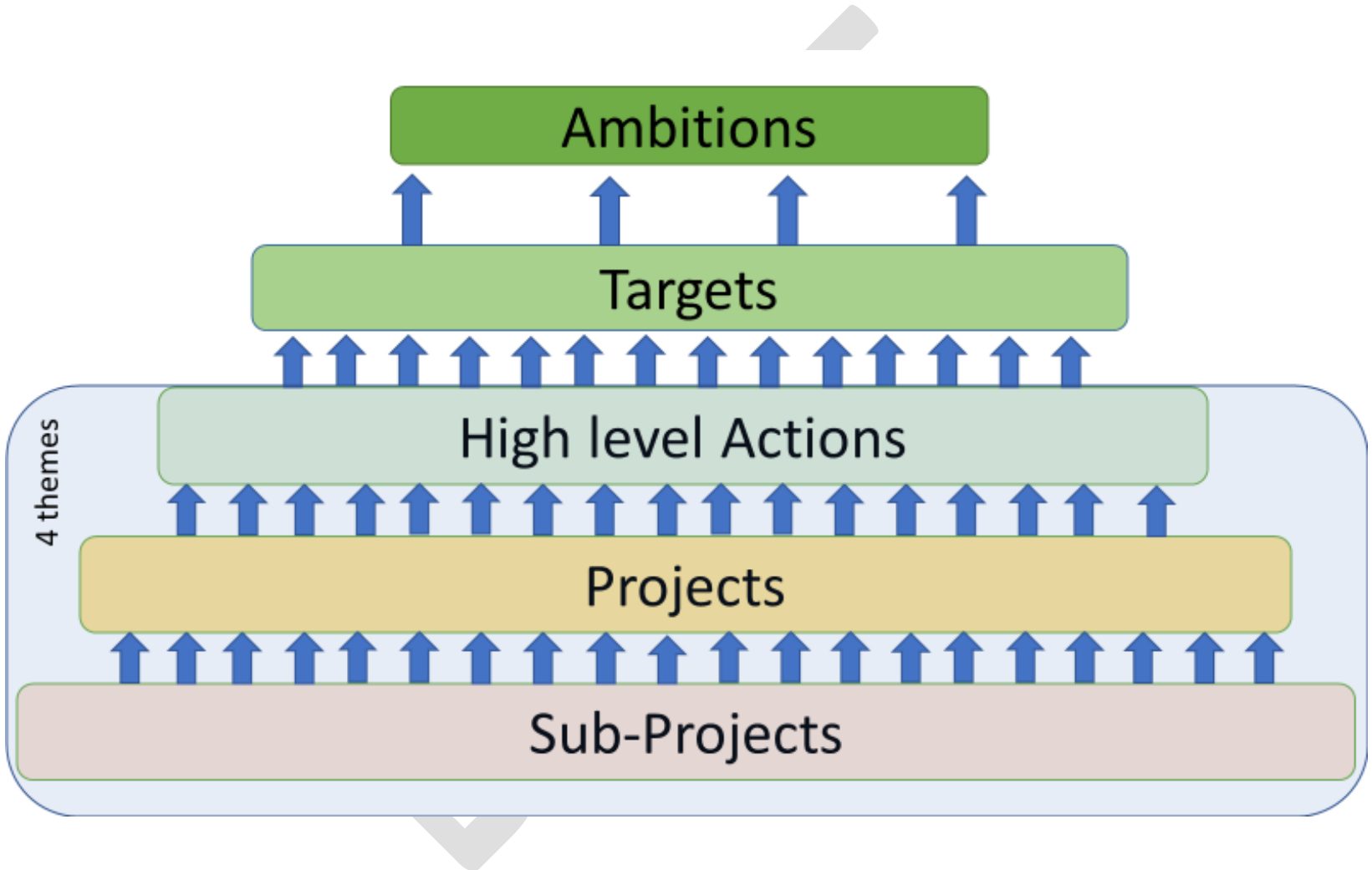
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|------------------------------------|
| Term: |
| Immediate – financial Year 2022/23 |
| Short - 2023-2025 |
| Medium 2025-2028 |
| Long 2028-2030 |

| |
|---|
| Delivery |
| Deliver – those actions where the Council can directly deliver a defined outcome/ |
| Enable – those actions where the Council’s role is to facilitate delivery of defined outcomes, for instance changes to policy. |
| Support – those actions where the Council can support or encourage the delivery of a defined outcome, namely working with groups or organisations. |
| Lobby – those actions where the Council’s primary role is to promote and push for change, e.g., a change to policy, legislation or funding. |

District

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|--------------------------------------|
| SDC -Sedgemoor District Council |
| SWT – Somerset West District Council |

Action Plan Project Hierarchy:



The Action Plan will deliver the following ambitions and targets:

| Collaborating with partners | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|--|------------|--|
| Ambitions | | | | | |
| Wildlife | | Assets & open spaces | | Our values | |
| People and nature | | | | | |
| Our targets by 2030: | | | | | |
| 1a | Large scale tree planting and other nature recovery projects across the district and wider area are delivered with partners | 2a | Open spaces are well managed either by community groups with support by the local authority or directly by the council | 3a | The environmental and ecological well-being of our district is integrated into all policy decisions made by the council. |
| 1b | Habitats across the district including the councils' designated sites are in a favourable condition. | 2b | All grassland areas are managed in accordance with best practice grassland management to support wildlife where appropriate | 3b | Procurement policies enable the purchase of products and services that support ecological protection and improvement at a local, national and international level. |
| 1c | Our green and blue infrastructure connect to the wider environment and contribute to Somerset's nature recovery network | 2c | The use of chemicals is minimised, and alternatives are used where possible. | 3c | All planning decisions consider ecological footprint of all new developments and contribute to a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain. |
| 1d | County notable and red list species (specifically Hazel dormouse, lapwing and Grizzled skipper) thrive in our district and wider area | 2d | All plants are grown or sourced in peat free growing medium and contribute to climate change resilience and nature recovery. | 3d | We collaborate with others and lobby government to ensure policies protect our wildlife and natural environment. |
| | | 2e | All council owned buildings support ecological recovery where appropriate | 3e | Our staff understand the importance that nature plays and have the skills and knowledge to consider it in their decisions making and implementation of their roles |
| | | | | 3f | We monitor and communicate our progress towards nature recovery |
| 4a | 1 in 4 citizens take action for wildlife (aligned with Somerset Wildlife Trust's Team Wilder campaign) | | | | |
| 4b | All pupils complete one term of environmental education by the time they leave primary school | | | | |
| 4c | All publically owned open spaces have a community group, good signage and are accessible to the public. | | | | |
| 4d | Businesses play their role in supporting wildlife recovery | | | | |