

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'.