

SWT Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 1st February, 2023,
6.15 pm



Somerset West
and Taunton

The John Meikle Room - The Deane
House

Members: Sue Buller (Chair), Ian Aldridge, Norman Cavill, Simon Coles, Habib Farbahi, Ed Firmin, John Hassall, Nicole Hawkins, Marcus Kravis, Libby Lisgo, Simon Nicholls, Nick Thwaites, Loretta Whetlor and Gwil Wren

Agenda

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the previous Corporate Scrutiny Committee

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

(Pages 5 - 12)

3. Declarations of Interest

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

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

4. Public Participation

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

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

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](#).

5. To receive an update on the Local Government Review (LGR) and Community Governance Review (CGR).

Executive Portfolio Holder Report for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – Councillor Sarah Wakefield.

To provide a verbal update on LGR progress. This has been requested as a standing item on the agenda by the Chair, Cllr Sue Buller.

6. Corporate Scrutiny Request/Recommendation Trackers

(Pages 13 - 26)

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

7. Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan

(Pages 27 - 28)

To receive items and review the Forward Plan.

8. Executive and Full Council Forward Plan

(Pages 29 - 32)

To review the Executive and Full Council Forward plans.

9. Public Transport Task and Finish Report

(Pages 33 - 46)

A presentation and final update on the conclusions of the work of the Public Transport Task and Finish Group that was set up to examine the current provision in relation to public transport in the district and what is required to increase provision and improved modal links including consideration of carbon neutrality.

This item will be introduced by Chair of the Public Transportation Task and Finish Group, Councillor Loretta Whetlor, and supported by by Marcus Prouse, Governance Specialist.

10. Local Labour Agreement Policy

(Pages 47 - 88)

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Mike Rigby (Planning, Transportation and Economic Development).

Report Author: Hattie Winter, Senior Economic Development Officer.

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 Corporate Scrutiny Committee - 4 January 2023

Present: Councillor Sue Buller (Chair)

Councillors Norman Cavill, Simon Coles, Tom Deakin, Ed Firmin, Libby Lisgo, Dave Mansell, Nick Thwaites and Loretta Whetlor

Officers: Sam Murrell, Marcus Prouse, Chris Hall, Paul Fitzgerald, Alison Blom Cooper, Joe Wharton

Alison North via zoom until 6:45pm. Amy Tregellas via zoom.

Also Present: Cllrs Mike Rigby, Dixie Darch and Sarah Wakefield

Councillors Janet Lloyd, Brenda Weston and Gwil Wren attended via zoom

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm)

76. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Habib Farbahi (subs Cllr Tom Deakin), Gwil Wren (present via zoom and subs by David Mansell), Marcus Kravis, Nicole Hawkins and Simon Nicholls. Cllr Benet Allen the Executive Member for Resources also submitted his apologies.

77. Minutes of the previous Corporate Scrutiny Committee

The Minutes of the previous meeting of Corporate Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday 7 December 2022, were confirmed as a true record.

Prop: Coles / Sec: Whetlor (approved by those present at the meeting).

78. 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 N Cavill	All Items	SCC, West Monkton & Shadow Taunton Town	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr S Coles	All Items	SCC, Taunton Charter Trustee & Shadow Taunton Town	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr T Deakin	All Items	SCC, Taunton	Personal	Spoke and Voted

		Charter Trustee & Shadow Taunton Town		
Cllr L Lisgo	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee & Shadow Taunton Town	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr D Mansell	All Items	SCC	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr N Thwaites	All Items	Dulverton	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Whetlor	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke and Voted

79. **Public Participation**

No items or questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting for public participation.

80. **Update on Local Government Review**

This item was brought forward on the agenda to enable the Portfolio Holder for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and the Community Governance Review (CGR), Cllr Sarah Wakefield to attend Ruishton Parish Council meeting.

LGR - Digital Changes

Marcus Prouse updated the Committee on the proposed digital changes which are due to take place from 5pm Thursday 19 January until 8am Monday 23 January. This important work is to move all the ICT systems over to the SCC platform in advance of vesting day. Some of the other districts have already transferred and it is hoped that the lessons learnt will enable a smooth transfer for SWT. Members should save all work on their device and log out by 4.45pm on 19 January. All systems will be shut down by 5pm and any unsaved work will be lost. There will be no access to IT during this period and into week commencing 23 January.

SWT iPads and SWT mobile phones do not need to be left on but there will be no access to any Microsoft 365 apps such as Outlook, OneDrive, Teams, Word, Excel, etc. during the cutover weekend. Mobile phones can be used to make and receive calls and text messages.

After the cutover weekend (from Monday 23 January), priority will be given to restoring customer facing services first and getting staff operational again. Support for Members is being planned for later in the week and details will be issued as soon as they are available.

LGR – Peer Review

The outcome of the Peer Review was that the assessing team could see the level of work and activity was progressing well in anticipation of vesting day, but that a more long-term view needed. It was highlighted that whilst it was necessary for all operations and systems to be safe and legal on the 1 April, it would be the

ongoing work towards transformation that would make the savings as outlined in the One Somerset business case. Overall, however the assessment was very positive and there was a recognition that the various work streams and teams were working well together.

LGR – Local Community Networks (LCN)

A report will be taken to the SCC Executive Committee on 18 January which will outline and make recommendations for the LCN geographies and boundaries. It is likely that these will be slow to implement and unlikely to be ready for Day1 of the new Council. Budgets and Governance need to be aligned and this may take some time. Parish Councils who wish to take on assets and or services from the principal council will need to precept for this themselves and make provision in their budgets. Unlike the larger councils, parishes are not subject to capping on their precept, so can set it at a higher rate if they wish.

LGR – Planning Committees

The Planning process is being reviewed across the 4 district councils, and the new planning constitution is being drawn up. This is due to be taken to the Constitution and Governance Committee at SCC on the 30 January 2023. At the present time, due to the fact there are 5 local plans in existence, (as SWT has 2, inherited from former West Somerset and Taunton Deane DC) it is proposed to have 4 planning sub-committees determining applications within the geography of the respective Local Plans. The members determining the applications will be representative of their local area and will have knowledge of current planning legislation and issues.

LGR – Recruitment of Executive Directors

This is currently happening with the Tier2 appointments going through the interview process and selection. The outcome will shape the nature of services going forward.

LGR Workstreams

Service workstream check-lists are being worked through to ensure that nothing is missed prior to vesting day.

All staff have now been transferred to the SAP Payroll IT system so that they are on one platform prior to vesting day.

CGR – Taunton Town Council

Work is ongoing. The legal challenge that was presented to SCC is being worked through at County level.

The following comments and questions were received: -

- Cllr Whetlor reminded the Committee that just because Parish Councils were not subject to having their precept capped, it did not mean that they should increase it substantially. The burden to pay would fall on the Council Taxpayer who was already experiencing hardships due to the Cost-of-Living crisis. It would be more prudent to adjust the precept at a reasonable level and see what services were affordable.

- Cllr Cavill asked if there would be consistency in the planning process across the new Council? *Whilst there are 5 local plans and various IT systems there cannot be consistency as the 4 local sub-committees will be working to different guidelines. The first priority will be to get all the areas onto 1 ICT system and going forward to draw up a Local Plan for the whole of Somerset. In the meantime, the work-around is to ensure that the sub-committees are operational and can be ready to work from Day1.*

Cllr Wakefield left the meeting at 6:50pm

81. **Corporate Scrutiny Request/Recommendation Trackers**

There were no updates to report on the recommendation tracker.

Members are still waiting for a response on the call abandonment rate for customer services. This is to be provided later in January.

The committee noted the trackers.

82. **Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan**

Cllr Whetlor and Marcus Prouse confirmed that a verbal update and presentation on the Public Transport Task and Finish group would be provided at the 1 Feb 2023 meeting.

The Local Labour Agreements (Planning Policy Report) would also be brought forward on that date.

83. **Executive and Full Council Forward Plan**

The Committee noted the Executive and Full Council Forward Plans.

84. **Planning Performance Update**

Executive Councillor Mike Rigby, (Planning, Transportation and Economic Development), introduced the report and described the challenges the planning service is currently experiencing which include: Recruitment and retention of staff; phosphates and the impact of moving to the Unitary Council.

The report author, Alison Blom Cooper made a presentation to the Committee which can be accessed [here](#).

Questions and comments from the Committee were as follows:-

- Is phosphates the sole reason for the planning backlog? *It is a contributing factor, but lack of resource due to recruitment and retention of planning staff has also been an additional challenge. Some applications take a long time to process because planning officers are waiting on requested information from the applicant. The application stalls because the required information is not provided.*

- Is the 5yr Housing Supply figure a target or advisory? *The Secretary of State has indicated that this is to start a conversation, but guidance is needed before numbers can be reduced.*
- How are phosphate credits calculated? Is this information available on the website, so that prospective applicants can refer to it? [Report to the Phosphates Planning Sub Committee - Progress on the Interim Strategy and determinatio.pdf \(somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk\)](#). *A Phosphate Budget Calculator and other information is available to view on the [SWT website](#).*
- Why are different wastewater treatment works awarded different phosphate credits? *This is determined by the efficiency of each water treatment plant. Better treatment plants will generate a greater number of credits.*
- What is happening with planning enforcement as the service seems to have deteriorated in recent months? *Cllr Rigby explained that planning enforcement was not a statutory part of the service, and it has struggled recently due to lack of resources. He agreed however, that more should be done and hoped that this was something that the new unitary would tackle robustly. New officers have been employed who have taken a while to find their feet, but they are now working through the backlog.*
- Why do applicants tend to withdraw their applications before receiving a determination? *Usually this happens when it looks like the application is heading for refusal. Applicants will withdraw the application in order to go away and work on it. They will then re-submit later.*
- How is the 5 year land supply affected by the phosphates backlog? *SWT and the Planning Inspectorate are evaluating what is deliverable and looking at land availability. Estimates are then being made.*
- Who is on the Phosphates Nutrient Group? *This is made up of representatives from the 5 Councils and the nominated representative for SWT is Executive Councillor Derek Perry who has responsibility for Phosphates. His substitute is Executive Councillor Mike Rigby.*
- What are windfall sites? *These are small sites that come forward that were not previously listed in the Local Plan. Figures are predicted but look at historical data to make an assessment.*
- Cllr Lloyd requested more information from enforcement officers, and regular updates in respect of the Listed Buildings and conservation area around Tonedale Mill, Wellington. This was her ward area and she often received queries from concerned member of the public.
- How can developers who are considering renovation of existing buildings find help in overcoming the phosphate issue, especially when there is limited opportunity for mitigation? *Extensive information is available on the [SWT website](#) which should provide some assistance. If not, then please follow up with a member of the planning team.*

Cllr Buller concluded the item by thanking Alison Blom Cooper for an informative presentation. It highlighted that communication was key, especially around the challenges and backlogs being experienced by the Planning team.

85. **Access to Information - Exclusion of the Press and Public - Appendix A only**

The committee voted to move into confidential session if it was necessary to discuss Item 11, Appendix A.

Prop: Coles / Seconded: Thwaites – (Unanimous)

86. **Commercial Property Investment Activity and Performance Report**

In the absence of the Executive Councillor for Resources, Benet Allen, the report was introduced by Chris Hall, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Place and Climate Change.

Chris stated that it was a positive report which provided an overview of the current position. No acquisitions or disposals had taken place since December 2021, and all commercial obligations have been met. The commercial investment portfolio is now in the working phase.

A question was raised at the Scrutiny pre-meeting regarding the amount of debt remaining for the Council's commercial investment. This is outlined in paragraph 5.7 in the report and was also covered in further detail in a report to Audit and Governance Committee on 7 November 2022 providing an update in the response to the external auditor's annual report.

<https://democracy.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/documents/s20502/ExternalAuditors2020-21keyrecommendationsupdate.pdf>

The debt position can be summarised as follows:

	£000
Total capital investment	98,965
Less: Amount financed using revenue funds	-3,520
Equals: Amount financed using borrowing	95,445
Less: Borrowing repaid in 2021/22 and 2022/23 (known as MRP)	-3,882
Current balance of residual borrowing (92.5% of total initial investment)	91,563

The total amount paid off of the initial investment to date is therefore £7.402m (3520 + 3882 per table above).

Comments from the Committee were as follows:-

- Cllr Lisgo asked on a point of clarity if the Commercial Investment portfolio included the SWT housing stock? *The housing stock is separately ring-fenced within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). It is not part of the Commercial Investment Portfolio.*
- Cllr Mansell asked how many low-cost loans applied to the commercial investment portfolio? *The Council's total borrowing position is determined within Treasury Management. This is currently set at £73 million for low-*

cost loans. The majority of this will be tied into the Commercial Investment Portfolio.

- Steelite International Limited – This was the largest acquisition within the portfolio. It was tied into a long-term lease and was performing adequately, but due to its high usage on utilities and the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis it was prudent to flag this as a risk.
- Aztec West – Concern was expressed that one of the suites was currently empty. Jo Wharton confirmed that rent was being paid under the break-clause, and that it could be favourable as some of the neighbouring tenants were considering expanding. It may be possible to enlarge one of the other rented suites to incorporate this, which would increase the rental income and maintain a good relationship with the tenant.
- A Commercial Property Investment Specialist, Harvey Gardner was now employed by SWT to build relationships with the occupiers of the commercial spaces and ensure good landlord/tenant liaison.
- The income repayments have come from a variety of areas: Reduction in reserves, debt repayments, treasury management and reallocation of underspends from previous years.

Cllr Buller finished by saying that the responsibility for the portfolio would soon rest with the new authority, and uncertain times were ahead. She was concerned about the amount of investment in Steelite, due to the big charge against it from the USA commercial investors. She recognised however that SWT was being as prudent as it could be and thanked the officers for a comprehensive overview.

It had not been necessary to enter into confidential session, so the meeting was concluded.

Post Minute Note

Cllr Cavill requested a breakdown on the how the debt repayments related to investment activity have been funded. Paul Fitzgerald provided the following summary after the meeting:-

The total repayment of debt in 21/22 and 22/23 totals £7.402m as set out in the report, which has been funded as follows:

£1.805m	From investment income
£2.597m	From Business Rates Risk reserve surplus and Pooling gains
£2.000m	From Budget Risk Reserve surplus
<u>£1.000m</u>	From General Reserves
£7.402m	

(The Meeting ended at 8.17 pm)

SOMERSET WEST AND TAUNTON COUNCIL
CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TRACKER 2022/23

Date of Cttee	Scrutiny Recommendation	Decision Maker /Directorate Responsible	Final Decision/ Response to recommendation/	Date of response	Implemented?	Officer Comments/Update
06/07/22 Page 13	Prop: Farbahi / Sec: Firmin to bring forward the Catapult report to Corporate Scrutiny in August for the Committee to debate.	Portfolio Holder for Econ Dev, Planning and Transportation – Cllr Mike Rigby	<p>Members have had an opportunity to understand and discuss the report at a member briefing which was conducted on the 8 March 2022. It was agreed that the report would be circulated following that briefing via mod.gov.</p> <p>The report contains general recommendations for all Innovation leaders and businesses in SWT – There is no requirement for SWT Council to make a key or budget decision</p>	20/07/22	No	Following a discussion with the PFH, Cllr Rigby wants the team to focus on the upcoming Innovation Conference and therefore does not support this coming back to Scrutiny for a re-run of the Member briefing, a recording of which is available for anyone who was not present.

Agenda Item 6

Total Recommendations for 22/23: 1
Agreed:
Agreed in Part:
Not Agreed: 1

SOMERSET WEST AND TAUNTON COUNCIL
CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WRITTEN ANSWERS TRACKER 2022/23

Date of Cttee	Scrutiny Cttee Request for information	Decision Maker /Directorate Responsible	Response to request for information	Date of response	Scrutiny Officer Comments/Update
01/06/2022	Decision taken under the Emergency Rule – <i>Further information requested regarding costings etc</i>	Cllr Benet Allen / Chris Hall	Questions relating to the Coal Orchard Development. Due to commercial sensitivity these will be made available to Councillors confidentially after the public meeting.	06/06/2022	Answers provided by Joe Wharton and uploaded to MOD.GOV.
01/06/2022 Page 15	Committee asked for further updates on the phosphate situation. <i>Would like a special Scrutiny meeting to highlight these issues.</i>	Mike Rigby / Chris Hall	A members briefing has been set up to take place on 28 July to look at Phosphates and the current five-year housing land supply. The slides from the briefing will be made available afterwards for those who are unable to attend. Chris Hall has also highlighted that the <u>Phosphates on the Somerset levels and moors (somerwestandtaunton.gov.uk)</u> webpage does address most of the concerns. The correct platform for debating phosphate issues is the SWT Phosphates Planning Sub-Committee.	08/06/2022	Answers provided by Chris Hall and Sam Murrell.

<p>06/07/2022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>	<p>Corporate Performance Report: High proportion of planning refusals have been overturned by the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p><i>(Page 266 & 272 Agenda) Flagged Red.</i></p> <p><i>Can a breakdown be provided on the proportion of decisions that have been overturned by the Planning Inspectorate following appeals from applicants?</i></p> <p><i>A) Can this be split between officer delegated decisions and those that were determined by the Planning Committee.</i></p> <p><i>B) Have any successful appeals resulted in the awarding of costs to the applicant?</i></p>	<p>Mike Rigby / Chris Hall (Planning)</p>	<p>The Local Planning Authority has received 20 appeal decisions from the Planning Inspectorate for the period from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022. Of these 6 were allowed (equating to 30% of appeals determined in this period). This compares with the target against which performance is measured corporately of 33% which is the national average of appeals allowed.</p> <p>Of those allowed in this period, two were appeals following decisions by the Planning Committee, one of which resulted in a costs award to the applicant. The quantum is yet to be determined – the process is that the applicant must submit their costs and for the Council to determine whether they are reasonable. In the event of a disagreement, it then goes for independent taxation.</p>	<p>25/07/2022</p>	<p>Answers provided by Julie Harcombe / Rebecca Miller and Alison Blom-Cooper</p>
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<p>06/07/2022</p>	<p>Corporate Performance Summary: Our Environment and Economy <i>(Page 264, Item 1)</i></p> <p>“A low-carbon, clean, green and prosperous district that attracts high quality employment opportunities and encourages healthy lifestyles”</p> <p><i>Is it possible to provide examples of high-quality companies being attracted to SWT in the last year?</i></p>	<p>Mike Rigby / Chris Hall (Econ Regen)</p>	<p>SWT do not currently measure the number of high-quality employment new businesses moving into the district. However, in January 2022 SWT purchased a licence to a business data platform, which will enable reporting of various statistics relating to business health and growth in the district. The Economic Development Team are exploring the reporting capabilities of the software. Currently, we are unable to provide a figure in response to the question. The Economic Development team with partner organisations, continue to market SWT to inward investors and account manage inward investment enquiries.</p> <p><i>“This period has seen the completion of a new promotional inward investment-focused website for the district and production of an investment video as part of a ‘SWITCH’ campaign, inviting potential investors to switch to Somerset West and Taunton. The campaign highlights the area’s locational, strengths as well as current growth -industries such as healthcare and med-tech, the circular economy, digital and creative, global marine and current construction opportunities in the energy sector.</i></p> <p><i>12 business ambassadors from varying sectors of the economy have also been recruited to act as business ambassadors for the area.</i></p> <p><i>A launch event with a key business audience of commercial agents and developers took place in May 2022. This has formed a key part of the delivery of the Marketing and Communications plan for Inward Investment.”</i></p> <p>(Excerpt from Cllr Rigby’s latest PFH report)</p>	<p>25/07/22</p>	<p>Lisa Tuck</p>
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06/07/2022	Can an explanation / update be provided on the Economic Development Initiatives Ear Marked Reserve?	Mike Rigby / Chris Hall (Econ Regen)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Economic Initiatives EMR (BE019)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">2022/23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Opening Balance</td> <td>(642,538.36)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Emergency Town Centre Fund</td> <td>50,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget 22/23 Contribution</td> <td>372,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Provision for Grant</td> <td>80,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Innovation Districts</td> <td>50,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Taunton Town Centre</td> <td>50,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Taunton Together</td> <td>25,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closing Balance</td> <td>(15,538.36)</td> </tr> </table>	Economic Initiatives EMR (BE019)		2022/23		Opening Balance	(642,538.36)	Emergency Town Centre Fund	50,000.00	Budget 22/23 Contribution	372,000.00	Provision for Grant	80,000.00	Innovation Districts	50,000.00	Taunton Town Centre	50,000.00	Taunton Together	25,000.00	Closing Balance	(15,538.36)	22/07/22	Kerry Prisco
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06/07/2022	Can further information be provided on what the Employment Land Schemes and Williton Shooting Club capital programmes will be spent on?	Mike Rigby / Chris Hall (Econ Regen)	The Employment Land Schemes capital programme is currently looking at potential employment sites in Minehead, but SMT have deferred any capital expenditure requests until Unitary. The Williton Shooting Club was a Hinkley funded project which was completed historically, and the unused budget was returned last year.	22/07/22	Kerry Prisco																				

06/07/2022	<p>General Fund Outturn Report: Capital Programme (<i>Page 322</i>). Economic Regeneration Initiatives</p> <p><i>Can a list be provided of how much has been spent on consultancy and to whom?</i></p>	Cllr Benet Allen / Paul Fitzgerald	A comprehensive breakdown of consultancy fees has been emailed to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.	02/08/22	Paul Fitzgerald
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03/08/2022	<p>Taunton Garden Town Update: Query from Cllr Hassall regarding possible conflict between introducing a bus lane into East Street Taunton whilst making it a pedestrianised area.</p> <p><i>Is there any update on the current position?</i></p>	Cllr Mike Rigby / Sarah Ellwood (Project Manager – Active Travel and Regeneration).	<p>In 2020, during the closure of East St to general traffic to allow social distancing, SWT embarked on a project to explore possible concept designs for a longer term pedestrianisation of East St. Following highly successful stakeholder workshops in summer 2021, concepts for restricting general traffic on East St to allow safer, more accessible active travel and public realm improvements were created and shared with SWT Executive in October 2021. Further work has been carried out to assess impact on people with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010.</p> <p>Although there are still strong aspirations to offer some form of pedestrianisation on East St, no budget for capital delivery has been assigned. SCC has, however, in recent months been successful in receiving funding for a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) which is highly likely to impact East St and the surrounding area. SCC colleagues responsible for BSIP have assured SWT officers that the East St proposals will be considered when exploring the potential for bus service improvements for the town centre and we will remain involved in the feasibility work.</p>	08/08/22	Jenny Clifford / Sarah Ellwood
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<p>01/09/2022</p>	<p>General Fund: Financial Performance Report Qtr1</p> <p>Cllr Lisgo queried how the virements within the External Operations had been arrived at.</p> <p>Can there be a clearer representation of the variances within that Directorate which clearly show the movement of the budgets? Ref Page 32 of the report. Can a table please be provided?</p> <p>Can this be circulated to the Committee.</p>	<p>Cllr Benet Allen / Internal Operations</p> <p>Chris Hall External Operations</p>	<p>The table identifies that the £302k virement is made up of some reductions in parking enforcement activity, savings identified in Street Scene, some savings and increased income from Parks and Open Spaces, and some savings and additional income from Bereavement Services. The largest single movement is created by increased income in bereavement services, this is a demand led service and in year changes in income are not uncommon. As a reminder these efficiencies against the budget are being used to support a reduction in income from off street car parking.</p> <p>Commercial Services 22-23 Budget Review</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="896 869 1680 1244"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Parking & Enforcement</th> <th>Street Scene</th> <th>Parks and Open Spaces</th> <th>Bereavement Services</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Expenditure Budgets</td> <td>-£20,040</td> <td>£60,000</td> <td>£42,000</td> <td>-£20,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income Budgets</td> <td>£302,040</td> <td>£0</td> <td>£10,000</td> <td>-£150,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net</td> <td>£282,000</td> <td>£60,000</td> <td>£52,000</td> <td>-£170,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This table has been added to the Executive report and Scrutiny's comments have been referenced.</p>		Parking & Enforcement	Street Scene	Parks and Open Spaces	Bereavement Services	Expenditure Budgets	-£20,040	£60,000	£42,000	-£20,000	Income Budgets	£302,040	£0	£10,000	-£150,000	Net	£282,000	£60,000	£52,000	-£170,000	<p>14/09/22</p>	<p>Chris Hall / Kerry Prisco</p>
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<p>01/09/2022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>Cllr Lisgo/Lloyd: Corporate Performance Report Qtr1 – Can a breakdown be provided of the different Directorate complaints? This is to enable a clearer view on where there may be pressures in the business and tweak out common themes.</p>	<p>Cllr Benet Allen / Internal Operations</p>	<p>Examples of the types of complaints for each directorate are:</p> <p>Internal Operations: Council Tax recovery, handling of calls, website issues, claim decisions for discounts/exemptions/benefits and processing times.</p> <p>External Operations: Response time to reports, communication on ongoing cases, standard of service and parking machine faults.</p> <p>Housing & Communities: Timescales for repairs/upgrades, standard of work, communication issues and perceived lack of action regarding ASB.</p> <p>Development & Place: Planning; timescales for decisions, handling of applications and perceived lack of action regarding breaches.</p>	<p>14/09/22</p>	<p>Alison North / Malcolm Riches and Jess Thomas</p>
<p>05/10/2022</p>	<p>Cllr Farbahi: Catapult Report – Which of the 6 recommendations outlined in this report have been taken forward?</p>	<p>Cllr Mike Rigby / Economic Development</p>	<p><u>Please see the supplementary sheet for a full written answer.</u></p>	<p>18/10/22</p>	<p>Chris Hall /Lisa Tuck / Mark Wathen</p>

05/10/2022	Cllr Farbahi: Is the £50K "Innovation Districts" money identified in the Economic Initiatives EMR (BE019) table the money set aside for the Innovation Exchange?	Cllr Mike Rigby / Economic Development	Yes. It cost £35k in total to stage the Somerset Innovation Exchange event. £20k was secured from the Somerset £4m Business Rates Pool pot and so only £15k of SWT funds was utilised to stage the event. Income generated from ticket sales amounted to £1.5k, which further off-set the cost, resulting in a final cost to SWT of only £13.5k.	18/10/22	Chris Hall /Lisa Tuck / Mark Wathen
05/10/2022	Cllr Farbahi: What are the outcomes of the Innovation Exchange? What options are there to expand on this for the new council?	Cllr Mike Rigby / Economic Development	Chris Hall to arrange for a member of the Economic Development team to attend Corporate Scrutiny in December, to provide an update to Members on the outcomes. <u>Please see the supplementary sheet for a full written answer.</u>	06/10/22	Chris Hall /Lisa Tuck / Mark Wathen
05/10/2022	Cllr Farbahi / Habgood How are legacy assets performing that sit outside the commercial investment portfolio? It is important that these are carried across to the new Authority with clear and transparent performance management.	Cllr Mike Rigby / Economic Development/ Cllr Benet Allen / Internal Resources	The Commercial Investment Report will come to Corporate Scrutiny in January on its route to Full Council in February. An appendix will be added to the report to cover the legacy assets that produce an income. (It will be a table with the name and income per annum).	05/10/22	Chris Hall / Joe Wharton / Harvey Gardner

05/10/2022	Cllr Gwil Wren – could a written update please be provided of the current flood management schemes currently taking place in the Milverton area.	Cllr Dixie Darch / Climate Change	Reply from the SRA can be accessed here .	07/11/22	Chris Hall / Jonathan Stevens
05/10/2022	Cllr Janet Lloyd - can a written update be provided on the current flood management schemes that are going on in the Pinksmoor Area.	Cllr Dixie Darch / Climate Change	Reply from the SRA can be accessed here .	07/11/22	Chris Hall / Jonathan Stevens
05/10/2022	Cllr Dave Mansell - can a written update be provided on the current flood management schemes that are going on in the Wiveliscombe Area.	Cllr Dixie Darch / Climate Change	Reply from the SRA can be accessed here .	07/11/22	Chris Hall / Jonathan Stevens
07/12/2022	Cllr Farbahi – What steps are being taken by SWT to tackle the Water Companies actions which are contributing to the slowing of planning applications. (Phosphates issues).	Cllr Rigby / Planning	Chris Hall will provide a full expanded update when the planning performance report is discussed in the January Corporate Scrutiny Committee. Captured in Planning Performance update on 04/01/23	08/12/22	Chris Hall / Alison Blom Cooper

07/12/2022	Cllr Lisgo – What is the call abandonment rate for customer services? How long do callers wait before they ring off? Are these callers followed up?	Cllr Benet Allen / Internal Resources	<i>Richard Sealey and Malcolm Riches are looking at the statistics. A full written response will be provided in January, when the outcome is known.</i> <i>Still awaiting a response.</i>		Alison North / Malcolm Riches

CORPORATE SCRUTINY			
Meeting	Draft Agenda Items	Lead PFH/ Lead Officer	Exec Report?
1 February 2023	Update on LGR (via zoom)	PFH Sarah Wakefield	
SRD - 20 Jan	Public Transport Task and Finish Report	Cllr L Whetlor / M Prouse	
Exec RD - 3 Feb	Local Labour Agreements	Hattie Winter / Lisa Tuck	Yes
Informal Exec RD - 3 Jan			
SMT RD - 14 Dec			
1 March 2023	GF Financial Performance 2022/23 Q3	Kerry Prisco / PFH Corporate Resources - Benet Allen	Yes
SRD - 17 Feb	Corporate Performance Report Q3	Malcolm Riches / PFH Corporate Resources - Benet Allen	Yes
Exec RD - 3 March	Chair's Annual Report	Cllr Sue Buller	
Informal Exec RD - 1 Feb			
SMT RD - 18 Jan			

Executive Meeting	Draft Agenda Items
18 January 2023	NTWP - Purchases
venue =	CNCR - supplementary capital budget - urgent item
Exec RD = 6 January	
Informal Exec RD = 6 December	
SMT RD = 23 November	
15 February 2023	Taunton Garden town: Delivering our Vision
venue =	Local Labour Agreements
Exec RD = 3 February	
Informal Exec RD = 3 January	
SMT RD = 14 December	
15 March 2023	GF Financial Performance 2022/23 Q3
venue =	HRA Financial Performance 2022/23 Q3
Exec RD = 3 March	Corporate Performance Report Q3
Informal Exec RD = 1 February	Firepool Design Guidance and Masterplan
SMT RD = 18 January	Taunton Heat Network Feasibility Study
	Wellington Place Plan – Adoption
	Commercial in Confidence: “Commercial Incentives Ear Marked Reserve

FULL COUNCIL

Meeting	Report Deadline	Agenda Items	Lead Officer	Unitary/SWT
07 February 2023	26 January 2023	PFH Reports		
		Connecting our Garden Communities	Graeme Thompson	
		Review of the Commercial Property Investment Activity and Performance Report	Joe Wharton	
		Political Allocation	Amy Tregellas	
28 March 2023	16 March 2023	PFH Annual Reports		
		Scrutiny Annual Reports x 2	Chair of Committee	SWT
		Audit and Governance Annual Report	Chair of Committee	SWT
		Sign off of all SWT Minutes		
		Firepool Design Guidance and Masterplan	Graeme Thompson	
		Wellington Place Plan – Adoption	Sarah Povall	
		Funding Key Decision	Paul Fitzgerald	
		Contract Key Decision	Chris Hall	
		Commercial in Confidence: “Commercial Incentives Ear Marked Reserve	Joe Wharton	

Public Transport in SWT Task and Finish Group

19.08.20

Attendees: Cllr L Whetlor (Chair), Cllr J Hassall, Cllr D Mansell, Cllr D Perry, Cllr A Trollope-Bellew, Cllr B Weston

1. Appointment of Chair

Cllr Loretta Whetlor was duly appointed Chair of the Task and Finish Group.

2. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Cllr K Wheatley

Declarations of Interest were received from Cllr Hassall and Whetlor in relation to being a shareholder of the West Somerset Railway.

3. Notes of previous Scrutiny Committees – held in May and June 2020

These were noted.

4. Agree and review Terms of Reference/Scope of the Task and Finish Review

The Scrutiny Committee on 3rd June 2020 had resolved

‘to establish a task and finish group to examine the current provision in relation to public transport in the district and what is required to increase provision and improved modal links including consideration of carbon neutrality.’

- Councillors discussed why each had signalled a wish to serve on this group and what they hoped to achieve.
- Interest was expressed in ensuring the co-ordination between the various modes of transport e.g. bus and rail, canal and river etc.
- Interest was expressed in ensuring public transport was a growing and essential public service.
- The linkage with District priorities of the Climate Emergency and Health and Wellbeing were noted.
- The Equalities aspects of public transport and the access to employment were highlighted.
- Concern was raised over the constantly changing routes which made District Bus Stops redundant.
- A query was raised as to how many of the current routes in Somerset were subsidised, as it was felt the vast majority were in some form.
- Councillors representing rural wards were concerned at the service cuts and how they could look at provision increases, whilst being focused on reasonable aims. Funding was recognised as an issue.
- Suggested avenues of inquiry included Workplace Parking levies and Developers being required to fund Bus Services.
- A question was posed as to what could be done to make public transport a more attractive option, with the role of the Park and Ride a key part of that.

- There was an opportunity for the Task and Finish Group to take a lead on looking at how the District Council could facilitate the integration of Bus and Rail in the District.
- It was suggested that key stakeholders needed to be identified and brought together to examine the key opportunities.
- Concern was raised over the cost of the West Somerset Railway option.
- The timetabling of buses and funding opportunities were also raised as issues.
- It was known that the difficulty in attracting grants for Transport projects was the need to acquire match funding.
- Concern was raised over the information that transport companies provided often not being accessible and only available online. The demographics of those who used public transport often meant this was affecting those who would least likely use the internet.
- The link between road maintenance and investment in buses was a potential line of enquiry.
- It was suggested the Group could look to run a consultation with Bus Users.
- It was suggested the Group could look at other parts of the country to see what other Local Authorities had done.
- The Chair expressed that this Group had an opportunity to collaborate with the County Council and the Bus Company.
- Further investigation of the closure of Taunton Bus Station was discussed and it was felt that this could be warranted.
- The need to change the type of bus for the 28 route to comply with the height required was raised, and a scheme had been passed to the West Somerset Railway by First Group.
- The need for a facility/integrated hub linking the Bus and Train Stations in Taunton was recognised, and this Group could lead on looking at other examples where this had been done.
- The 'Taunton Vision 2002' document would be still relevant to this Group.
- The plans to pedestrianize Taunton was felt to be relevant to the need to understand the Transport infrastructure of the area as a whole.
- The need to understand why the WSR hasn't been able to reach an agreement on Minehead to Taunton was needed.
- Objectives were felt to be to increase provision.
- (It was suggested that) the group's objectives should be to consider what action is within SWT's powers to address the reasons for the under-use, and dissatisfaction of bus users with the current service and associated facilities in order to increase public transport use.

5. Next Steps/Work Plan

It was agreed to invite the relevant officers from the County Council and District to the next meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is proposed to be 1st October 2020.

The meeting closed at 6.22pm

Public Transport in SWT Task and Finish Group

01.10.20

Attendees: Cllr L Whetlor (Chair), Cllr J Hassall, Cllr D Mansell, Cllr A Trollope-Bellew, Cllr B Weston, Cllr K Wheatley

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

No Apologies were received.

No Declarations of Interest were made in relation to any item on the Agenda.

2. Notes of previous Task and Finish Group – 19/08/2020

These were noted. It was commented that the link of Park and Rides with the Bus and Train network was mentioned and should be added.

3. Round table discussion with Paul Browning (Somerset West and Taunton Strategy Specialist), Mike O'Dowd-Jones (Strategic Commissioning Manager – Highways and Transport – Somerset County Council) and Natasha Bates (Passenger Transport Commissioner, Somerset County Council.)

- The Chair welcomed the officers and thanked them for attending.
- It was queried as to how many bus routes in SWT and those that passed through ran without subsidy?
- It was confirmed that 60% of 103 routes in Somerset were fully or partially subsidised. The statistics for SWT could be provided.
- A map of coverage across Somerset of the Community Transport Groups in operation would be interesting to view if that could be provided.
- The County Council saw those groups as part of the network and worked closely with providers.
- The County Council also provided advice and guidance to the 32 community car schemes across the District.
- They also delivered the demand responsive service and worked to avoid conflict.
- It was confirmed that when a route was changed the operator had to notify residents but not consult.
- It was confirmed that the County Council spent in the 2019/20 budget £3.2m on bus subsidies.
- Councillors noted that in Devon they spent 80% more - £5.3m.
- Passenger Transport was a high priority for the County Council, however the balancing act between Highways maintenance and that was difficult. In contrast the County Council received 25-30 million pounds a year from central government to maintain 7000km of the network.
- In the last couple of years the Bus budget had been specifically protected, with additional money spent on demand responsive and college routes.
- A clear issue was the lack of Government funding for revenue projects to run services.

- Councillors sought clarity from SCC officers on the funding provided from central government for the Better Deal for Bus Users.
- This pot of £445,000 had not yet been spent due to Covid but was looking to be prioritised on bolstering services and potentially adding additional evening services to support the flexible working lives of people during the pandemic and night time economies. The County Council had also been given extra funding to support Schools and College routes.
- Officer O'Dowd-Jones led on bidding for funding for schemes.
- The operational service was managed by Bus Operations Manager John Perrott.
- Councillors raised queries about the County Council benefitting from the Bus Services Act and how other Local Authorities had ran a more strategic service, however there were legal differences.
- It was confirmed that any company could register to run a commercial route.
- Where the County Council wished to run a service it would go through procurement. The Council would encourage other operators to come in however there was a limited market.
- Clarity was sought over a comment made at Scrutiny about FirstGroup sending their old stock to Somerset?
- The County Council could specify stock on a tendered route but not on a Commercial route, however the balance needed to be struck between provisions.
- A recent bid had gone to Government on Rural funding mobility which would hope to trial a different market to the buses and this could be shared for Councillors information only afterward.
- A lot of customers are concessionary and there was a need to see more working age people use the buses.
- The County Council assured Councillors that they followed up every grant funding opportunity.
- Recent grants e.g. £56 million for Portsmouth were specifically limited to cities to bid for, which Government funds tended to focus on with sustainable travel.
- It was commented that rural transport was often overlooked and underfunded.
- Councillor Hassall suggested that the Task and Finish Group recommend that a letter was written to the Department of Transport/responsible Government minister drawing their attention to this issue.
- Officers supported the idea of a letter and suggested that it be shared with them and could offer the opportunity for this area to trial schemes and for the relevant key people to come and visit the area.
- It was queried as to how the move to Electric buses could be undertaken.
- The County Council officers confirmed that fleet electrification was being explored and a Strategy was coming forward on this but a pilot project would be needed. Hydrogen buses were also an opportunity.
- A Transport Strategy at SWT would need to address the current convenience of getting into the centre of Taunton.
- A Car Parking Strategy for Taunton would also be required to understand cross-town movements.
- Draft work had been undertaken on introducing a car parking levy at Deane House before the Covid issue.

- The County Council had introduced bus priority and bus gates and would do so in new areas such as Monkton Heathfield where it made sense.
- Decarbonising car travel and pay per use parking were also discussed.
- The scattered scarce population of Somerset made public transport planning difficult and expensive.
- The need to protect retail in Taunton Town Centre was recognised.
- It was stated that a holistic case needed to be made for a bus service that was attractive and climate friendly.
- It was recognised that the current financial funding model needed reviewing and was not fit for the future
- A briefing note on the Total Transport Portal could be shared with Councillors.
- An example was given of wage earners travelling into and outside of Williton, which showed that it was not as simple as rural travelling into urban for work.
- Ideas were shared of using CIL monies to finance a bus, offer new homeowners a free bus pass for one year only.
- The low social mobility contribution of poor transport were stated.

4. Next Steps/Work Plan

- Councillor Mansell emphasised the focus should be on public transport and mentioned college transport and community transport as areas of interest.
- The provision of cycling and whether to include in this review was discussed.
- It was suggested to pull in evidence from Cornwall and Devon and invite officers from those Councillors to attend if needed.
- Councillor Weston suggested that the Group should consult with the bus users and consider our powers as a Council to address under-use and dissatisfaction.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 7pm.

Public Transport in SWT Task and Finish Group

05.01.21

Attendees: Cllr L Whetlor (Chair), Cllr J Hassall, Cllr D Mansell, Cllr A Trollope-Bellew, Cllr D Perry, Cllr B Weston, Cllr K Wheatley

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

No Apologies were received.

No Declarations of Interest were made in relation to any item on the Agenda.

2. Notes of previous Task and Finish Group – 01/10/2021

These were noted.

3. Round table discussion/Follow-up on strands identified

- Councillor Weston raised the issue of contacting the User Group for Bus Users – Cllr Hassall knew Mike Palmer who was involved with this group and could provide contact details.
- Councillor Darch was suggested as a possible contact with the Citizens Somerset group. Also Community Car Schemes could be contacted.
- The idea of a Survey was supported. Suggested questions include;
- User Satisfaction? How can it be improved? Number of Services, frequencies, times of day, Barriers to using it more, How do we expand service, times, accessibility, any other ideas?
- It was suggested to run the survey past the County Council/Transport Commissioner and Bus Company to ensure the survey was not duplicating recent work.
- The need to reach non-users but potential bus users was important and discussion was had on the creation of a Survey Monkey and how it could be marketed on Facebook and various groups. A suggestion was made to involve the Comms Team at SWT.
- Interest was expressed in having a visual map of the bus routes, with key car usage routes in Taunton overlaid on top.
- The funding possibilities of the District Council in this regard and the scope for increased funding opportunities would be interesting to discover.
- More information was requested on the Workplace Parking Levy and how that could be implemented. Planners from SWT were requested to come and help give further explanation as to how this would work in practice if it was recommended.
- Travel Plans – consideration as to whether these are being achieved? Who is checking these are being provided for? Would need to involve County and District as primarily a County Council responsibility.
- Discussion was had on using the issues surrounding Richard Huish College as a micro-study of the broader themes, e.g. expensive costs, lack of service, impact on neighbouring streets, travel plans etc.

- The use of E-Scooters in Richard Huish was positive but further development was needed to broaden the scheme if it was being so positively adopted by young people.
- Gloucester and Exeter had built new bus stations in the past 18 months and these Councils could be contacted to find out more about how they undertook this work. The use of Kilkenny Car Park as a Transport interchange hub was again raised.
- Buses in Langport had apparently utilised chocolate waste and cheese waste to run their services, much like the Bristol scheme that used human waste.
- Officers involved with the District Transport Strategy could be invited to give more information.

4. Next Steps/Work Plan

- The support officer would draft a set of questions for the survey and circulate them to the Group for comment, before possible circulation to Mike Palmer of the Bus User Group and other Officers as appropriate, and then engage with our Comms team and others to circulate it more widely once finalised.
- The support officer would investigate the feasibility of inviting officers to discuss Workplace Parking Levy, Active Travel Plans and the District Transport Strategy to the next meeting.
- Cllr Wheatley and Perry would meet to discuss further and refine the idea for further investigation on the Transport issues at Richard Huish College.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was identified for the 8th February with a reserve date of the 15th February 2021.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

Public Transport in SWT Task and Finish Group

02.02.21 at 3pm

Attendees: Cllr Derek Perry, Cllr Keith Wheatley, Marcus Prouse (Specialist – Democracy and Governance), John Abbott (CEO- Richard Huish College), Stuart Todd (College Travel Access Lead – Richard Huish College)

Notes of Discussion

- All attendees introduced themselves and the reason behind the meeting.
- This was an area that had been a problem for the last two years in particular, and would welcome input from the Council. To contextualise, since September 2020 there had been a management restructure and Mr Abbott had moved from his role as Principal of the College (in post since January 2013) to CEO and a new principal appointed, due to the growth of the Educational Trust in recent years. A particular challenge for the College is Car parking and has been for the past 20 years since worked for the College, in having some but not enough. It has got worse but the College felt it was doing everything it could to resolve it. A Travel Plan created in 2013 was not a living and breathing document, it had complied with Planning rather than an embedded document on how to travel to the College. Stuart Todd – had been hired as a consultant to assist on this matter and had worked for 8-9 months on a new Travel Plan in a formal capacity, with the aim to bring the Travel Plan to life and reality. Had worked for previous two Councils and had a background in Active Travel and Planning. The timing of the approach was good from the Task and Finish Group as the conversations between Public Health, SCC and the College were taking place. Also referenced the Taunton 2040 vision, various strategies and targets on emissions.
- Aware of a new parking scheme in the area – with Letters from SCC going out to residents last week.
- How many students? 1900 16-19 year olds with 400 apprentices.
- Proportion of those that use Public Transport and other modes? Attendance of Richard Huish had remained fairly level in the last 8 years despite a perceived increase due to a £13m spend on building footprint increase. Growth of schools in next 3-4 years expected to have a concurrent increase.
- In 19/20 – 319 County Tickets were purchased. Task – Primary data on student travel – car share/dropped off by friends. The County Ticket used to be seen as really good value, free anywhere even over the weekend. Anecdotally, the price increase and cuts to its benefits has led to a decrease in take up.
- Around 500/600 students from North Devon travel to come to Richard Huish College. Anecdotally they found ways to share costs such as Car Share. Issues with buses and trains – North Devonian students could catch train from Tiverton, the bus has become less attractive over the years e.g. Uffculme takes 20/25 mins by car but 1hr plus with the winding routes on a bus. Other barriers are the 20/25 minutes' walk from the Train Station to the College.
- Car parking in the college currently was run on a permit scheme, with no one living in a TA1 post code allowed a permit. The permit cost was £1 a day. There was no limit on how many permits could be issued but there were only

200 Car Parking Spaces and 12 moped spaces. The College could make it more expensive however you would then see a further impact on the residential streets. The College would be really keen to see better links with the Park and Ride and discount parking costs for students in the Town Centre, e.g. capacity expected to be lower coming out of Covid – could students be given a discounted rate? It was not only students who used the residential streets around Huish – it had been observed that significant members of the public parked there and cycled into town using the back lane, with the pressure of the costs of Town Centre Parking a significant issue. The Council was considered to have tools at its disposal to tackle these displacement issues, with pros and cons to the Residents Parking Schemes. Did the issues with Public Transport effect enrolment? E.g. cost. The College does worry about this – the further rural you lived the more difficult it was, with an attritional effect on retention. The College had looked at supporting/putting on its own transport arrangements, however, the College wasn't big enough to afford individual bus routes – costs prohibitive.

- Looked at specific bespoke – do have a means tested bursary fund. Some challenges were not always financial. Good high quality accessible affordable public transport improves Colleges. County Ticket – stayed away – told Huish students were propping up scheme – volume made it a scheme that worked – costs gone up and numbers gone down. SWT had a role in the running of the Park and Ride and Cllr Perry had spoken with Cllr Rigby, the relevant PFH around Musgrove and Richard Huish College opportunities. Questions around the Park and Ride stopping at college and being more affordable. Specific college buses 1 in 5 or at specific times such as 8.30am were mooted.
- The College had trialled with SCC a train station bus to the college, which had a reasonable take-up. Some funds had been provided by Julia Ridgeley and the West Somerset Opportunity Area/SCC to develop those educational links. Reference to the Connected Taunton 2018 Workshop and the 2040 vision. There was a need to change behaviour and ensure using the bus became a habit. There were economic benefits as well as health benefits to greater bus usage. Understand the macro value of education and value in the long term. A suggestion was made that SCC were talked to see if they could modify bus routes to terminate routes at the College instead of the Town Centre. Was terminating in town a problem for the College? Confirmed it was.
- Issues with old buses, reduced times, services and wrong places served. The College were happy for Councillors to talk to a group of students about their experiences. The students themselves had raised that they felt they were subject to a postcode lottery e.g. in Birmingham and Manchester they would get their public transport free of charge. Evidence on poor public transport affecting attendance, and travel to learn was one of the issues alongside poverty and lower grades. Those that travel from further away tend to outperform those that live closer. We do have students from West Somerset – issue is that even with a regular bus service it does not get here any faster. Discussion around Remote Learning centres e.g. one on Exmoor and virtual classrooms in the pandemic. Planning for a future where students attend once or twice a week rather than five days. In 2/3 years' time could see outreach centres in localities.

The Clerk left the meeting at 4pm and the meeting closed at 4.40pm.

Public Transport in SWT Task and Finish Group

08.02.21

Attendees: Cllr L Whetlor (Chair), Cllr J Hassall, Cllr D Mansell, Cllr A Trollope-Bellew, Cllr B Weston, Cllr K Wheatley

Others: M Prouse, N Bryant, B Chetwode (Travel Watch Southwest)

1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest

No Apologies were received.

No Declarations of Interest were made in relation to any item on the Agenda.

2. Notes of previous Task and Finish Group – 05/01/2020

These were noted.

3. Update from Group Members

- Councillor Keith Wheatley provided an update on the meeting he had held along with Cllr Perry with Richard Huish College around their transport issues.
- Cllr Weston reminded Councillors of the testimony given by Citizens Somerset and especially the 28 Bus and examples of children being missed and left behind.
- Councillor Trollope-Bellew noted there had been issues with the buses not going through Stogumber or Lydeard St. Lawrence.
- Councillor Hassall stated that a Double Decker to Bishops Lydeard was feasible and would help with capacity.

4. Round table discussion/Follow-up on strands identified

- Nick Bryant (Assistant Director Strategic Place Planning for SWT) was in attendance to discuss the Workplace Parking Levy. It had been used to fund the metro system in Nottingham. Questions of how easy to do in a 2 tier area?
- TDBC had done previous good work in this area in Green Travel Planning.
- Suggested if wish to progress this matter needed to be done through the Internal Operations Directorate.
- Councillors raised matters around air quality, contributions being used towards the Park and Ride and the powers of a Unitary Council.
- Councillors were clear this would be a cost for the employer and not for the employee.
- The scheme could disincentives commuting journeys and raise funds.
- A question was raised as to whether the Climate Strategy said anything about Public Transport and this was confirmed.
- Discussion on bypassing the Kingston Road gyratory. Kilkenny/Obridge Yard – give consideration to public transport.
- Policy Making perspective – these ideas captured for a future authority.

- Caveat – report of this group would probably be a direction of travel for a Unitary to pick up and run with.
- Bryony Chetwode (Travel watch Southwest CIC) introduced herself. They had input into regional government, national and local policy. Public Transport enables human interaction and expedition.
- Critical friend of bus and rail operators and acting as a facilitator. Help to reduce carbon and seek funds from central government.
- Explainer to SWT Departments – transport touches everything.
- Government Bus Strategy about to come out.
- Mentioned Lincolnshire work – first and last mile. Reliability and connection.
- Issues around reliability – bus operators would suggest is caused by cars.
- Park and Ride was a fantastic opportunity for the Council to build on e.g. facilities, encouraging take up.
- Benefits of having out of town stores – node (point or pathway at which traffic intersects) – electric buses to them?
- Consultation – most user groups recommend 9 months. Talk through implications.
- Discussion on closure of East Street – single and 2 person occupiers living nearby in poor health. Businesses such as audiologists and eyesight for people in need.
- ‘Public Transport is Active Travel’
- Leisure – people have a new flexibility. Opportunity to re-plan directions people are taking.
- Cllrs felt that quality of vehicles was considered key – rather than reliability or affordability.
- Tourist Levy – what more would that give us?
- Franchising Situation – money given by central government.
- First Group will be given bonuses around being carbon able, commuting by bus, green share portfolios.
- Social Good – public health aspect of public transport
- 9 months consultation was considered too ambitious
- Focus Groups – TravelWatch SW can link the Task and Finish group with bus user groups if so wished.
- First and Last Mile – Covid Parish Councils – Villages – 3 or 4 electric buses.
- First Bus Leeds – looking at getting more bums on seats – funding linked.
- CIL Cranbrook – Stagecoach – planning – transport and new homes.

5. Next Steps/Work Plan

- The Survey Questions had been revised by Councillor Mansell and were agreed for finalisation.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was identified for the 15th March 2021.
The meeting closed at 6pm.

Report Number: SWT 4/23

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 1st February 2023

Local Labour Agreement Policy

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Mike Rigby

Report Author: Hattie Winter, Senior Economic Development Officer

1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report presents a proposal for the adoption of a new corporate policy that states the Council's position in relation to increasing local skills and employment opportunities generated by new developments for people within the district.
- 1.2 Implementation of the policy will enable the Council to enter into Local Labour Agreements with developers in order to secure employment and skills opportunities at both the construction and first operational phase (where sites include commercial units) of new developments that meet the thresholds set out in the guidance note (Appendix 2).
- 1.3 Adoption of the proposed Local Labour Agreement Policy will enable SWT to increase the social value of new development across the district through the use of its Local Planning Authority powers. The value realised will include:-
 - Improved skills and educational attainment levels of the district's labour supply.
 - Increase the number of employment opportunities available for local people.
 - Increase the number of apprenticeship and upskilling opportunities for local people.
 - Increase opportunities for young people in the district to enter the construction sector.
 - Support the viability of new sites by providing an appropriately skilled construction workforce.
 - Reduction in the carbon footprint of new development through the use of local resources.
- 1.4 The policy outlines the council's commitment to working in partnership with developers and operators to maximise the opportunities available to all parties and recognises developers as major contributors to the growth and success of Somerset West and Taunton's economy.
- 1.5 The report outlines the background to the development of the proposed policy, a copy

of the draft policy, and a draft technical guidance note for developers and operators.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the proposal for the formal adoption of the SWT Local Labour Agreement Policy into the Council's Policy Framework.

3 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 Potential risks have been identified as follows:
 - 3.2.1 The new policy and planning obligations will increase requirements placed on developers which may impact the perceived viability of sites however, developers are likely to have experienced local labour requirements set out by Local Planning Authorities across the country and have practises in place to fulfil such obligations. Also, the obligations provide benefits to developers and the sector as a whole as outlined in this report. The Council will also provide practical assistance and support developers in achieving their obligations.
 - 3.2.2 The policy could be unpopular with developers due to the additional resources required to implement local labour obligations, however, the developers contacted during the preparation of this proposal are supportive of the scheme, the benefits to the local area and the sector, especially with regard to increasing the skilled workforce in the construction industry of which there is a shortage.
 - 3.2.3 If the policy is not implemented there is a risk that employment and training opportunities generated by new development will not provide a direct benefit for Somerset West and Taunton residents.
 - 3.2.4 There is a potential risk that developers will be unable to meet Local Labour targets due to a lack of availability of appropriately skilled people within the district. Each Local Labour Agreement will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. Where local labour supply does not meet the requirement of the development (in particular where there are specialised workforce requirements) targets will be negotiated.

4 Background and Full details of the Report

4.1 SWT Local Plans and new Somerset local plan

- 4.1.1 Details of the Strategic Planning and Policy context for this proposal can be found in the Technical Guidance Note (Appendix 2, 2.0).
- 4.1.2 In light of the Local Government Reorganisation in Somerset a new Somerset-wide Local Plan will be developed by the new Somerset Council. The current target for the creation of a new Local Plan is 5 years from 1st April 2023. Due to the regulations and consultation requirements surrounding the development of Local Plans, a significant amount of lead-in time is required. The adoption of this policy at this time will ensure that, while the new Somerset Council continues to deliver against former district Local Plans, local labour and skills opportunities can be maximised in the former SWT district

area until such a time as a Somerset Local Plan is adopted.

- 4.1.3 Further detail on how this policy aligns with similar policies of other district councils in Somerset and opportunities for the new Somerset Council can be found in section 5 of this report.

4.2 **Evidence and Need**

- 4.2.1 Development across the District in future years will create a significant number of jobs and the Local Labour Agreement policy will play an important role in helping to secure local employment at both the construction and operational stages of development.

- 4.2.2 An Employment and Skills profile for Somerset West and Taunton is attached in appendix 3.

4.3 **Research and Stakeholder engagement**

- 4.3.1 In order to prepare a robust LLA policy the project team carried out research into best practice including but not limited to

- Shared learning from other local authorities (Sedgemoor, Brighton and Hove, Hampshire, Basingstoke, and Lewes),
- Academic studies,
- Industry papers,
- Industry interview with Construction Industry Training Board (CITB).

- 4.3.2 The team is consulting with a sample of developers and agents to seek feedback on the proposed policy, its aims and the obligations Local Labour Agreements will place on developers and operators, and how the authority can best support developers to realise the benefits of the policy.

- 4.3.3 Initial consultation has given an indication that developers are keen to see this policy come forward along with the support to deliver employment and skills plans.

“We understand the importance of working with a range of local partners – schools, colleges, community hubs, community centres, skills agencies, local JCPs and so on - to ensure we are creating better opportunities for employment. As well as being the ‘right thing to do’, the initiatives created provide an opportunity to embed ourselves into the local community. Building and regeneration creates upheaval and disruption for many local people but by removing barriers for local residents, and providing opportunities to upskill local people, they are more accepting of the disruption. The local community benefit from the works taking place in and around their homes.

As with many industries at the moment, construction is struggling to recruit new trainees into the business so in addition to the employability sessions we deliver various sessions around careers in construction, helping young people make informed decisions about their choice of study and raise awareness of the many pathways into a career within our industry. This helps to

address skills shortages and helps people follow career aspirations leading to sustainable employment.” – Equans UK.

4.3.4 The policy and operation processes needed to deliver the policy have been designed in consultation with a range of internal teams including the Planning Policy, Development Control and Climate Change teams.

4.4 Benefits for developers and operators

4.4.1 The Local Labour Agreement policy provides developers and operators an opportunity to:

- Deliver Corporate Social Responsibility commitments.
- Be recognised by local residents, businesses, and stakeholders as major contributors to the success of the local economy
- Create a pipeline of skilled workers to support future developments.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of sites using local resources and minimising unnecessary travel by maximising local employment opportunities.

4.5 New developer and operator obligations

4.5.1 The Local Labour Agreement Policy will place obligations on developers and operators (if applicable, further explanation can be found in Appendix 2, 7.0) of new sites to work in partnership with SWT to deliver the skills and employment targets set out within the Section 106 planning agreements for those sites.

4.5.2 The Local Labour agreement policy relates to sites that meet the below criteria:

- Non-residential– All developments (other than C3/C4 Planning Use Class), including change of use, that create/relate to 5,000 sq. m. This also includes developments of strategic importance (e.g., essential infrastructure, development identified in Council plans and strategy)
- Residential - Major developments (within C3/C4 Planning Use Class) that involve 50 or more units.
- Sites with mixed-use will be considered where non-residential size (sq. m) or the number of residential units combined would be deemed by the Council to be of similar significance to either of the above criteria.

4.5.3 The Section 106 agreement (see Appendix 2, pg. 16) states that developers must:

- Prepare a Skills and Employment Plan in order to meet the site’s Local Labour targets.
- Deliver the measures required to fulfil the site’s Local Labour targets.
- Provide SWT with the required monitoring information and evidence of target completion.

- Work in partnership and meet regularly with SWT Economic Development Officers until the section 106 obligations have been discharged.
- 4.5.4 The Technical Guidance note (Appendix 2, pg. 17-24) describe the site-specific targets that will be placed on developers during the construction phase of the project.
- 4.5.5 Developers will be expected to work with subcontracts to ensure targets are met in relation to the total development.
- 4.5.6 Operators will be required to:
- Prepare a Skills and Employment Plan in order to meet the site's Local Labour targets.
 - Deliver the measures required to fulfil the site's Local Labour targets (initial cohort of employees and within the first six months of opening).
 - Provide SWT with the required monitoring information and evidence of target completion.
 - Work in partnership and meet regularly with SWT Economic Development Officers until the section 106 obligations have been discharged.

4.6 Typical Employment and Training measures

- 4.6.1 The specific measures to be secured through a Section 106 agreement with the developer, could include recruitment events and promotion of opportunities to local people, training (pre-employment and vocational), apprenticeships, employment advice, interview guarantees, and work placements.

5 Local Government Reorganisation

- 5.1 Throughout the project the team considered how the proposed policy and implementation of Local Labour Agreements would provide increased benefits for local people and would support the delivery of a thriving economy across Somerset.
- 5.2 As mentioned in this report Sedgemoor District Council currently delivers a Local Labour Agreement scheme. Where possible we have aligned the processes, approach, and targets with those used by Sedgemoor District Council, for example, both authority areas will use the CITBs best practice targets and use section 106 obligations to secure measures and client support approach. This aims to ease the transition into a new single authority.
- 5.3 There are opportunities for the rollout of Local Labour agreements into the South Somerset and Mendip Local Plan boundary areas with the potential for shared resources.
- 5.4 As of vesting day the new Somerset Council may choose to review or make changes to the policy, technical guidance notes, parameters, targets, and operating processes.
- 5.5 The versions of the policy and TGN attached in Appendices 1 and 2 are versions to be used by SWT to 31st March 2023. Prior to vesting day through the Growth and Prosperity LGR workstream, a version for use by the new Somerset Council with appropriate branding and using the wording 'The former Taunton Deane and West

Somerset Local Plan areas' will be developed to ensure the geographical boundaries that apply to this policy are clearly understood.

6. Fees and Charging options

- 6.1 SWT places a standard charge of £100 per dwelling for residential development and £1.25 per sqm for commercial floorspace to support the additional resources required by the Council to prepare and monitor compliance with Section 106 agreements. This fee will remain unchanged.
- 6.2 There is potential to recover costs from developers (and where applicable operators) for the provision of support in preparing and delivering site-specific Skills and Employment Plans (a requirement of the Local Labour Agreement).
- 6.3 The research carried out by the Local Labour Agreement project team identified that recharging the developer (and where applicable the operator) for support is standard practice where Local Labour Agreement schemes are in place in other Local Planning Authorities across the country and that developers are keen to take up any support offered by Local Authorities in discharging their Section 106 obligations in relation to employment and skills.
- 6.4 In light of Local Government Reorganisation, the potential to seek recovery of developer and operator support costs could be considered by the new Somerset Council alongside the rollout of the Local Labour Agreement Schemes of Somerset West and Taunton and Sedgemoor District Council across the whole of Somerset.

7.0 Communication

- 7.1 A communication plan is currently under development which will include an analysis of stakeholders, direct communication of the policy and new obligations with developers, a targeted written communication to other key stakeholders (including supply chain businesses), an informational webinar for interested businesses and a webinar for partner organisations and local education providers.
- 7.2 The communication will aim to introduce the policy and the new obligations expected of developers and operators (for example leaseholders or new freeholders of commercial units on the site) and discuss how private and public sector partners can work together to achieve local employment and skills targets.

8.0 Implementation and Resources

- 8.1 A member of the SWT Economic Development Team will be responsible for liaising with Planning colleagues and Developers to ensure the LLA's are negotiated, implemented and monitored effectively.
- 8.2 There will be no requirements for additional planning officer resources to support the implementation of the policy, other than to inform the SWT Economic Development Team at the pre-application stage of any new development. The council's S106 officer

will support the preparation of the S106 agreement within the current capacity.

8.3 No additional budget is required to implement this policy.

9.0 Links to Corporate Strategy

9.1 This proposal supports the Council's strategic priority theme of Our Environment and Economy and in particular the objective to 'Encourage wealth creation and economic growth throughout the district by attracting inward investment, enabling research and innovation, improving the skills of the local workforce, and seeking to ensure the provision of adequate and affordable employment land to meet different business needs'. This also links to the economic development framework to support the transformation of the Somerset West and Taunton (SW&T) economy to a knowledge-based one over time, ultimately leading to greater levels of investment and higher-paid jobs. The whole approach is structured around People, Place and Business, which are very much aligned to the Local Enterprise Partnership's Local Industrial Strategy (LIS).

10.0 Finance / Resource Implications

10.1 There are no budget requests in relation to the scheme. More information on the staff resource requirements and how these will be met can be found in the Implementation and Resources section of the report.

10.2 Information on the standard cost recovery charges associated with section 106 agreements can be found in section 6 of this report.

11.0 Legal Implications

11.1 SWT can implement this policy through the use of its Local Planning Authority powers.

11.2 Legal advice is being sought on the specific wording of the Local Labour and Section 106 Agreements to ensure the obligations are practically enforceable and in line with the Council's Local Planning Authority powers.

12.0 Climate, Ecology and Sustainability Implications

12.1 By encouraging developers and operators to use local resources and procure local subcontractors the policy will contribute towards achieving net zero targets by reducing unnecessary travel of employees. Increasing the number of training and apprenticeship opportunities will also reduce the need for local people to travel outside of the district.

12.2 SWT economic development officers will support developers to work with local education providers to develop a talent pool in sustainable construction techniques. Implementation of the policy will allow SWT to promote the use of sustainable construction techniques and advancement towards net zero developments.

13.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 13.1 The adoption and implementation of the policy will strengthen the Council's commitment to enabling people from a disadvantaged background, areas of deprivation and those facing financial inequality to access skills and employment opportunities. This policy will also, through apprenticeships and T-level placements, advance the equality of opportunity for young people across the district.
- 13.2 The policy will support the sustainability of local communities by retaining young people and the working age population in the district through upskilling and creating local jobs.
- 13.3 Through an initial Equality Impact Assessment, the following advantages and issues have been identified:
- 13.4 Developers and operators (where relevant) will be required to evidence the number of local people employed on the site. Local people can be defined as those that have a permanent home address within the Somerset West and Taunton boundary. This method of monitoring may exclude Ukrainian guests hosted within the district or those that are in temporary accommodation due to homelessness or other circumstance. To avoid inequality of opportunity the council will monitor the postcode of the 'primary' address of the employee or student.
- 13.5 To ensure that those furthest from the job market or who require additional support to secure work or training, the Council will work with partner agencies such as the DWP, Job Centre Plus, Somerset Displaced Peoples Unit and Skill Up Somerset to ensure referral routes into opportunities provided through local developments.
- 13.6 The evidence provided in Appendix 3 highlights key areas of deprivation and low social mobility within the district. The Councils Economic Development Team run Community Employment Hubs within these key areas, and this will provide robust referral routes into the opportunities offered by new developments in the District.
- 13.7 The Councils Access to Employment Grant scheme will provide support for those with barriers to work and learning, this could include support towards the cost of CSCS cards, health and safety training and active travel to work that may be required. This could help to reduce inequalities faced by young people, especially in the rural areas of the district.
- 13.8 Developers will be encouraged to promote opportunities in an accessible and inclusive way to ensure people of all backgrounds, age groups, ethnicities, abilities, and genders are aware of the work and training opportunities on offer.

14.0 Partnership Implications

- 14.1 The policy commits the Council to work in partnership with developers, education and training providers and employment support agencies to maximise the opportunities generated by new development in the district.

15.0 Data Protection Implications

15.1 Monitoring no personally identifiable data will be shared with the council during monitoring developers and operators will be asked to redact any information before sharing it with the council.

16.0 Consultation Implications

16.1 See section 4.3 of the report. There are no legal requirements to consult on this under Local Planning Authority regulations.

Democratic Path:

- **Scrutiny / Audit and Governance Committee – Yes 1st Feb 2023**
- **Executive – Yes 15th Feb 2023**
- **Full Council – No**

Reporting Frequency: Once only

List of Appendices (background papers to the report)

Appendix 1	Policy Statement
Appendix 2	Technical Guidance Note
Appendix 3	SWT Employment and Skills Profile

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Somerset West and Taunton Local Labour Agreement Policy:

Somerset West and Taunton Council is committed to improving the quality of life for those who live and work in the district and the promotion of economic prosperity and growth.

Development across the district in future years will create a significant number of jobs and this policy will play an important role in helping to secure local employment and training opportunities at both the construction and operational stages of development.

In order to maximise these opportunities Somerset West and Taunton Council will seek agreement with developers to secure appropriate planning obligations for employment and training initiatives as part of development proposals.

In common with other local authorities, developers, and operators of commercial units on sites will be expected to sign a Local Labour Agreement and implement an Employment and Skills Plan identifying opportunities for employment and up-skilling of local people.

A Local Labour agreement will be required for developments that are for 50 (or more) dwellings or 5000 sqm (or more) of commercial development.

This Policy was adopted to ensure that:

- Local people benefit from new job opportunities created by major developments in the district.
- Local people are provided with opportunities to gain skills needed for employment in growth industries.
- Economic inactivity in the local area is reduced.
- The environmental impact of unnecessary travel is minimised by maximising local employment opportunities.
- Developers, subcontractors, and operators of commercial units are adding social value to the local area.

These plans will support the delivery of the Council's strategic priority theme of Our Environment and Economy and in particular, the objective to 'Encourage wealth creation and economic growth throughout the district by attracting inward investment, enabling research and innovation, improving the skills of the local workforce, and seeking to ensure the provision of adequate and affordable employment land to meet different business needs'.

Somerset West and Taunton

Local Employment and Skills Technical Guidance Note

Draft – Not yet adopted January 2023

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Local Employment and Skills Technical Guidance Note
Draft January 2023

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Somerset West and Taunton Council has prepared a Local Employment and Skills Technical Guidance Note (TGN) for the district to assist in securing Local Labour agreements as part of development proposals. Development across the district in future years will create a significant number of jobs and this TGN will play an important role in helping to secure local employment at both the construction and operational stages of development.
- 1.2 The Local Employment and Skills TGN will apply to proposals and developments within the boundaries of Somerset West and Taunton Council as a local planning authority.
- 1.3 This Local Employment and Skills TGN has been prepared to provide detail in establishing a framework as to how Local Labour agreements (including employment and training measures) will be secured and how to maximise local employment opportunities at both the construction and first operational phase of a development.
- 1.4 This TGN provides more detailed guidance on how the Council will provide opportunities for the improvement of the skills and educational attainment levels of the district's labour supply, this will help in the delivery of the Council's key strategic objectives in relation to employment and sustainability.
- 1.5 The Council is committed to working in partnership with developers and operators to assist in the delivery of this TGN to maximise the opportunities available to all parties. Developers and operators that support this TGN and achieve the measures identified within will be recognized by local residents, business and key stakeholders as major contributors towards the growth and success of the local economy.

2.0 Strategic/Policy Context

- 2.1 There are a number of national, regional, and local strategic policy goals and objectives that provide a strong justification for this document. These policies and objectives are critically important to the district. In summary the key objectives are to improve training and skills in the district for future economic growth.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.2 A key policy direction of the NPPF is to deliver sustainable development, by building a strong and competitive economy. The Framework highlights that planning policies and decisions should help to create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand, and develop. Significant emphasis is placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, acknowledging local business needs and wider development opportunities.
- 2.3 Local Labour Agreements are a tool for supporting growth and building a strong, skilled local economy, which provides opportunities for local people and social mobility, whilst protecting and enhancing the local and global environment, key to the achievement of these objectives.
- 2.4 The definition of sustainable development includes reference to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Local Labour Agreements can help to work towards numerous indicators aligned across multiple goals, but in particular the goal for decent work and economic growth (goal 8).
- 2.5 Paragraph 81 of the NPPF states that "Planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, considering both local business needs and wider opportunities for development. The approach taken should allow each area to build on its strengths, counter any weaknesses and address the challenges of the future".

Somerset West and Taunton Local Planning Policy Context

- 2.6 Local planning policy is set out in a number of different documents produced by the former Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset District Council as well as Somerset West and Taunton Council. Due to this, the planning policy context differs in the former Taunton Deane and West Somerset areas, with the focus on securing improved employment skills and opportunities from developments being stronger and more explicit in the Taunton Deane area policies than West Somerset ones. Despite this, there is a commonality in objectives and purpose which the use of Local Labour Agreements can effectively respond to.

Former Taunton Deane Area

- 2.7 **Core Strategy CP1** – This policy aims for development proposals to result in a sustainable environment and address the issue of climate change. As part of this, the policy refers to use of BREEAM standards

(particularly in relation to commercial development) and ensuring that the “impact on the local community, economy, nature conservation or historical interests does not outweigh the economic and wider environmental benefits of the proposal”. BREEAM standards are wide ranging and support delivery of social value in development including in relation to health and wellbeing of asset users and local communities, local investment, social justice, and responsible leadership.

- 2.8 **Core Strategy CP2** – This policy focuses on how overarching economic growth ambitions for the Taunton Deane area will be achieved. It includes the following statement: “The Borough Council and its partner organisations will work with developers and contractors on allocated sites to secure job sustainability by improving local skills and employment opportunities by ensuring that an optimum proportion of jobs are sourced from within the local area and employers investing in relevant training and learning schemes for employees”.
- 2.9 **Core Strategy CP5** – This policy focuses on the creation of inclusive communities and the role which new development should play in addressing inequalities. It includes a requirement for development proposals to “promote sustainable development that creates social cohesive and inclusive communities; reduce inequalities, promote personal well-being and address accessibility to health, inclusive housing, training, education, places of worship, leisure and other community facilities ensuring a better quality of life for everyone both now and for future generations”. In particular, it requires development proposals to “make provision and access for all to: Training and Employment Opportunities – raising the skill and wage level as well as diversifying the range of jobs”.
- 2.10 **Taunton Town Centre Area Action Plan TS1** – The Taunton Town Centre Area Action Plan has a chapter devoted to training and skills and the role that planning plays in helping to deliver on a range of local employment priorities including improving the range of local skills and helping deprived communities with access to employment and training. Policy TS1 in particular states that “The Borough Council and its partner organisations will work with developers and contractors on allocated sites to secure job sustainability in construction industries by improving local skills. The following will be undertaken a. Developers and partners will work together to ensure that an optimum proportion of construction related jobs are sourced from within the local area b. Developers and partners will be required to invest in relevant training schemes for construction and/or allied trades skills and learning that provides for individual local workers to achieve industry accreditation and employment”.

Former West Somerset Area

- 2.11 **West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 Policy EC1** – “Proposals which will make the West Somerset economy stronger and more diverse and that are likely to increase the proportion of higher paid jobs locally will be supported”. Whilst this policy is primarily aimed at employment generating development proposals, where any type of development demonstrates that it will improve the strength and diversity of the economy and provide higher paid employment opportunities then it may have relevance.
- 2.12 **West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 Policy EC7** – “Proposals which strengthen the range and quality of training opportunities offered within the area will be supported”. Whilst this policy is primarily aimed at development proposals which combine education, training and, employment functions and opportunities in one location, the stated purpose of the policy is “to take advantage of opportunities which arise to increase the range and / or skill level of the local workforce through training”. As such, the policy may have relevance to any development which can demonstrate working towards that purpose.

SWT District

- 2.13 **SWT Local Plan to 2040 Issues & Options Consultation** – “Work to secure Local Labour Agreements with developers and contractors on allocated sites to secure job sustainability in construction industries by improving local skills and support proposals which strengthen the range and quality of training opportunities”. Whilst the SWT Local Plan to 2040 is no longer being progressed, it is a material consideration, and the contents will influence future plan-making in the new Unitary Council.

Regional Economic Strategy

- 2.14 **Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership ‘Local Industrial Strategy’**
- We are committed to investing in our community to support businesses, employers and local people that meet local needs.
 - We are committed to supporting local people who have the fewest job, training, and skills development options, and will provide additional support that helps people who are furthest from the labour market and increase social mobility.
 - We are customer and community focused and are committed to improving our services in line with increasing local job opportunities. The Local Labour Agreement client-based approach will support people to move towards work and cater for their changing needs and aspirations over time.

- We will work efficiently to support the delivery of our social priorities and objectives. It sets out how we will improve our business practices, drive out value for money and pursue new activities through new development within our district.

Somerset West and Taunton Corporate Strategy

- 2.15 **Strategic priority “Our Environment and Economy”** - in particular the objective to ‘Encourage wealth creation and economic growth throughout the district by attracting inward investment, enabling research and innovation, improving the skills of the local workforce, and seeking to ensure the provision of adequate and affordable employment land to meet different business needs’.
- 2.16 The construction sector has been identified as a key driver for Economic Growth in the SWT area. It is important there is a sufficiently skilled workforce to meet the demands of these major developments as well as others that are planned for the near future.

3.0 Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Value

- 3.1 The benefits to developers and operators in terms of delivering their CSR objectives and making a social difference include:
- Local people benefit from new job opportunities created by major developments in the district.
 - Local people are provided with opportunities to gain skills and upskill for employment in growth industries.
 - Creation of a pipeline of skilled workers to support future developments.
 - Local people have access to lifelong learning and the promotion of “learning communities”.
 - Reduction in carbon footprint through utilising local resources and minimising unnecessary travel by maximising local employment opportunities.

4.0 Use of Planning Obligations

- 4.1 The requirement for a Local Labour Agreement will be discharged by the developer through a s106 planning obligations agreement. The thresholds are detailed in 5.0 Thresholds and Definitions.

Section 106 Planning Obligations

- 4.2 Section 106 planning obligations can be secured from new developments to mitigate the impacts of development, including improving employment opportunities, training and skills. The Government has guidelines for when Section 106 obligations can be used. This document complies with Regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy regulations 2010 (as amended) which requires the planning obligation to be:
- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms
 - Directly related to the development and
 - Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.
- 4.3 Developers will need to discuss measures and agree these in advance with the Council's Economic Development Team.
- 4.4 An example of Planning Obligation clause is set out in Appendix 1.

Local Labour Agreements

- 4.5 Somerset West and Taunton Council have adopted a Local Labour Agreement Policy to ensure that:
- Local people benefit from new job opportunities created by major developments in the district.
 - Local people are provided with opportunities to gain skills and upskill for employment in growth industries.
 - Local people have access to lifelong learning and the promotion of "learning communities".
 - The environmental impact of unnecessary travel is minimised by maximising local employment opportunities.
 - Development proposals consider their sustainability in the round (including supply chain, project management and labour sources which can be central to addressing climate targets).
- 4.6 Developers would be required to sign a Local Labour Agreement outlined in Appendix 1.
- 4.7 The objectives of the Local Labour Agreement are to:
- Demonstrate the use of local labour from within the developer's project team and the wider company
 - Where feasible (economically and practically), procure goods and services from local contractors
 - Encourage sub-contractors and suppliers to support employment from the local community
 - Demonstrate recruitment and training opportunities within the contractor's company

- Provide opportunities for local residents to access jobs created during the construction phase of the development and subsequent occupation.
- Reduce economic inactivity in the local area to support NEETS (Not in Education, Employment or Training)
- Support the development of skills within the local community.

5.0 Thresholds and Definitions

- 5.1 This TGN will apply to residential and non-residential as outlined in the 'Thresholds for Development' detailed below.

Thresholds for Development

S106 Planning Obligation Thresholds

Non-residential: All developments (other than C3/C4 Planning Use Class), including change of use, that create/relate to 5,000 sq m. This also includes developments of strategic importance (e.g., essential infrastructure, development identified in Council plans and strategy)

Residential: Major developments (within C3/C4 Planning Use Class) that involve 50 or more units.

Mixed-use sites: Where non-residential size (sq m) or number of residential units combined would be deemed by the Council to be of similar significance to either of the above criteria.

For residential development this applies to the construction phase, however, if there are operational jobs associated with the residential development, then both the construction and operational stages will apply.

For commercial developments or mixed use this applies to both construction and operational stages.

- 5.2 Below these thresholds applicants will be encouraged to consider committing to a LLA, though this will not be actively sought by the Council.

- 5.3 Local Labour Agreements will stipulate that 25% of the employment opportunities generated at the construction and operational phases

should be for Local People.

- 5.4 Appendix 2 provides a table for each type of development and indicates the number of work experience placements*, NVQ (award, certificate, or diploma) starts and completions and apprenticeships that should be provided at the construction stage. There is also a table outlining the extra-curricular activity commitments. Appendix 2 provides the benchmark standards for new developments.

* Please Note: Work experience placements will also include T (Technical) Level placements.

6.0 Local Labour Agreement and Employment and Skills Plans

- 6.1 At the pre-planning application stage, prospective developers whose development would exceed the thresholds will be contacted by the Economic Development Team at Somerset West and Taunton Council to discuss local labour employment and training measures that are appropriate to the size of the development.
- 6.2 Through the Local Labour Agreement (Appendix 1), an Employment and Skills Plan (ESP) for both phases of the development – construction (developers, contractors, subcontractors) and operation (primarily in the case of commercial developments, starting workforce only/first 12 months of operation) will be required.
- 6.3 If the operational phase of the development has multiple operators, separate and appropriate employment and training measures will be negotiated independently with each operator through their own separate ESP's.
- 6.4 The complexities of multi-site and multi-phase developments are recognised and will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis to achieve a balance between meeting the needs of the TGN and the employment and training needs of the local construction supply chain and operator/s.
- 6.5 The Economic Development Team of Somerset West and Taunton Council will work with and draft an ESP with the developer, and if applicable the operator(s) to agree the requirements of the project in relation to employment opportunity measures and activity.
- 6.6 The Employment and Skills Plans (ESP) will be approved by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Council's Economic Development Team, who will liaise with the developer and then

track progress against the ESP's Key Performance Indicators.

7.0 Employment and Skills Plan and Method Statement

Construction Phase

- 7.1 Developers are required to complete an Employment and Skills Plan (ESP) and Method Statement as outlined below. This should be done in accordance with the guidance in Appendix C of The Client Based Approach, Local Client Guidance – England, March 2016 ([english-client-based-approach-contractor-guidance.pdf \(citb.co.uk\)](https://www.citb.co.uk/media/1018282/english-client-based-approach-contractor-guidance.pdf)), this is also available from Somerset West and Taunton Council.
- 7.2 The ESP could include but not limited to the following Employment and Skills Areas as listed below:
- NVQ (award, certificate, or diploma) training for sub-contractors (construction phase only)
 - Apprenticeships
 - Pre-employment training
 - Work experience placements for those unemployed
 - Work experience placements for those aged 14-18 years in education, 16-19 and 19+ years
 - Skills development workshops with education and training providers for the unemployed or those wishing to re-train, including employer led bootcamps/ sector-based work academies
 - Targeted recruitment and training campaigns including promotion of vacancies locally, pre-employment training, work trials and guaranteed interviews
 - Job Fairs to promote new operational vacancies and opportunities
 - Site visits and talks
 - Career activities – mock interviews, information events, mentoring, site visits
 - In-house training schemes
 - Leadership and Management training
 - Sector based work academy programmes
- 7.3 Developers are required to provide a detailed Method Statement setting out how they intend to implement the ESP. The Method Statement should be restricted to 800 words and clearly set out the proposed approach for delivering skills development against the Employment and Skills Areas, covering the following:
- Who in the organisation will be responsible for managing the training scheme and overseeing the proposals?

- Which education and training providers will be involved with the delivery of the ESP?
 - What types of accredited and non-accredited training are expected to be offered and who are expected to be the main beneficiaries of this training?
 - Which trades or occupational areas is it envisaged will be offering Apprenticeship opportunities?
 - What types of Apprenticeship are expected to be offered (e.g. traditional, specialist, Shared, Advanced etc.)?
 - How will the Target Outputs as set out in the ESP be delivered?
 - How will health and safety issues be managed?
 - What actions will be taken to ensure the support of trade contractors and how will compliance be managed [and monitored] with respect to the organising trade contractors and subcontractors?
- 7.4 The developer needs to include a written statement in their contracts with the contractor and sub-contractors and inform the freeholder or lease holder of the operational phase of the development, encouraging them to liaise with the Council to discuss, agree and implement the arrangements as set out in this TGN and the site-specific Section 106 obligations to ensure the successful and consistent application.
- 7.5 The contractor and sub-contractors in the construction phase shall provide to the Council on a quarterly basis a Monitoring Form (example in Appendix 3) outlining the achievements against the ESP and Section 106 obligations.
- 7.6 On completion of development and/or one month after opening for operational developments, the Council will review performance against the ESP(s) and Section 106 obligations to formulate an evaluation report to consider the scope for improvement on future developments and to maximise promotional activities of the outcomes of the specific development.
- 7.7 For developments under 52 weeks or where contractors will be on site for limited times only, the Council understands that it is difficult for employers to engage with apprenticeships. In these instances, the use of an independent Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA) is recommended. The Council can provide contacts where this is required.
- 7.8 For developments expected to last for at least 52 weeks, the Council seeks those apprenticeships are facilitated. The developer is responsible for ensuring the relevant number of new apprenticeships is created on site – either directly or through the developer’s managing agents and their supply chain. If apprentices are recruited through the supply chain, it must be clearly evidenced that the apprentice appointment is directly associated with the development.
- 7.9 The Council encourages the contractor and supply chain to access

sector-specific grants through CITB - Construction Skills. The Council can signpost to this support.

Monitoring at Construction Phase

- 7.10 Provide regular monitoring and information to the Council on:
- The achievements against the ESP, numbers of local businesses contracted and numbers of local people* employed on a monthly / quarterly basis via completion of a Monitoring Form (Appendix 3)
 - Apprentices, work experience placements and NVQ (award, certificate, or diploma) starts and completions and any extracurricular and career activities.
 - A bimonthly/ quarterly site monitoring meeting
 - Any other relevant information as directed by the Council

*Local people count as those living in the Somerset West and Taunton District.

Operational Phase

- 7.11 The developer is to inform the lease holder about this TGN and the site-specific Local Labour Agreement. The lease holder is expected to meet with the Councils Economic Development Team to produce an ESP for submission to the Council as soon as possible after leasing the premises.
- 7.12 Operators are responsible for ensuring the relevant numbers of local employees, apprenticeships, work experience and NVQ (award, certificate, or diploma) training places are created, and they are responsible for all associated costs.
- 7.13 The ESP could include but not limited to the following Employment and Skills Areas as listed below:
- NVQ (award, certificate, or diploma) training for sub-contractors (construction phase only)
 - Apprenticeships
 - Pre-employment training
 - Work experience placements for those unemployed
 - Work experience placements for those aged 14-18 years in education, 16-19 and 19+ years
 - Skills development workshops with education and training providers for the unemployed or those wishing to re-train, including employer led bootcamps/ sector-based work academies
 - Targeted recruitment and training campaigns including promotion of vacancies locally, pre-employment training, work trials and guaranteed interviews

- Job Fairs to promote new operational vacancies and opportunities
- Site visits and talks
- Career activities – mock interviews, information events, mentoring, site visits
- In-house training schemes
- Leadership and Management training
- Sector based work academy programmes

7.14 Operators are required to provide a detailed Method Statement setting out how they intend to implement the ESP. The Method Statement should be restricted to 800 words and clearly set out the proposed approach for delivering skills development against the Employment and Skills Areas, covering the following:

- Who in the organisation will be responsible for managing the training scheme and overseeing the proposals?
- Which education and training providers will be involved with the delivery of the ESP?
- What types of accredited and non-accredited training are expected to be offered and who are expected to be the main beneficiaries of this training?
- Which occupational areas is it envisaged will be offering Apprenticeship opportunities?
- What types of apprenticeship are expected to be offered (i.e. traditional, specialist, Shared, Advanced etc.)?
- How will the Target Outputs as set out in the ESP be delivered?
- How will health and safety issues be managed?

Monitoring of Operational Phase

7.15 Tenants or freeholders are to provide monitoring information (via Appendix 4) to the Council one month after operation commences on:

- The achievements against the ESP
- Starting workforce statistics including details of number of local people
- Apprentice and work experience placements
- Any other relevant information as directed by the Council.

8.0 Fees

8.1 The Council seeks an administration fee for the negotiation and administration of all S106 agreements. This is a fixed sum of £100* per dwelling will be charged for residential development and £1.25per sqm for commercial floorspace(3) to support the additional resources required by the Council to deliver the administration system.

8.2 This charge is in addition to planning application fees and will be payable on completion of a S106 Agreement or when the number of dwellings or

amount of commercial floorspace is known.

- 8.3 Where a site has abnormally low costs, or where little negotiation is required, a reduction in fees will be considered.

*subject to review, correct as of January 2023.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Template Section 106 Obligations

Template Section 106 Obligations

The Owner and/or the Developers covenant with the Council as follows:

Not to commence development unless a Local Labour Agreement (LLA), including an Employment and Skills Plan (ESP) and Method Statement, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Economic Development Lead PROVIDED THAT where the Council has confirmed receipt of and been in receipt of the LLA for 4 weeks and no approval or dispute is given or notified then approval shall be deemed to have been given. The ESP and Method Statement shall include details demonstrating how the development will achieve compliance with and implementation of the Employment and Skills output figures contained within Appendix B of The Client Based Approach, Local Client Guidance – England, March 2016 as applied to the approved construction costs of the Development and the work types comprising the Development.

The approved LLA shall be implemented and complied with in accordance with that approval for the lifetime of the LLA unless subsequently otherwise approved in writing by the LPA.

The Local Labour Agreement template will be included here.

Appendix 2

Benchmark Standards for construction phase

Benchmark Standards for Work Experience Placements, Apprenticeships and NVQs (Award, Certificate or Diploma) at Construction Phase and Extra Curricular/Careers Activities/Programmes for the Unemployed

The commitment for extracurricular, careers activities and/or working with local unemployed people through various programmes on offer is as follows:

Up to £1m	£1m - £5m	£5m - £10m	£10m - £20m	£20m - £30m	£30m - £40m	£40m - £50m	£50m - £60m	£60m - £70m	£70m - £80m	£80m - £90m	£90m - £100m
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12

The tables in this Appendix detail the Work Experience placements, Apprenticeship and NVQ (award, certificate, or diploma) benchmarks that will apply for qualifying developments during the construction phase. The benchmarks vary dependent on the type and cost of the build.

Build types are classified as follows:

- Residential
- Retail, Sports, Leisure and Entertainment
- Factories
- Education (Private/Non County Council)
- Health
- Offices
- Refurbishment/Decent Homes

NVQ – National Vocational Qualification usually represented in the form of an Award, Certificate or Diploma

Client-Based Approach to developing and Implementing an Employment and Skills Strategy on construction projects through on-site training (May 2012)

Residential	Up to 500K	£500K - 1m	£1 - 3.5m	£3.5 - 6m	£6 - 10m	£10 - 15m	£15 - 20m	£20 - 30m	£30 - 40m	£40- 50m	£50- 60m	£60- 70m	£70- 80m
Work Experience Placement for those Unemployed – persons	1	2	3	5	7	9	11	13	16	18	19	20	20
Work Experience Placement for those aged 14-18 yrs in Education – persons	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	3	4	4	4	5	5
Apprentice Starts – persons	0	0	0	2	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Apprentice Completions –persons	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	5	5	6	6	6	7
<u>Construction Phase Only</u>													
NVQ Starts for Sub-contractors – persons	0	0	1	2	3	6	8	10	13	15	17	19	21
NVQ Completions for Sub-contractors – persons	0	0	1	2	3	5	7	8	11	12	14	16	17

Retail, Sports, Leisure and Entertainment	Up to 3.5m	£3.5 – 6m	£6 – 10m	£10 – 15m	£15 – 20m	£20 – 30m	£30 – 40m	£40 – 50m	£50 – 60m	£60- 70m	£70- 80m	£80- 90m	£90- 100m
Work Experience Placement for those Unemployed – persons	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10	10	11	11
Work Experience Placement for those aged 14-18 yrs in Education – persons	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
Apprentice Starts – persons	0	1	3	4	5	5	6	7	7	8	8	9	10
Apprentice Completions –persons	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
<u>Construction Phase Only</u>													
NVQ Starts for Sub-contractors – persons	1	1	2	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	13	14	14
NVQ Completions for Sub-contractors – persons	1	1	2	3	4	5	7	7	8	10	10	11	12

Factories	Up to 3.5m	£3.5 – 6m	£6 – 10m	£10 – 15m	£15 – 20m	£20 – 30m	£30 – 40m	£40 – 50m	£50 – 60m	£60- 70m	£70- 80m	£80- 90m	£90- 100m
Work Experience Placement for those Unemployed – persons	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Work Experience Placement for those aged 14-18 yrs in Education – persons	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Apprentice Starts – persons	0	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	5
Apprentice Completions –persons	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<u>Construction Phase Only</u>													
NVQ Starts for Sub-contractors – persons	1	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	13
NVQ Completions for Sub-contractors – persons	1	1	2	3	4	4	6	7	8	9	9	10	11

Education (Private/Non County Council)	Up to 3.5m	£3.5 – 6m	£6 – 10m	£10 – 15m	£15 – 20m	£20 – 30m	£30 – 40m	£40 – 50m	£50 – 60m	£60- 70m	£70- 80m	£80- 90m	£90- 100m
Work Experience Placement for those Unemployed – persons	4	6	8	11	13	16	19	22	23	24	24	25	25
Work Experience Placement for those aged 14-18 yrs in Education – persons	0	1	1	2	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	6	6
Apprentice Starts – persons	0	2	3	5	6	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12
Apprentice Completions –persons	0	0	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	6
<u>Construction Phase Only</u>													
NVQ Starts for Sub-contractors – persons	1	2	3	6	8	10	13	15	17	19	21	23	24
NVQ Completions for Sub-contractors – persons	1	2	3	5	7	8	11	12	14	16	17	19	20

Health	Up to 3.5m	£3.5 – 6m	£6 – 10m	£10 – 15m	£15 – 20m	£20 – 30m	£30 – 40m	£40 – 50m	£50 – 60m	£60- 70m	£70- 80m	£80- 90m	£90- 100m
Work Experience Placement for those Unemployed – persons	2	3	4	5	7	8	10	11	11	12	12	13	13
Work Experience Placement for those aged 14-18 yrs in Education – persons	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
Apprentice Starts – persons	0	1	2	4	4	5	5	6	7	7	8	8	9
Apprentice Completions –persons	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<u>Construction Phase Only</u>													
NVQ Starts for Sub-contractors – persons	1	2	2	5	6	8	10	12	14	15	17	18	19
NVQ Completions for Sub-contractors – persons	1	2	2	4	6	6	9	10	11	13	14	15	16

Offices	Up to 3.5m	£3.5 – 6m	£6 – 10m	£10 – 15m	£15 – 20m	£20 – 30m	£30 – 40m	£40 – 50m	£50 – 60m	£60- 70m	£70- 80m	£80- 90m	£90- 100m
Work Experience Placement for those Unemployed – persons	1	2	2	3	3	4	5	5	6	6	6	6	6
Work Experience Placement for those aged 14-18 yrs in Education – persons	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Apprentice Starts – persons	0	1	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	7
Apprentice Completions –persons	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
<u>Construction Phase Only</u>													
NVQ Starts for Sub-contractors – persons	1	1	2	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	13	14	14
NVQ Completions for Sub-contractors – persons	1	1	2	3	4	5	7	7	8	10	10	11	12

Refurbishment/Decent Homes	Up to 3.5m	£3.5 – 6m	£6 – 10m	£10- 15m	£15 20m	£20 30m	£30 – 40m	£40 – 50m	£50 – 60m	£60- 70m	£70- 80m	£80- 90m	£90- 100m
Work Experience Placement for those Unemployed – persons	2	4	5	6	8	9	11	13	13	14	14	15	15
Work Experience Placement for those aged 14-18 yrs in Education – persons	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Apprentice Starts – persons	0	1	3	4	5	6	6	7	8	8	9	10	11
Apprentice Completions –persons	0	0	1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
<u>Construction Phase Only</u>													
NVQ Starts for Sub-contractors – persons	1	1	2	4	6	7	9	11	12	13	15	16	17
NVQ Completions for Sub-contractors – persons	1	1	2	4	5	6	8	8	10	11	12	13	14

Notes: The numbers in the tables refer to total amount of work experience placements and apprenticeships in each category expected by value of development. For projects in excess of the development costs listed above, targets need to be negotiated with the Council.

Source: Client-Based Approach to developing and Implementing an Employment and Skills Strategy on construction projects through on-site training (May 2012)

Appendix 3 Sample Monitoring Form for the Construction Phase

Please complete and submit this form to the Council Economic Development Team.

All sub-contractors in the development chain are required to complete this form under the site's Section 106 agreement. **All recording relates to on site activity only.** If you need assistance in completing this form, contact the Council's Economic Development Team.

Date	
Company name, address and contact number of headquarters	
Company number of employees	
Company contact name	
Number of staff on site	
Number of staff on site previously unemployed	
Number of staff <u>on site</u> who live in Somerset West and Taunton District	
Number of NEW apprentices <u>on site</u> and level of apprenticeship (intermediate, advanced, or higher) Provide details of qualification title and level	
Number of EXISTING apprentices <u>on site</u> and level of apprenticeship (intermediate, advanced, or higher) Provide details of qualification title and level	
Number of apprenticeship completions whilst <u>on site</u> Provide details of qualification title and level	
Number of completed work experience placements for those unemployed	
Number of completed work experience placements for those aged 14-18 in education	
Number of NVQ starts (award, certificate, diploma) <u>on site</u> for Sub-contractors Provide details of qualification title and level	
Number of NVQ completions (award, certificate, diploma) <u>on site</u> for Sub-contractors Provide details of qualification title and level	
Number of extracurricular, careers/employment support activities Date and details of activity	
Number on site in receipt of the Living Wage	
Please list the contact details of any new sub-contractors to be used on site	

Appendix 4
 Sample Monitoring Form for the Operational Phase

Please complete and submit this form after 4 weeks of opening to SWTs Economic Development Team.

All sub-contractors in the development chain are required to do so under the Section 106 Agreement.

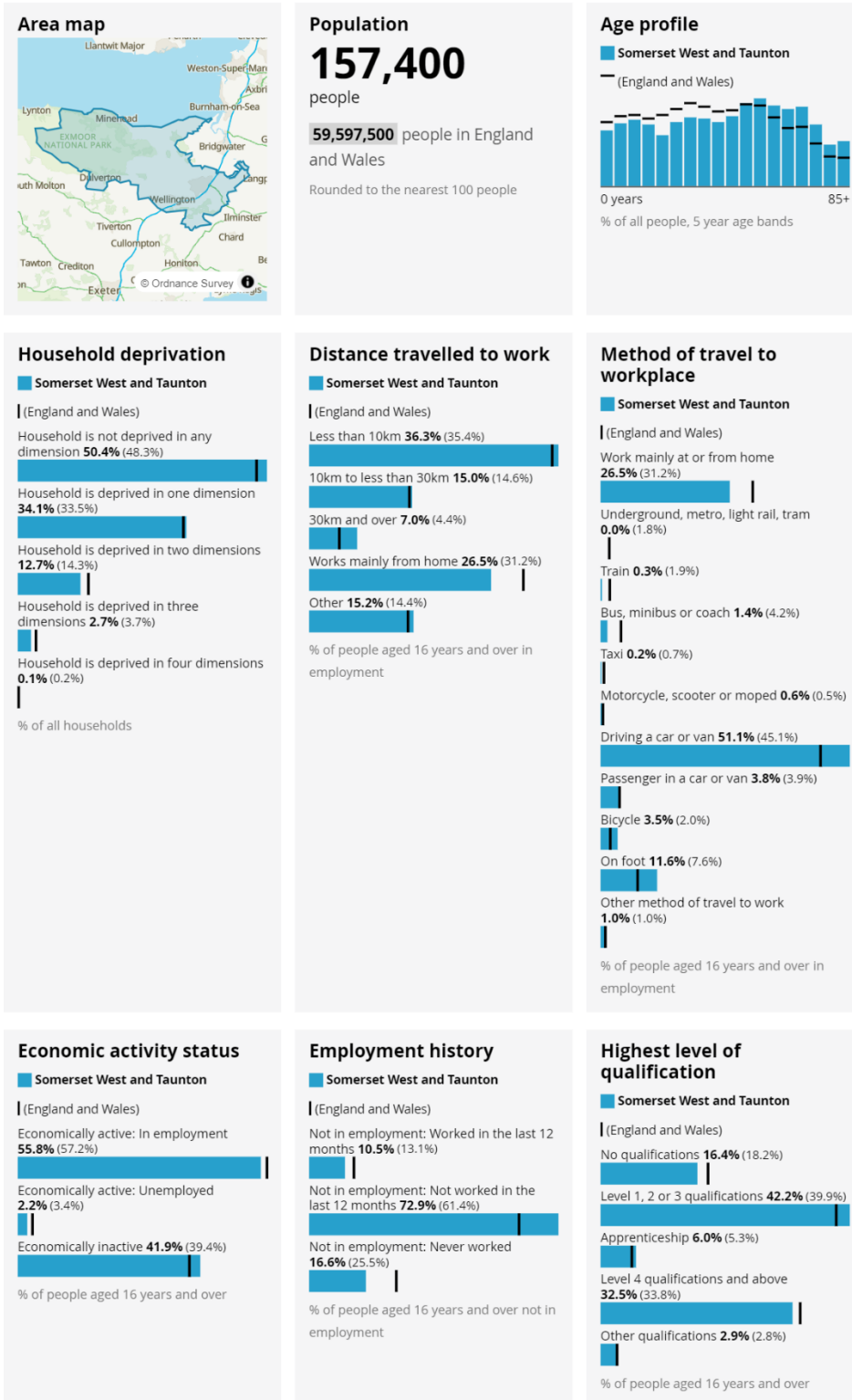
If you need assistance in completing this form, contact..... via email at

Date	
Company name	
Company contact name	
Number of staff employed	
Number of staff employed who live in Somerset West and Taunton District	
Number of staff previously unemployed	
Number of NEW* apprentices on site and level of apprenticeship (intermediate, advanced, or higher)	
Number of work experience placements for those unemployed	
Number of work experience placements for those aged 14-18 in education	
Curriculum, careers/employment support activities (site visits, talks, mock interviews, mentoring, participation in employability programmes)	

*Since operation of development

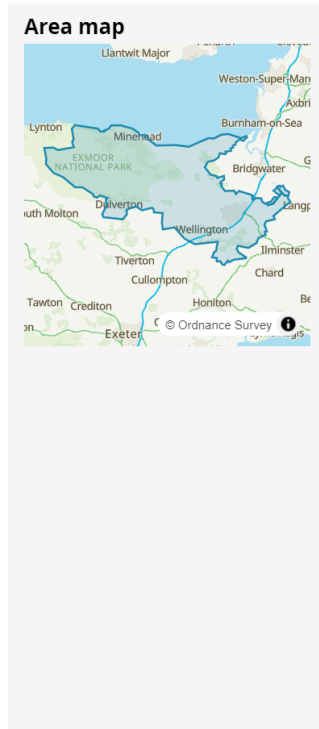
Economic Profile for Somerset West and Taunton

Somerset West and Taunton

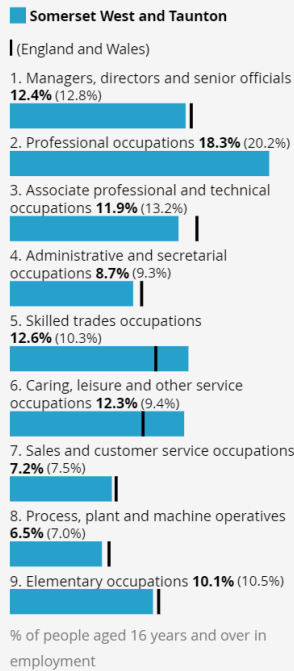


Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

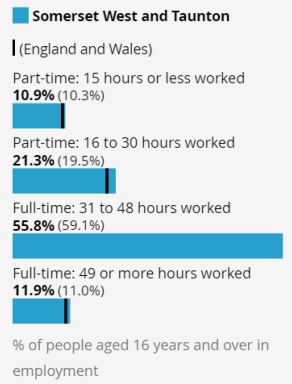
Somerset West and Taunton



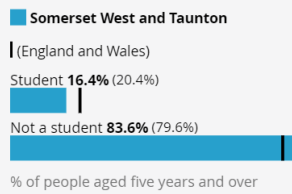
Occupation



Hours per week worked



Schoolchildren and full-time students



Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

Other headline statistics relevant to this report:

- SWT employs most people within the associate professional and technical occupations- the construction for Somerset accounts for 12.8% of the workforce.
- UC Claimant count- 1,955 people (2.2%, national = 3.7%)
- The number of neighbourhoods in the 10% most deprived is 3, the same ones as in 2015. There are an additional 3 neighbourhoods (all in Taunton) that now fall within the 20% most deprived, making 5 in total.
- The rural parts of West Somerset are now ranking as slightly more deprived than in 2015.
- There is a wide range in levels of deprivation in neighbourhoods across the SWT area. There are 5 neighbourhoods in the 10% least deprived and a further 9 in the 80-90% decile.
- SWT is ranked 142 Out of 317 English Local Authority areas, with 1 being the most deprived.

- The IMD comprises several domains and in the SWT neighbourhoods the highest levels of deprivation relate to 'barriers to housing and service' and 'living environment'.

