

Corporate Priority Area	Ref	Annual Plan Commitments 2021/22 <a href="https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/your-council/annual-plan/">https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/your-council/annual-plan/</a>	Update on position at the end of September 2021	RAG
Our environment and economy	1	Continue to deliver projects that work towards making ours a carbon neutral district by 2030 through our Carbon Neutral Climate Resilience Action Plan.	<p>Our climate change delivery team continues to deliver projects as set out in our CNCR 10 year plan. In the first year we delivered actions identified as 'immediate' such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provided climate change training to all our staff and elected members</li> <li>•Started the transition of our pool car fleet to electric vehicles</li> <li>•Installed Electric Vehicle Charging Units at Blackbrook Leisure Centre in Taunton, Alexandra Road car park in Minehead and Exmoor House car park in Dulverton</li> <li>•Been awarded OZEV funding to install Electric Vehicle Charging Points within our SWT owned car parks across the district</li> <li>•Launched our free tree scheme for parish and town councils</li> <li>•Supported parish and town councils with grant funding to install Electric Vehicle Charging Points</li> <li>•Worked with Wessex Water to install water refill stations in Taunton, Wellington and Minehead</li> <li>•Retrofitted waterless urinals within our public toilets</li> <li>•We are leading on the 'Recycling on the Go' project for Somerset Waste Partnership</li> <li>•Approved to take part in the Department for Transport EScooter trials and have launched schemes in Taunton and Minehead</li> </ul> <p>Work is now underway to identify priority projects from year 2 and year 3 of the plan to deliver from 2022 onwards.</p>	Green
	2	Deliver Recycle More, the expanded household recycling service, to make it easier for everyone to increase the amount they recycle.	<p>Phase 3 (Taunton Deane) is currently in delivery stage with the first leaflet being sent out in Sept and the second leaflet and blue bag delivery in WC 18/10. Route changes and staffing have been put in place. Additional staff at SWT call centre have been recruited. A comms plan has been agreed and being delivered. New collections are due to commence on WC 1/11. Transfer Station building works are due to be completed end of Oct but contingency plans in place if any delays.</p> <p>Phase 4 (West Somerset &amp; Sedgemoor) Now at planning stage for start in Feb/March 2022.</p> <p>National driver shortage and contractor performance issues continue to put project at risk. Material delivery issues due for building works for phase 4 may also cause a further delay.</p>	Amber
	3	Deliver a programme of creative initiatives to support the recovery and growth of our town centre businesses.	<p>Following the launch of the £535k SWT Town Centre Recovery Fund in July 2020, and the Welcome Back Fund in June 2021 an extensive range of creative activities and events have been delivered across Taunton, Wellington, Minehead, Watchet, Porlock, Dulverton, Dunster and Wiveliscombe. Each town centre has recorded an increase in footfall and the overall vibrancy and reputation of the towns that has encouraged first time and repeat visits. A full list of the creative initiatives funded are available from the Economic Development Team.</p>	Green
	4	Complete the redevelopment of one of our prime riverside quarters, Coal Orchard in Taunton.	<p>Scheme has been delayed due to national material and labour shortage, and Covid19 related impacts on programme.</p>	Amber
	5	Progress individual planning applications on Firepool, for Block 1 (Firepool South, next to the Viridor building) as well as Block 3 (Firepool North next to Trenchard Way) with a view to starting work on site in late 2021 and start on site of the Digital Innovation Centre at Block 6 (Firepool North).	<p>Block 1 is caught by phosphates indefinitely, so will not progress until this is resolved. Block 3 and Infrastructure / drainage and levels submitted in October</p> <p>Digital Innovation Centre started on site October 21</p>	Amber

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	6	Increase opportunity for new jobs and businesses in Minehead and West Somerset by completing an employment land sites feasibility study.	A feasibility study was carried out in Summer 2021, which reviewed a wide range of sites, as well as assessed business demand. The development appraisal concluded that one specific site and another location both offered potentially viable options for investment and development. A decision was made to further explore these sites in more detail (rather than bring forward business cases for the Council to consider), and in particular firm up some of the key variable costs, which in turn would lead to more robust business cases. Significant work has been going on to investigate costs and issues associated with each site, and it is currently very likely that reports will be bought forward to Council in Feb 2022.	Green
	7	Present a full business case to open a train station in Wellington (if given the go-ahead from the 'Restoring Your Railway Panel')	The Strategic Outline Business Case is now complete was submitted to the Restoring Your Railways panel on 12 February 2021. We are now waiting on a final funding decision from the Department for Transport and HM Treasury which is due by November.  A brief for the next phase of work (PACE 1) to achieve an Outline Business Case has been agreed with Network Rail. This can commence once the funding is in place.	Green
	8	Continue to gather evidence to support the review of the Council's Local Plan. The Local Plan is a very important set of policies that will set out how the district will develop over the next 20 years, such as where new housing will go and what we expect from developers in terms of affordable housing, infrastructure, how biodiversity will be improved and how our landscapes and heritage will be protected.	Continue to gather evidence to support a Local Plan as we transition to a Unitary Council. SWT Local Plan timetable unable to be completed prior to becoming a Unitary.	Amber
	9	Keep delivering our new Garden Communities toward delivery.	Delivery is ultimately in the hands of landowners, land promoters and developers - however SWT as LPA has dedicated Development Management resource facilitating approvals, legal queries, assisting project management and engagement with local communities in order to move matters forward. The 'phosphates issue' remains an overarching problem which will hamper delivery, viability and commercial confidence in the sites moving forward. Comeytrove - Circa 380 homes with reserved matters or resolution to approve with phosphate mitigation, show home open, and first occupations expected Q1 2022 Staplegrove East - Resolution to approve outline consent now implicated by the 'phosphates issue' and therefore delayed without a timescale for resolution. Staplegrove West - Outline consent granted, reserved matters now implicated by the 'phosphate issue' and therefore delayed, however a 'integrated constructed wetland' is being pursued as mitigation. Monkton Heathfield Phase 2 - Hybrid application expected Nov 2021, phosphate mitigation will be required prior to determination.	Amber

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	10	Enable development by finding a long-term solution to manage the phosphates issue on the Somerset Levels and Moors while finding a way to unblock stalled sites as soon as possible.	<p>SWT Interim phosphate programme considered at SWT Full Council on the 5th October 2021. Interim programme of measures allows some of the planning applications currently held in abeyance to be determined. As at 5th Oct 2021 this involved circa 113 applications and circa 3,016 homes. The interim programme aims to unlock between 700 to 1,350 homes in the River Tone Catchment area.</p> <p>All recommendations approved as drafted. Key recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of a capital budget of £2m for the purchase and creation of phosphate credits on a financially recoverable basis.</li> <li>• Governance and delegated authority arrangements for the interim programme.</li> <li>• Production of the Appropriate Assessment of the interim programme of measures and its sign off by Natural England.</li> <li>• Support use of legal powers (e.g. CPO's) to deliver cost- effective phosphate solutions.</li> <li>• All new residential developments (Council/private) to include water efficiency measures (110 litres per person per day) and to be a material consideration in determining proposals.</li> </ul>	Green
	11	Maximise the benefits from the decommissioning of the Hinkley Point B power station for local business and employment.	Sedgemoor, SWT and County are developing proposals in discussion with the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency to draw down funding to support Sedgemoor and West Somerset coastal areas and implement the recent Minehead development strategy. The collective pitch to Government to host the Nuclear Fusion R and D prototype facility on EDF land and Gravity was ongoing with Nuclear South West at the end of September, but subsequent announcements have confirmed the site did not make the Governments shortlist.	Green
	12	Complete decontamination and structural repairs at Toneworks, Wellington, to help preserve this place of significant historic interest.	Phase 1 decontamination works completed in Summer 2021. Phase 2 planning underway for further structural repairs to the heritage asset from Jan 2022 onwards.	Green

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A Transparent and Customer Focused Council	13	Deliver a Customer Experience Programme to get a clearer picture of our customers and identify ways in which we can improve their experience of the Council.	The programme is underway. Customer insight survey complete. New complaints policy and process introduced. Analysis of 'General enquiries' undertaken and opportunities for improvement identified. External review of the ease of finding 'do it online' services complete and improvements identified and in development. Various tactical opportunities identified for improving the customer experience.	Green
	14	Commence a Service Efficiency and Improvement Programme to improve our internal processes to increase productivity and efficiency.	The programme vision, strategy & plan to deliver exist and are worked upon. 8 projects have started and a majority is planned to be completed by the end of the current financial year April 22. Financial and non-financial benefits start to be visible.	Green
	15	Deliver a new system to manage of programmes and projects within the Council to ensure better efficiency and effectiveness.	The process is in place, with the monthly PMO report presented to SMT. Further stakeholder liaison is taking place to promote process, refine benefits reporting and realise cashable savings.	Green
	16	Launch the newly elected Tenants' Strategic Group.	Launched in April 2021, already had 3 meetings	Green
	17	Update and distribute our housing tenancy handbook and new tenant's welcome pack.	Team have recommitted to undertaking this task as follows: Review existing handbook to be completed by end of November 2021 and; reviewed handbook to be checked by Housing Quality Network (newly appointed consultants) at November 2021.	Green
	18	We will carry on live streaming our public meetings in order to continue to make them accessible and inclusive for residents who want to participate but who are unable, or do not wish to, attend in person.	All SWT Committee meetings are live webcast or live-streamed (depending on the location of the meeting)	Green
	19	We will work to make the most of the talents that disabled people can bring to our workplace, with specific focus on how we can adapt to best support our current and prospective neurodivergent employees.	Highly commended award received for Neurodiversity project at MJ Awards. Disability confident employer status achieved. Neurodiversity project now ingrained with Equalities working group as a standard agenda. Work continuing on training for managers and staff on Neurodiverse conditions to embrace inclusivity and diversity in the workplace.	Green

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Homes and Communities	20	Start building 47 new low carbon Council homes and a new community facility at North Taunton.	NTWP Phase A commenced on site July 2021 and will deliver 47 new low carbon affordable Council homes. The homes will be 2050 zero carbon ready. The first homes will be complete July 2022 and all by May 2023. Future phases are planned to overlap. Phase A bringing forward more low carbon affordable council homes by 2025. A programme to build 61 Zero carbon Council homes has been delayed due to the need to create a phosphate mitigation strategy. The service believes it now has a mitigation strategy and is proposing this to Natural England in Oct 2021 and also submitting a planning application in Oct 2022 including the mitigation strategy in Taunton.	Green
	21	Acquire planning consent and start on site at Seaward Way, Minehead for the construction of 54 zero carbon homes.	Planning granted 14 July 2021 for 54 units. Tender via Westworks framework undertaken for Contractor. Contractor appointed and PCSA entered into 4th October 21. JCT contract to be entered into for main building works as soon as possible with build programme approx. two years.	Green
	22	Complete an options appraisal for Oake. This will identify the investment needed and timescales to manage the Council's defective non-traditional Woolaway homes in Oake, and any contribution to new affordable housing in that area.	A PID has been approved for Oake woolawys and the scheme has been submitted as part of SWT/consortium Social Housing Developmen Funding Wave One. Consultation has commenced with customers and delivery will commence Spring 2022.	Green
	23	Complete a Housing Strategy Demand Study which allow the Council to develop a joined-up approach to affordable housing investment focusing on where it's most needed.	This has been subject to some delay. The demand study will be presented to HSMT in October and Housing Briefing in Novemeber 2021.	Amber
	24	Deliver a Homelessness Improvement Plan designed to minimise homelessness, promote prevention and lead to reduced bed and breakfast costs.	Significant progress has been made in this area working in a very competative housing market which is hampering prevention opportunities in the private sector and challenging affordability. The cost of commercial B&B has escalated due to demand and so focus is on early intervention and ensuring timely move-on from temporary accommodation to avoid increased use of B&B. Improvements to access to the service is being developed with an expected roll-out date of November 2021.	Amber
	25	Approve, and commence delivery, of an accommodation strategy to meet the housing and support needs of single homeless people within the District.	The Single Homeless and Rough Sleeper Accommodation Strategy, together with the associated delivery plan, was approved by Full Council on October 5th 2021. Delivery is progressing. We are now having detailed conversations with accommodation providers. The coordination of support services is being developed through the Better Futures Programme and the Somerset Homelessness Reduction Board.	Green
	26	As part of the move to a new IT system for Homefinder Somerset, we will introduce a new and improved form for applying for social housing within the district, that is as easy as possible for people to complete.	The new online application form went live on 2nd August. The new form has been developed following consultation with partner local authorities and landlords, and wider stakeholders including applicants.	Green
	27	Introduce at least two community pantry schemes into the District offering subsidised food for communities affected by Covid-19.	The first pantry has gone live in Rowbarton, Taunton. A second and third are anticipated to be online early in the new year 2022, being in Wellington and possibly Watchet	Green
	28	Review and improve the Council's CCTV to provide a more effective service and better value for money.	This review is underway and savings have been identified and incorporated into the budget setting process. There is further work to be done on overall improvement of the estate, such as digital upgrade and linking the existing scheme in West Somerset to the monitoring service at Sedgemoor. These will come forward fully during 2022 and 2023.	Green

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An Enterprising Council	29	Complete our programme of commercial property acquisitions that generate additional income.	Likely to be 77% complete by end of October, aiming for fully complete by year end 2021.	Amber
	30	Deliver an asset management plan so we can make informed decisions on the investment or disposal of our land and property assets to maximise future income.	Asset Review Project has assembled information, pending provision of Asset Database for data collation and analysis (joint procurement with SCC, live 2022-2023).	Amber
	31	Form a dedicated delivery company, owned by the Council, to deliver Town Centre Regeneration projects in addition to those brought forward by the private sector.	Work continues on the formation of the delivery company, as the business case has been affected by phosphates. Once the implications on the commercial delivery have been appraised the delivery company model can be updated and progressed.	Amber