

[SWT VIRTUAL MEETING WEBCAST
LINK](#)

Members: Gwil Wren (Chair), Libby Lisgo (Vice-Chair), Ian Aldridge, Norman Cavill, Dixie Darch, Habib Farbahi, Ed Firmin, John Hunt, Dave Mansell, Derek Perry, Phil Stone, Nick Thwaites, Danny Wedderkopp and Keith Wheatley

ADDENDUM

5. Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy and SWT Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Action Plan

(Pages 3 - 4)

This report is the responsibility for Executive Cllr Peter Pilkington, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change.

The Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy (the Somerset-wide Strategy) has been produced in partnership between SWT, Sedgemoor, Mendip and South Somerset District Councils and Somerset County Council together with expert inputs from a number of external bodies. The Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Action Plan (the CNCR Action Plan) has been produced as this Council's own response to declaring a Climate Emergency in February 2019 and inclusion of addressing climate change as the Council's number one priority in the Corporate Strategy.



JAMES HASSETT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Please note that this meeting will be recorded. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during the recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's policy. Therefore unless you are advised otherwise, by taking part in the Council Meeting during Public Participation you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of the sound recording for access via the website or for training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this please contact the officer as detailed above.

Following Government guidance on measures to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), we will be live webcasting 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.

If you would like to ask a question or speak at a meeting, you will need to submit your request to a member of the Governance Team in advance of the meeting. You can request to speak at a Council meeting by emailing your full name, the agenda item and your question to the Governance Team using governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Any requests need to be received by 4pm on the day that provides 2 clear working days before the meeting (excluding the day of the meeting itself). For example, if the meeting is due to take place on a Tuesday, requests need to be received by 4pm on the Thursday prior to the meeting.

The Governance and Democracy Case Manager will take the details of your question or speech and will distribute them to the Committee prior to the meeting. The Chair will then invite you to speak at the beginning of the meeting under the agenda item Public Question Time, but speaking is limited to three minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes and you can only speak to the Committee once. If there are a group of people attending to speak about a particular item then a representative should be chosen to speak on behalf of the group.

Please see below for Temporary Measures during Coronavirus Pandemic and the changes we are making to public participation:-

Due to the Government guidance on measures to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), we will holding meetings in a virtual manner which will be live webcast on our website. Members of the public will still be able to register to speak and ask questions, which will then be read out by the Governance and Democracy Case Manager during Public Question Time and will be answered by the Portfolio Holder or followed up with a written response.

Full Council, Executive, and Committee agendas, reports and minutes are available on our website: www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

For further information about the meeting, please contact the Governance and Democracy Team via email: governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

If you would like an agenda, a report or the minutes of a meeting translated into another language or into Braille, large print, audio tape or CD, please email: governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

**Supplementary paper for Item 5 of the agenda for Scrutiny Committee 14th
October 2020**

A Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group was established in 2019 to oversee development of the Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy. Each of the Somerset Councils nominated two Members to sit on this group. The group considered the final Strategy at their meeting on the 21st September. Following this, the group has produced a joint statement as detailed below:

**Statement on behalf of the Cross-Authority Scrutiny Task and Finish Group for the Climate
Emergency**

“The Climate Emergency Scrutiny Task and Finish Group-gave support, guidance and advice to the cross-Local Authority group of Officers who prepared this Climate Emergency Strategy and its associated Action Plans. The Strategy outlines Somerset’s first steps towards meeting the urgent challenges which the Climate Emergency and Climate Change present.

What is being considered today is the result of a year’s worth of research, analysis, consultation and debate, all of which has informed and enabled the writing of this evidence-based Strategy. Officers from all 5 Authorities worked in collaboration with a host of partner organisations, sector experts and local activists, drawing on their expertise, every one passionate about tackling the effects of the Climate Emergency.

The Strategy is robust and ambitious. While individual Members of the Task and Finish Group may support elements of the Strategy and Action Plan to differing degrees, we all agree that the time for Somerset to take action to minimise our environmental impact is now.

This is a Strategy for the whole of Somerset, not just our 5 Local Authorities. It will take the efforts of every community, business, adult and child in Somerset to commit to the aims of the Strategy if we are to make swift progress towards carbon neutrality, and aid Somerset’s resilience to the impacts of the Climate Emergency.

The analysis of the feedback from our comprehensive consultations over the last year has revealed overwhelming support for the actions and approach being proposed in the Strategy, coupled with a message, that came through loud and clear, that we as local authorities and community leaders must start taking action on climate change as soon as possible, provided that it is effective, communicated and, where possible, done in collaboration with local communities. The adoption of this Strategy would be important step in the enabling of the coordinated necessary actions that we must all be taking.

As the foreword to the Strategy says, this is the start of the journey. We won’t have included everything that we need to do, or got everything right first time. Policies will change and our understanding of the challenges ahead will increase. We don’t have all the answers yet, but we are committed to taking the necessary actions.

The Task and Finish Group are proud to be associated with this Strategy and recommend to this Committee that it progresses to Full Council for adoption.”

Ends

