

**SWT Community Scrutiny
Committee**

**Somerset West
and Taunton**

**Thursday, 27th January, 2022,
6.15 pm**

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

[SWT MEETING WEBCAST LINK](#)

Members: Libby Lisgo (Chair), Dave Mansell (Vice-Chair), Simon Coles, Tom Deakin, Steve Griffiths, John Hunt, Dawn Johnson, Richard Lees, Mark Lithgow, Janet Lloyd, Andy Milne, Andy Pritchard, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Ray Tully and Sarah Wakefield

Agenda

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

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

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the Community Scrutiny Committee held on

(Pages 5 - 16)

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.

Temporary measures during the Coronavirus pandemic

Due to the temporary legislation (within the Coronavirus Act 2020, which allowed for use of virtual meetings) coming to an end on 6 May 2021, the council's committee meetings will now take place in the office buildings at the John Meikle Room, Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton.

Unfortunately due to capacity requirements the Chamber at West Somerset House is not able to be used at this current moment.

Following the Government guidance on measures to reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), the council meeting rooms will have very limited capacity. With this in mind, we will be requesting that members of the public who have registered to speak attend the meetings in person at the office buildings, if they wish. (We will still be offering to those members of the public that are not comfortable in attending, for their statements to be read out by a member of the Governance team). Please can we urge all members of the public who are only interested in listening to the debate to view our live webcasts from the safety of their own home to help prevent the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

5. **Community Scrutiny Request/Recommendation Trackers** (Pages 17 - 20)
To update the Community Scrutiny Committee on the progress of resolutions and recommendations from previous meetings of the Committee.
6. **Community Scrutiny Forward Plan** (Pages 21 - 22)
To receive items and review the Forward Plan.
7. **Executive and Full Council Forward Plans** (Pages 23 - 28)
To review the Forward Plans of the Executive and Full Council.
8. **Report of the Task and Finish Group on Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit** (Pages 29 - 64)
This is the final report of the Task and Finish Group chaired by Councillor Dave Mansell.

This matter is under the responsibility of Executive Councillor for Housing, Cllr Francesca Smith

Covering Report Author: Marcus Prouse – Specialist – Governance and Democratic

9. Annual Update of CNCR Progress

(Pages 65 - 90)

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Councillor Dixie Darch

Report Author: Jonathan Stevens, Assistant Director Climate Change, Regulatory Services and Asset Management.

10. To Consider Reports from Executive Councillors - Councillor D Darch

(Pages 91 - 94)

To consider reports from Executive Councillors on their respective Portfolios;

- i. Councillor Dixie Darch – Climate Change

3.2 of the Scrutiny Terms of Reference state that the Scrutiny Committee may review and scrutinise and ask questions of the Leader, lead Councillors, the Executive in relation to their portfolios.



**ANDREW PRITCHARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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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 temporary legislation (within the Coronavirus Act 2020, which allowed for use of virtual meetings) coming to an end on 6 May 2021, the council's committee meetings will now take place in the office buildings within the John Meikle Meeting Room at the Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton. Unfortunately due to capacity requirements, the Chamber at West Somerset House is not able to be used at this current moment.

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

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SWT Community Scrutiny Committee - 6 January 2022

Present: Councillor Libby Lisgo (Chair)

Councillors Dave Mansell, Simon Coles, Tom Deakin, Dawn Johnson, Richard Lees, Mark Lithgow, Janet Lloyd, Andy Milne, Vivienne Stock-Williams, Ray Tully, Sarah Wakefield, John Hassall (In place of Steve Griffiths) and Loretta Whetlor (In place of John Hunt)

Officers: Paul Fitzgerald, Marcus Prouse, Ian Candlish, Simon Lewis, Andrew Pritchard (Chief Executive), Jessica Kemmish, Sam Murrell, Kerry Prisco, Vicky Lowman, Stuart Noyce, James Barra, Chris Hall and Lisa Tuck

Also Present: Councillors Francesca Smith, Andrew Sully, Habib Farbahi, Marcus Kravis, Hazel Prior-Sankey, Mike Rigby and Brenda Weston.

Guest Speakers Naomi Griffith, Sally Lowndes and Georgie Grant from the Onion Collective.

Officers from East Hampshire District Council, Michelle Green, Chris Bradley and Emma Matthews.

(The meeting commenced at 6:15 pm)

58. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Steven Griffiths who was substituted by Cllr John Hassall, Cllr John Hunt who was substituted by Cllr Loretta Whetlor and Cllr Andy Pritchard (who attended by Zoom instead).

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

The committee resolved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th November 2022.

60. Declarations of Interest

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor or Clerk of a County, Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

Name	Minute No.	Description of Interest	Reason	Action Taken
Cllr S Coles	All Items	SCC & Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr T Deakin	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr D Johnson	All Items	SCC	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr R Lees	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted

Cllr L Lisgo	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr M Lithgow	All Items	Wellington	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr J Lloyd	All Items	Wellington & Sampford Arundel	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr D Mansell	All Items	Wiveliscombe	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr A Milne	All Items	Porlock	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr F Smith	All Items	Taunton Charter Trustee	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr V Stock-Williams	All Items	Wellington	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr R Tully	All Items	West Monkton	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr L Whetlor	All Items	Watchet	Personal	Spoke and Voted

Cllr Whetlor declared that she knew the representatives of the Onion Collective who were attending the meeting to present to the Community Scrutiny Committee about the work of their organisation.

61. **Public Participation**

There was no public Participation.

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

The committee noted the trackers.

63. **Community Scrutiny Forward Plan**

The committee noted the forward plan.

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

The committee noted the forward plans.

65. **The Onion Collective CIC**

The Chair welcomed the representatives of the Onion Collective to the meeting. Chris Hall, the Director for Development and Place introduced the item and raised the below points:

- The Council and the Onion Collective have built a strong relationship and the Council was thankful to the Onion Collective for their support following the failure of the Splash Point wall at Watchet.
- Informed the Committee that the Onion Collective were here to present on their work and give an update to members both as a result of a request from the Committee and through their own wish to update members on their work.

- The Onion Collective's East Quay development is well respected nationally though there is some local division as is common with such projects as they undertake.

The representatives of the Onion Collective gave a presentation and raised the following points during their presentation:

- The representatives raised that they appreciated the opportunity to come and update members on their work.
- West Somerset was a lovely place but faced challenges. For example, there was a significant lack of cultural activities.
- Noted that West Somerset was an Opportunity Area and that young people in the area in particular faced challenges.
- Introduced the team involved in the Onion Collective and the range of skills and experience amongst the team.
- Explained that the Onion Collective was a social enterprise. Any profits the company made were reinvested into the community and the projects the Onion Collective did. The directors also took part in consultancy, helping other CICs and charities, to raise money to fund the work of the Onion Collective.
- The Onion Collective had received funding from a variety of organisations including the Lottery and the Arts Council.
- The Onion Collective's approach was centred around community, was ambitious and nimble, collaborative, involved consultative working with partners and looking to address market and social failures.
- Several of the Directors of the Onion Collective were involved in setting up the youth and community centre Minehead Eye in Minehead ahead of the Onion Collective being formed.
- The Onion Collective worked with partner organisations to set up a Visitor Centre and Boat Museum in Watchet. This was one of the first projects the Onion Collective was involved in.
- The Onion Collective began by running small social action projects which have grown. Their collaboration with the Coastal Communities Team had likewise grown. Watchet had received £350,000 for community projects.
- The Onion Collective were looking to establish a new Bio Mill industry in Watchet. This had been a challenge, particularly given the pandemic and Brexit. One partner had pulled out, but the Onion Collective still had funders for the project and were continuing with it.
- Another project the Onion Collective was working on was Understory, which was a community led tech project. It was a gaming platform that allowed users to explore community resilience. The project had received lottery funding and would continue to be developed over the next few years.
- Worked to set up art displays in Watchet to improve the cultural offer. Contains Art was set up which were containers based by the coast containing art displays.
- East Quay was an arts regeneration and social enterprise development. There are art galleries inside as well as companies including a Paper Mill company, a print studio and a restaurant.
- The West Somerset Full Council made the Onion Collective the preferred developer of the East Quay site in 2015, in 2017 full planning permission was

granted and in 2019 the lease was signed. The building was partly opened to the public in September 2021 and would be fully opened to the public in April 2022.

- The East Quay project was funded by various organisations, including Hinkley Point C, the Coastal Revival Fund and the Coastal Communities Fund.
- 37 new direct jobs were created by East Quay and 17 were safeguarded with more hopefully created indirectly as well as income to the area through visitors.
- Renowned national artists have exhibited their work at East Quay alongside works by local artists being displayed.
- Look to promote education and learning at East Quay as well as provide events and activities and enhance the cultural offering for the community.

During the Debate the following points were raised:

- Thanks were expressed to the Onion Collective for their presentation.
- It was asked if more information could be given about Understory. It was responded that Understory came from a need to map who was doing what in the community in order to be able to better interact with the community and organisations within it and mobilise the community to work together.
- It was asked about the pods in the East Quay building and what the impacts for the town could be if this development was really successful in the next 10 years. It suggested that some of the impacts could be positive but that the increased tourism could also cause a detrimental effect on the local community and if consideration and plans had been made to prevent any detrimental effects. It was responded that the impact had been considered as part of the build which was why the Onion Collective started with creating the Visitor's Centre. Scenarios such as the impact if West Somerset Railway had closed had also be considered. The Onion Collective would continue to manage the risk over time but there were also risks to the community if nothing was done and the development had brought opportunities to the town.
- It was asked how the engagement from the community with the Onion Collective had changed since the organisation started? It was responded that there are 140 community groups in Watchet and the Onion Collective sought and would continue to seek to work with all of them and engage with them. Engagement with the community is also achieved through encouraging locals to be involved in the creation of art to display in exhibitions.
- It was questioned what outcomes the Onion Collective were looking to achieve from the bio-based industry project? It was responded that when the mill closed in Watchet a few years ago the Onion Collective achieved funding to look at what a replacement industry could be, and a bio mill seemed like a really positive option following a feasibility study. The main desired outcomes were to retain industry on that site and create jobs within the bio industry.
- It was asked where the Onion Collective saw itself being in 12 months and how the local community could benefit from the art activities at East Quay. It was responded that the events that were run at East Quay and the exhibitions sought to make art accessible and interesting. Th Onion Collective also looked at how they could bring people from all different backgrounds in and make them feel comfortable to get involved. Also looked to create

opportunities for young people and enable social mobility not just through art but art was a good way to engage.

- It was asked why the name Onion Collective was chosen. It was responded that Collective was to describe the way of working. The structure of the company was not designed to be hierarchical. Onion was chosen because they had lots of layers and lots of recipes start with an onion. It was also a memorable name.
- It was asked if the funding from the Coastal Communities Fund and the Coastal Communities Team could be expanded upon. It was responded that the Coastal Communities Team and the Coastal Communities Fund were two separate but connected things which both arose from government looking to support coastal communities. The Coastal Communities funding the Onion Collective received was obtained with the support of the local Coastal Communities Team. The local Coastal Communities Team was a separate CIC. The Coastal Communities Fund was a capital funding pot that ran five rounds. The Onion Collective secured £5m of funding in the fifth round.
- It was questioned why products from social enterprises around the country were being sold in the shop at East Quay rather than local products. We believe supporting local is important however, the Onion Collective decided not to have local artists' products in the shop because they had artists working out of the studios in East Quay who sell their works out of their studios.
- It was suggested that publicising more about the work the Onion Collective does and how funding of staff works to inform local people would be beneficial. Further communication with the local community, possibly through meetings with presentations was encouraged.
- It was asked if the Onion Collective had all the funding it needed to complete East Quay. It was responded that all the funding was now in place.
- It was asked what the Onion Collective would do regarding the old mill site if planning permission was refused for a new business to be set up? It was responded that the bio mill project would be dependent upon planning, but the Onion Collective would continue to work with developers.
- It was asked if there were long term business and financial plans for running East Quay as opposed to relying on grant awards and whether the organisation had people with the skills to continue to run and develop the projects. It was responded that the directors intended to stay within the organisation and continue running the Onion Collective and East Quay. Staff within the Onion Collective already had expertise but training up more staff as well as employing more people with expertise was intended. East Quay was designed to be financially self-sustaining.
- It was asked how the Onion Collective intended to engage with its critics and change their minds. It was responded that this was something which needed to be done and that the Onion Collective was working on and that some people's minds had already been changed.
- It was asked whether it was intended for the Onion Collective to be a consultancy going forward. It was responded that the main purpose of the Onion Collective was doing work within Watchet and West Somerset but the consultancy work was done to raise funds to help fund projects in Watchet and West Somerset.
- It was asked how the Onion Collective represents the people of Watchet. It was responded that the Onion Collective could not represent all the people in

the community, but the directors and other staff lived within the community themselves and sought to engage with as many people in the community as possible.

- Further information about some of the consultancy work the Onion Collective did with Mid Devon Council and why that ended. It was responded that the contract was ended due to the projects which had been planned not going ahead so the Onion Collective did not actually undertake the consultancy work.
- It was asked how many of the Onion Collective's projects were financially sustainable. It was responded all were in different ways and that some relied on grant funding, but others did not. Work was done to make all projects as financially sustainable as they could be.
- It was asked how diverse the Onion Collective's senior management was. It was responded that it was not very diverse and could be more diverse. Diversity training was regularly given to staff and diversity was valued by the organisation.
- It was questioned about the way the directors were paid and what they were paid. It was responded that the directors were paid £35,000 per year which came from a range of different places across the Onion Collective's income.
- It was asked if the Onion Collective supported setting up a research and development hub in Watchet. It was responded that the Onion Collective did not necessarily want to be a research and development hub.
- It was asked if the Onion Collective were willing to take risks regarding finances. It was responded that only calculated risks were taken. In a rural economy thinking outside of the box was needed and the Onion Collective strove to be ambitious.
- It was asked if any tenants of East Quay were paying the Onion Collective business rates. It was responded that the tenants of East Quay paid their own separate business rates.
- It was asked whether Contains Art and the Onion Collective were the same company. It was responded that Contains Art was a Charitable Incorporated Organisation so was a charity and is a separate organisation but one of our directors does also work with Contains Art.
- The Chair thanked the representatives of the Onion Collective for attending the meeting.

Councillors Kravis and Farbahi left the meeting at this point.

66. **Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue and Capital Budget Setting 2022-23 including Dwelling Rent Setting 22-23, MTFP Update and 30-Year Business Plan Review**

The portfolio holder for Housing introduced the report and raised the following points:

- The report included rent setting.
- The HRA faced a number of financial pressures but there was confidence that the standards provided for tenants could be maintained and the development of more housing could continue.

- Increased rents were recommended to be CPI plus 1%.
- Further investigation regarding the recommendation for the disposal of the Duke Street car park would be undertaken ahead of the report going to the Executive.

The Director for Housing and Communities raised the following points:

- The previous meeting of this committee looked at the future plans for the HRA and some of the challenges it faced.
- The HRA was facing substantial pressures and challenges. There had been changing customer needs, pressure on the labour and skills market, climate change and retrofit, increased standards following the Grenfell tragedy, Covid and Brexit. These pressures had put significant challenges on the budget setting process. The budget was effectively a balanced budget.
- An annual review of the business plan was undertaken, and officers had done that again with the financial advisers Altair. The proposed budget did meet the parameters for being safe but some of the margins on these are tighter than they have been previously due to the pressures on the budget.
- The budget would require efficiency savings to be made.
- There was more work to do over the coming months to plan mitigations for various scenarios to ensure the HRA would be resilient to increased pressures on the business.
- There would be a need to make sure income performance was good on void management and arrears.
- The central recharge paid to the General Fund from the HRA for the HRA being part of the Council would need to be looked at. It would also be important to agree the percentage the HRA would pay the new unitary authority once that came into existence.
- Officers were looking to maximise the use of grant funding.
- A review of the HRA's discretionary services was also planned to be undertaken.
- A review of the HRA's assets was intended to be undertaken with the intent to potentially dispose of a few assets a year to meet a modest target of £350,000 of income generation per year.
- The Duke Street Car Park is owned by the HRA but the income of the pay and display car park had been going to the general fund as the running of a car park was not something which would usually be owned by the HRA. There would be a review of the car park to see if the income could go to the HRA and if this was a function the HRA could undertake, but the current proposal was to effectively sell the car park to the General Fund.
- The report detailed a proposed rent increase of 4.1%. This figure was based off of CPI plus 1%. CPI was 3.1%, meaning a rent increase of 4.1%. The Council has an agreed rent strategy. There had been significant increases in the cost of the business. The Council did provide hardship support to its tenants.
- There was an ambitious capital programme for the HRA including building new homes. Also, an ambitious maintenance and regeneration programme.

- The report included an Equalities Impact Assessment as an appendix. Consultation had been undertaken with the relevant organisations, but no further feedback had been received from them.
- The Tenants Strategic Group had commented on the report and given overall support for the report.

During the debate the following points were raised:

- Concerns were raised about the lack of comments on the equality and diversity assessment. It was responded that the Christmas break may have had an impact, but officers would contact the relevant organisations again.
- It was highlighted that there were increases in the price of fuel and food and concerns were raised about the rent increase and its affordability for tenants in combination with this and whether this level of increase would result in a greater level of defaults on payments. Officers responded that they shared these concerns and that the impact of the rent increase would be monitored closely. Housing organisations across the country were struggling with the same issues. Due to the pressures many were also raising rents. It was also added that for the 65% of tenants on benefits it would not cause as much impact as their benefits would cover the cost, but it was acknowledged that it would more significantly impact some of the remaining 35% of tenants. However, there would be support for those tenants who needed it and officers would be signposting tenants to a winter hardship fund which would provide grants to tenants.
- It was raised that 4.1% was a significant increase to rent and that the communication of that needed to be considered. Officers responded that there had been four years of rent reductions, with rents reducing by 1% each year. Communication would be considered, and explanation for the increase provided.
- It was raised that the ethnicity of tenants should not need to be included in the report as it did not matter what race people were, they were all the Council's tenants.
- It was asked what the level of arrears currently was. Officers responded that arrears were around £500,000. Performance around arrears management was a strong area of the business.
- It was asked if housing benefit was now paid directly to the tenant who would then pay the council. Officers answered that housing benefit could be paid to the tenant or directly to the Council.
- It was asked about the saving to be made in relation to the Taunton Citizen's Advice Bureau. It was responded by officers that the reduction was due to the HRA having gained a debt advisor which previously was part of the contribution to the Citizen's Advice Bureau, but significant funding would still be provided to the Citizen's Advice Bureau. Officers had spoken to the Chief Executive of the Citizen's Advice Bureau to sight them on this.
- It was asked if the HRA would have to contribute to any Local Government Reorganisation costs. Officers responded that the HRA would have to contribute to a share of the costs as it was part of the Council.
- Concerns were raised about the Council disposing of difficult properties as problem properties which were sold may not be sold to an owner who was adept to deal with the issues. Officers responded that considerations for

disposal for a property included the receipt it could realise for the HRA. Many properties sold provided an opportunity for to invest in properties and renovate them.

- It was asked about whether all new build properties the Council were building would be to a zero-carbon standard. Officers responded that they would provide a response to this after the meeting.
- It was asked about grant money to local government from central government to pay for hardship. It was asked if some of that money could be used to help those tenants who are struggling to pay their rents. Officers responded that the County Council had received a sum from government and that some of that was used to provide free school meals. A further announcement was made today which officers would share further information with members after the meeting.

Councillor Andy Milne left the room for part of the debate on this item.

The Community Scrutiny committee resolved to note the report.

The committee resolved to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

67. **Litter Strategy**

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services introduced the report and raised the following points:

- Protecting and enhancing the environment of the district was one of the Council's corporate priorities. The Litter Strategy would provide a framework within which to do this.
- The Litter Strategy had been written in line with the government's Litter Strategy for England.
- The strategy proposed a zero-tolerance approach to littering.
- There were 8 key objectives from the strategy which included a litter prevention programme, community protection notices, looking at how the Council was proactively addressing the causes of littering, creating a public realm which looked cared for, understanding of the cleansing schedule which the Council had to do, building a strong sense of community and a set of enforcement and reward responses.
- The Portfolio Holder welcomed officers from East Hampshire District Council who were attending the meeting via Zoom to discuss the External Litter Enforcement item which would follow the Litter Strategy.

The Assistant Director for Commercial Services raised the following points:

- The Litter Strategy was designed to change culture and behaviour in the district. There would be a focus on education, ensuring that there was the right infrastructure with litter and dog bins and there also would be a focus on enforcement.
- Litter damaged the environment and could impact the economy by discouraging people from visiting the area.

During the debate the following points were raised:

- Concerns were raised about the litter being dropped during waste collections by Somerset Waste Partnership. Officers responded that the Council would take this up with SWP as the Council's contractor if they were failing to keep to the agreement of the contract.
- Support was expressed for the Litter Strategy coming forward.
- It was asked if the mapping exercise of dog bins mentioned in the report could be shared with members and it was queried if the mapping exercise included bins owned by parish councils or only those owned by Somerset West and Taunton Council. It was responded that litter and dog bins which were Somerset West and Taunton Council's responsibility had been focused on as part of the reason for the survey was to use the data to form a maintenance and repair programme for the bins owned by the Council.
- It was questioned about whether the bins in the unparished area of Taunton had been surveyed and mapped. Officers responded that they had been in contact with the Charter Trustees as there were several bins in the unparished area which are going to be replaced. The maps would be provided to members following the meeting.
- It was questioned whether the Council would undertake educational work in schools as part of the strategy. It was responded by officers that this would be part of the strategy.
- It was asked if a system of numbering bins could be adopted to allow for members of the public to report issues with a particular bin. It was responded by officers that ways to identify bins, such as QR codes, were being looked at.
- It was suggested gathering data on how regularly each bin becomes full may enable more effective cleansing schedules to be established. It was responded by officers that this would be looked at as part of the action plan in the coming months.

The committee resolved to note the recommendations in the report.

68. **External Enforcement - Litter**

The Assistant Director for Commercial Services introduced the report and raised the following points:

- The report detailed a one-year trial with East Hampshire Council who already provide this service for 10 other councils. The aim would be to have a service with a net zero cost.
- The planned trial would employ two full time Environmental Enforcement Officers. It was proposed that £100 fixed penalty notices be issued, reduced to £80 if paid within 14 days. Estimated payment rate was 72-80%. If six fixed penalty notices were issued per officer per day the service would break even.
- Provision had been made in the 2022/23 budget to cover the risk of the trial.
- The trial was based on monthly payments of fixed penalty notices with a three-month notice period if it was not working.

During the debate the following points were raised:

- It was raised that the report noted that enforcement officers may attend safeguarding training, but it was suggested that this be changed to say that enforcement officers must attend safeguarding training.
- It was asked how many challenges East Hampshire District Council had and the court cases this had led to. Concerns were raised about the costs of challenges to the Council. Officers responded that one of the reasons the decision had been made to work with East Hampshire was because they did not conduct litter enforcement to make money. Fixed penalty notices would not be served to children under 18. Officers from East Hampshire responded that they ensured that enforcement officers were ethical in their actions and body cameras were also used for monitoring. There had not been a single stage two complaint against officers because if a mistake was made the fixed penalty notice would be cancelled. They had had more than a 99% success rate in the single justice procedure. East Hampshire officers responded that they had the same concerns initially about enforcement before they started their scheme. Through implementation of the scheme a 60% reduction in littering was anticipated.
- It was suggested that only two officers for the whole district seemed a very small number. It was responded that the more officers employed the less chance there was of meeting targets. Officers would be deployed in high footfall areas.
- It was questioned how payments worked. It was responded that there was now a more streamlined process and payments would be made directly.
- It was asked about coverage of more rural areas and whether they would be patrolled. Officers responded that this was something which would have to be reviewed constantly and a balance would need to be struck to ensure the scheme remained cost neutral.
- It was asked about litter being seen alongside waste bins outside people's homes and whether this counted as fly tipping or litter or what could be done in these instances and whether litter officers could intervene to speak to those responsible. Officers responded that this was something which SWP intended to address with as part of their business plan post Local Government Reform.

The committee resolved to note the recommendations in the report.

(The Meeting ended at 9:42 pm)

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

Date of Cttee	Scrutiny Recommendation	Decision Maker /Directorate Responsible	Final Decision/ Response to recommendation/	Date of response	Implemented?	Officer Comments/Update

Total Recommendations for 21/22:

Agreed: 0

Agreed in Part: 0

Not Agreed: 0

TBD:

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

Date of Cttee	Scrutiny Cttee Request for information	Decision Maker /Directorate Responsible	Response to request for information	Date response of	Scrutiny Officer Comments/Update
30/06/21	- Q) to Cllr Perry PFH - Why are the fountains not on in SWT Parks?	Cllr Perry – Parks and OS	The fountains are not working as the pump has an issue with the bearings. They have under gone various repairs and all was working really well for a few weeks, then the bearings went, we have ordered a new pump as they don't make the bearings anymore for this pump.	23/09/21	.Cllr Lloyd – more information on Wellington
6/01/22	<p><i>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue and Capital Budget Setting 2022-23 including Dwelling Rent Setting 22-23, MTFP Update and 30-Year Business Plan Review</i></p> <p>Q) _It was asked whether all new build properties the Council were building would be to a zero-carbon standard.</p>	Housing			

	Officers responded that they would provide a response to this after the meeting.				

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY

Meeting	Draft Agenda Items	Lead PFH/ Lead Officer
27th January 2022	Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit Task and Finish Group	Cllr D Mansell / Chair
SRD = 17 January	CNCR Plan	Sue Tomlinson/Cllr D Darch
Exec RD = 4 February	Executive Cllr PFH Session - Cllr D Darch	Cllr D Darch
Informal Exec RD = 4 Jan		
SMT RD = 8 December		
23rd February 2022	Sports and Leisure Management (Everyone Active) Bi-Annual Report	Cllr D. Perry & S Noyce
SRD = 11 February	Executive Cllr PFH Session - Cllr D Perry	Cllr D Perry
Exec RD = 4 March	Community Scrutiny Chair's Annual Report	Chair of the Committee
Informal Exec RD = 1 Feb	Wordsworth Drive and Coleridge Crescent Regeneration	Chris Brown / James Barrah / Cllr F Smith
SMT RD = 19 January		
31st March 2022	Executive Cllr PFH Session - Cllr A Sully	
SRD = 21 March		
Exec RD = 6 April		
Informal Exec RD = 8 March		
SMT RD = 23 February		
27th April 2022	Executive Cllr PFH Session -	
SRD = 15 April		
Exec RD - 6 May		
Informal Exec RD - 5 April		
SMT RD - 23 March		
25 May 2022	CCTV Review	Cllr C Booth/ S. Weetch
SRD - 13 May		
Exec RD - 3 June		
Informal Exec RD - 4 May		
SMT - RD - 20 April	Executive Cllr PFH Session -	
29 June 2022		
SRD = 17 June		
Exec RD - 8 July		
Informal Exec RD - 7 June		
SMT RD - 25 May	Executive Cllr PFH Session -	

EXECUTIVE

Executive Meeting	Draft Agenda Items	Lead Officer
19 January 2022	Housing Revenue and Capital Budget Setting 2022/23 including Dwelling Rent Setting 2022/23 and 30 Year Business Plan Review	Paul Fitzgerald
venue =	SWP Business Plan	Stuart Noyce/Mickey Green
Exec RD = 7 January	Litter Strategy	Vicky Lowman/Stuart Noyce
Informal Exec RD = 30 November	External Litter Enforcement One Year Trial	Vicky Lowman/Stuart Noyce
SMT RD = 17 November	Taxi Fares	John Rendell
Budget - 9 February 2022	General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Estimates 2022/23	Paul Fitzgerald
venue =	Special Meeting	
Exec RD = 28 January		
Informal Exec RD = 4 January		
SMT RD = 8 December		
16 February 2022	Cancellation due to lack of business	
venue =		
Exec RD = 4 February		
Informal Exec RD = 4 January		
SMT RD = 8 December		
16 March 2022	GF Financial Performance 2021/22 Q3	Emily Collacott
venue =	HRA Financial Performance 2021/22 Q3	Kerry Prisco
Exec RD = 4 March	Capital, Investment and Treasury Strategy 2022/23	Paul Fitzgerald
Informal Exec RD = 1 February	Corporate Performance Report Q3	Malcolm Riches
SMT RD = 19 January	Wellington and Cullompton Stations - project governance arrangements	Sarah Povall
	SWT Pay Policy	Nicky Rendell
	Wordsworth Drive and Coleridge Crescent Regeneration	James Barraah/Chris Brown
	NO MORE ITEMS	
20 April 2022		
venue =		
Exec RD = 6 April		
Informal Exec RD = 8 March		
SMT RD = 23 February		
18 May 2022		
venue =		
Exec RD = 6 May		
Informal Exec RD = 5 April		
SMT RD = 23 March		

15 June 2022	GF Financial Performance 2021/22 Q4	Emily Collacott
venue =	HRA Financial Performance 2021/22 Q4	Kerry Prisco
Exec RD = 3 June	Corporate Performance Report Q4	Malcolm Riches
Informal Exec RD = 4 May	CCTV	Sally Parry/Scott Weetch
SMT RD = 20 April		
20 July 2022		
venue =		
Exec RD = 8 July		
Informal Exec RD = 7 June		
SMT RD = 25 May		
17 August 2022		
venue =		
Exec RD = 5 August		
Informal Exec RD = 5 July		
SMT RD = 22 June		
21 September 2022	GF Financial Performance 2022/23 Q1	Emily Collacott
venue =	HRA Financial Performance 2022/23 Q1	Kerry Prisco
Exec RD = 9 September	Corporate Performance Report Q1	Malcolm Riches
Informal Exec RD = 9 August		
SMT RD = 27 July		
19 October 2022		
venue =		
Exec RD = 7 October		
Informal Exec RD = 6 September		
SMT RD = 24 August		
16 November 2022	Marina Lease	Andrew Pritchard/Jonathan Stevens
venue =		
Exec RD = 4 November		
Informal Exec RD = 4 October		
SMT RD = 21 September		
21 December 2022	GF Financial Performance 2022/23 Q2	Emily Collacott

venue =	HRA Financial Performance 2022/23 Q2	Kerry Prisco
Exec RD = 9 December	Corporate Performance Report Q2	Malcolm Riches
Informal Exec RD = 8 November		
SMT RD = 26 October		
18 January 2023		
venue =		
Exec RD = 6 January		
Informal Exec RD = 6 December		
SMT RD = 23 November		
Budget - TBC		
venue =		
Exec RD =		
Informal Exec RD =		
SMT RD =		
15 February 2023		
venue =		
Exec RD = 3 February		
Informal Exec RD = 3 January		
SMT RD = 14 December		
15 March 2023	GF Financial Performance 2022/23 Q3	Emily Collacott
venue =	HRA Financial Performance 2022/23 Q3	Kerry Prisco
Exec RD = 3 March	Corporate Performance Report Q3	Malcolm Riches
Informal Exec RD = 1 February		
SMT RD = 18 January		

FULL COUNCIL

Meeting	Report Deadline	Draft Agenda Items	Lead Officer
7 December 2021	25 November 2021	Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Review	Scott Weetch
		North Taunton CPO	Chris Brown/Jane Windebank
		Public Realm Design Guide for Taunton Garden Town – Feedback	Fiona Webb
		Somerset West and Taunton Districtwide Design Guide	Fiona Webb
		Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23	Mark Antonelli
		To consider a proposal for a Local Government Reorganisation Joint Scrutiny Committee	Kevin Williams
		NO MORE ITEMS	
18 January 2022	6 January 2022	Asset Management Strategy	Chris Hall
Special Meeting		Commercial Investment Review	Joe Wharton
		Commercial Investment Strategy	Joe Wharton
		NO MORE ITEMS	
8 February 2022	27 January 2022	Housing Revenue and Capital Budget Setting 2022/23 including Dwelling Rent Setting 2022/23 and 30 Year Business Plan Review	Paul Fitzgerald
		External Audit Arrangements	Paul Fitzgerald
		Statement of Licensing and Gambling Policy	John Rendell
		Community Governance Review - Options	Kevin Williams
		Constitution Update	Kevin Williams
24 February 2022	14 February 2022	General Fund Revenue Budget and Capital Estimates 2022/23	Paul Fitzgerald
Budget Only		Council Tax Setting 2022/23	Paul Fitzgerald
Special Meeting		NO MORE ITEMS	
29 March 2022	17 March 2022	Capital, Investment and Treasury Strategy 2022/23	Paul Fitzgerald
		Longforth Masterplan	Sarah Povall
		SWT Pay Policy	Sean Papworth
		CCTV	Sally Parry/Scott Weetch
10 May 2022	28 April 2022	Annual Council Meeting	
		Council Committees for 2021/2022 and their Terms of Reference	Amy Tregellas
		Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies	Amy Tregellas

	To authorise the sealing or signing of documents to give effect to any decisions taken	Amy Tregellas
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Report Number: SWT 11/22

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Community Scrutiny Committee – 27th January 2022

Report of the Task and Finish Group on Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit

This matter is under the responsibility of Executive Councillor for Housing, Cllr Francesca Smith

Covering Report Author: Marcus Prouse – Specialist – Governance and Democratic

1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 On 3rd March 2021 the Scrutiny Committee resolved to establish a cross party Task and Finish Group for Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit to investigate this topic in further depth and to report back to the Scrutiny Committee. The Committee also approved Terms of Reference which are attached at Appendix C.
- 1.2 The Group and its members have met regularly since that date as detailed in their report (Appendix A).

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Community Scrutiny Committee recommend:
- 2.2 To note the report of the Task and Finish Group on Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit.
- 2.3 Further to noting the report, to decide on whether to further endorse the contents of the report in part, or in its entirety, and if so inclined to endorse, submit the formal report to the:
 - a) Leader/Executive/Council
 - b) And/or other organisations as appropriate.
- 2.4 If the Scrutiny Committee cannot agree a single final report, then one minority report may be prepared and submitted for consideration with the majority report.

3 Risk Assessment (if appropriate)

- 3.1 There are potential risks associated with this issue and these are identified in Appendix B. The 2030 Carbon Neutrality target is identified on the Corporate Risk Register.

4 Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 As its title suggests a Task and Finish Group is set up for the specific purpose of undertaking a review and reporting back within a defined timescale.
- 4.2 Now the evidence has been gathered, the Task and Finish group's report is submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committee outlining details of the review process, evidence gathered, conclusions and subsequent recommendations. The Scrutiny Committee can then consider the report and decide whether to recommend the report on to the Executive, or Council as appropriate.

5 Links to Corporate Strategy

- 5.1 This topic clearly relates to two of the Strategic Themes 'Our Environment and Economy' and 'Homes and Communities' in the Council's Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 which aim for "a low-carbon, clean, green and prosperous district that attracts high quality employment opportunities and encourages healthy lifestyle." Also, "A district which offers a choice of good quality homes for our residents, whatever their age and income, in communities where support is available for those who need it." The topic and report specifically looks to address the first objective of the Environment and Economy theme to "Work towards making our District carbon neutral by 2030 - deliver projects based on a Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan that work toward this goal (for example installing electric vehicle charging points across the District)".

6 Finance / Resource Implications

- 6.1 This report does not directly contain any resource implications and therefore no assessment of costs has been carried out to date.
- 6.2 However, should the Scrutiny Committee recommend the partial or inclusive adoption of the Task and Finish Groups report recommendations a full calculation of the costs associated with the proposal would need to be undertaken to allow members to make informed decisions.
- 6.3 The Task and Finish Groups Report recommendations have not been calculated and therefore the impact on the HRA Business Plan or SWT is unknown. It should be noted that the HRA Business Plans short term pressures are significant in part reflecting its ambitious programme of compliance, decent homes works, small scale, retrofit projects and a large housing development programme.
- 6.4 The Housing service is preparing a retrofit strategy and delivery plan which aims to achieve zero carbon and any statutory milestones en-route to zero carbon. The Retrofit and Delivery plan is timetabled to complete by March 2023. The Delivery Plan will be aligned to many of the recommendations of the Task and Finish Groups report, be costed, be aligned to the HRA Business plan and presented to Members for approval.

7 Legal Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

- 7.1 None as a direct result of establishing this Group. The final report and any decision will need to consider the principles of decision-making.

8 Climate and Sustainability Implications

8.1 There are clear climate and sustainability implications considered in both the report of the Group and the Officer response (Appendices A and B).

9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

9.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

10 Equality and Diversity Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

10.1 None as a direct result of establishing this Group. Members of the Group are responsible for making the recommendations in the final report (Officers are not part of the decision-making process) and in so doing must observe the equality and diversity policies of the Council.

11 Social Value Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

11.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

12 Partnership Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

12.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

13 Health and Wellbeing Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

13.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

14 Asset Management Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

14.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

15 Data Protection Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

15.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

16 Consultation Implications (if any – delete if not applicable)

16.1 None as a direct result of this report at this stage.

17 Scrutiny/Executive Comments / Recommendation(s)

17.1 N/A

Democratic Path:

- **Scrutiny – Yes – 27/01/21**

Reporting Frequency: Once only

List of Appendices (background papers to the report) (delete if not applicable)

Appendix A	Report of the Task and Finish Group
Appendix B	Officer Response Document
Appendix C	Terms of Reference

Contact Officers

Name	Marcus Prouse
Direct Dial	01823 219570
Email	m.prouse@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk
Name	Chris Brown – Assistant Director – Development and Regeneration
Email:	c.brown@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Report of the Task and Finish Group on Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit



Report Contents

- About the Task and Finish Group
- 1) Introduction
- 2) Recommendations for Council adoption
- 3) Recommendations for Government and other agencies
- 4) 2019 proposal for SWT housing retrofit
- 5) Targeting zero carbon
- 6) Whole house retrofit
- 7) Energiesprong approach and case studies
- 8) Other approaches to retrofit
- 9) LETI climate emergency retrofit guide
- 10) Gas and electricity prices
- 11) Comparing heat pumps and gas boilers (carbon and costs)
- 12) Energy Performance Certificates
- 13) Ground source heat pumps
- 14) Community and district heating
- 15) Survey of registered social landlords and Homes in Sedgemoor
- 16) Government policy and funding
- 17) SWT challenges and emerging plans

About the Task and Finish Group

This cross-party group was established by Scrutiny Committee on 3rd March 2021 to investigate Council housing zero carbon retrofit and to report back to the Scrutiny Committee for Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT).

The membership of the group was:

- Cllr Dave Mansell – Chair
- Cllr Norman Cavill – Vice-Chair
- Cllr Ian Aldridge
- Cllr John Hassall (from August 2021)
- Cllr Alan Wedderkopp (to June 2021)

Portfolio Holders invited to attend meetings:

- Cllr Dixie Darch – Climate Change
- Cllr Fran Smith – Housing

Officers supporting the group:

- James Barraah – Director of Housing, SWT
- Chris Brown – Assistant Director Development and Regeneration, SWT
- Marcus Prouse – Specialist, Governance and Democratic, SWT
- Andrew Randell – Democracy and Governance Case Manager, SWT

The group held 8 online meetings from 13 May 2021 to 2 November 2021.

Presentations at group meetings were provided by:

- James Barraah – Director of Housing, SWT
- Paul Sweeting – Finance Business Partner, SWT
- Joanne Stringer – Senior Regional Asset Manager for South West, Sanctuary Housing
- Nigel Griffiths – Policy Adviser, Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance, and Director, NRS Griffiths Ltd
- Ian Hutchcroft – Market Development, Energiesprong UK
- Chris Brown – Assistant Director Development and Regeneration, SWT

1) Introduction

- 1.1 The task and finish group thank all those who gave presentations at our meetings and engaged in helpful discussions.
- 1.2 As shown by the report contents list, we considered a wide range of issues relevant to the retrofit of insulation and heating systems to the Council's existing housing stock. This included a number of approaches and projects by councils and other social landlords around the UK.
- 1.3 We are keen to see retrofit projects and a programme that moves towards a zero carbon target for the Council's housing stock. We noted that a whole house approach is now widely recognised as essential to this aim and to effective retrofit work.
- 1.4 New retrofit proposals were prepared by officers as the group's work progressed and we were pleased to note there was a high degree of alignment with our emerging conclusions and recommendations. It was also helpful that the Government's Heat and Buildings Strategy was finally published just before we concluded.
- 1.5 Government funding will be important to support the installation of retrofit measures, and correct market price signals too, such as electricity becoming a lower cost heating choice relative to fossil fuel gas.
- 1.6 Having reviewed the information presented to the group, we have prepared the following recommendations. Some are recommended for adoption by the Council, which we invite Scrutiny Committee and the Executive to consider.

2) Recommendations for Council adoption

- 2.1 A standard or guide is needed for the net zero retrofit of the Council's housing stock, such as the new LETI Climate Emergency Retrofit Guide. Insulation needs to be an integral part of the approach adopted, with the aim of ensuring high levels of energy efficiency are achieved consistent with a net zero UK.
- 2.2 A programme for net zero retrofit may be achieved in stages following a planned whole house approach. Each stage should add to work undertaken in previous stages and not replace it. First, the building fabric should be improved through a range of insulation measures, including external wall insulation where possible. Air tightness and ventilation will need to be considered at the same time. In the next stage, gas or oil boilers should be replaced with zero carbon heating systems, such as heat pumps or a shared heating network. Boiler replacement may occur at the end of its life, unless there are reasons for doing so earlier, such as low energy efficiency. With improved insulation, it should be possible to keep homes warm while running boilers on lower settings to reduce energy use and costs.
- 2.3 A target date be set of 2025 or 2027 by when no new gas boilers will be fitted to the Council's housing stock. Where it can be afforded and be effective,

replacement gas boilers should not be provided before this date and, if possible, an earlier target date be set. This target aims to recognise the pressures of the Council's capital programme and the need to ensure the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) remains financially sound.

- 2.4 Solar photo-voltaic and thermal panels, batteries and heat storage should be provided where there is a business case for this investment, taking into account the potential income from comfort plan or similar payments and the savings to tenants.
- 2.5 Especially during the early stages of introducing new insulation and heating systems, support needs to be provided to tenants on their features and use. Where possible, new measures should be provided first to tenants who most welcome their introduction. An effective communication programme on their benefits should be established, together with sufficient on-going support.
- 2.6 A report be prepared on a retrofit programme, including costs and potential funding, to achieve net zero for the Council's housing stock by 2030, 2035 and 2040, without offsetting. The net zero target should cover heating, use of appliances and lighting, and, as far as possible, should minimise the carbon and environmental impact of measures installed. This report should be presented to Community Scrutiny Committee, Executive and Full Council in 2022/23, with a recommendation on a target date for a full net zero retrofit programme.
- 2.7 Funding for a retrofit programme should include:
 - 2.7.1 Funding announced by Government, including in their new Heat and Buildings Strategy and Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener, October 2021.
 - 2.7.2 The contribution that can be made by the Council's planned and responsive maintenance budgets, where these already include boiler replacement, insulation and other related measures.
 - 2.7.3 Comfort plan or similar contributions from tenants to retrofit investment, but only where each tenant is guaranteed energy bills at least 25% lower than they would otherwise have incurred.
 - 2.7.4 Long term investment possible through the Housing Revenue Account.
 - 2.7.5 Estimates for any funding gap remaining that may need to be sought from Government.
- 2.8 Further investigations and studies should be undertaken to identify the potential contribution and role for:
 - 2.8.1 Community heating networks with ground source heat pumps, using shared source arrays and either individual or shared heat pumps, which supply blocks of flats, either individually or in small groups.

- 2.8.2 Larger district or neighbourhood scale heating networks, where opportunities may arise, possibly alongside larger private sector development.
- 2.8.3 Increasing local renewable energy generation through the Local Plan and planning process, and directly by the council as a landowner, developer and purchaser of power in enabling renewable energy development.
- 2.9 Retrofit projects should be monitored to check their performance, tenant satisfaction and to learn lessons to improve future work. Monitoring should also identify if further support needs to be provided for tenants with the new measures. Results should be reported to Council Members.
- 2.10 Progress and adoptable lessons should continue to be reviewed for Energiesprong, the Optimised Retrofit project in Wales and examples of good practice net zero retrofit schemes.
- 2.11 The Council should seek to work with other social landlords in Somerset to share good practice and joint programmes where benefits, including lower costs, would arise.
- 2.12 Disposal of properties within the Council housing stock that cannot meet net zero objectives should be avoided and be an option of last resort.

3) Recommendations for Government and other agencies

- 3.1 Replace or improve Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) to ensure they are well aligned towards meeting zero carbon objectives, including by incorporating or being used with an energy intensity target.
- 3.2 Move social and environmental levies from electricity to gas, taking account of the need to make such changes fairly and not to increase fuel poverty.
- 3.3 Introduce and apply carbon taxation to provide market signals that support net zero retrofit without making lower income households worse off.
- 3.4 Provide sufficient funding to social landlords to enable net zero retrofit of all their housing stock.

4) 2019 proposal for SWT housing retrofit

- 4.1 In December 2019, a report was prepared for SWT on providing warm and affordable homes for Council tenants and aiming to achieve net zero emissions in the Council's housing stock by 2050¹. Compared to a 1990 baseline, this report proposed:
 - 65% carbon reduction in our housing stock by 2030.

¹ A Strategic Asset Investment Proposal for Housing in Relation to Achieving Affordable Warmth and Carbon Neutrality – Somerset West and Taunton Council, December 2019

- 85% carbon reduction in our housing stock by 2040.
 - Carbon neutrality in our housing stock by 2050.
- 4.2 For carbon neutrality, it was proposed to achieve 80% carbon emission reductions by 2050 and offsetting the remaining 20% “by investing in local community initiatives, such as local tree plantations, PV (photo-voltaic solar panels) to community-based schemes and other credible, transparent and auditable carbon reduction measures”.
- 4.3 To achieve an 80% carbon reduction, the report states that an average EPC rating of mid-band B would be needed for all SWT properties. It also states that properties that could not achieve a low band C “will need to be considered for disposal or regeneration”.
- 4.4 The 2019 report built on a pilot scheme in Wellington in 2016², which installed double glazing, external wall insulation, positive input ventilation and air source heat pumps to 131 homes, increasing the EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) ratings of the council properties from E or F to C.
- 4.5 The average cost for retrofitting the Council’s housing stock to this standard was estimated to be:
- Traditional construction properties - £16,500
 - Non-traditional construction properties - £30,000
- £11,000 of the cost per property could be covered as it would otherwise have been incurred as part of works necessary for meeting the Decent Homes Standard target.
- 4.6 The total additional cost impact for the Council’s stock of 5,747 properties was estimated at £49.8m over 30 years or £1.66m per annum.
- 4.7 However, this retrofit proposal for the Council’s housing stock was not adopted, as it was deemed unaffordable. This was explained in a report to Full Council on 18 February 2021, as follows:

“The capacity to deliver a zero carbon retrofit (either within 10 years or 30 years) was modelled but both placed significant pressure on the business plan with debt continuing to rise at the end of the period and leaving no headroom for unforeseen circumstances, which is not recommended. The business plan is currently unable to deliver both a development programme and a zero carbon retrofit programme. Unless there is significant government funding we will face future choices between our later years development plans versus retrofit as delivering both is not currently affordable, but this is a decision for a later time as the market and approach to retrofit matures.”³

² Wellington Warmer Homes: Close Out Report and Future Strategy – Low Carbon Expert, November 2018

³ Para 5.9, SWT report to Special Full Council, 18 February 2021 - HRA Revenue and Capital Budget Setting 2021/22 including 30-Year Business Plan Review.

5) Targeting zero carbon

- 5.1 Somerset West and Taunton Council declared climate and ecological emergencies in 2019 and 2020. The Council's first corporate objective is to "work towards making our District carbon neutral by 2030"⁴.
- 5.2 The sooner carbon neutrality is achieved the better, as climate change is already having serious and growing impacts, which will get worse as greenhouse gases continue to accumulate in the atmosphere and in the oceans. There are dangers that system tipping points will be breached so further accelerating the impacts and creating risks that parts of the planet become uninhabitable, due to heat, weather extremes or sea level rise.
- 5.3 Greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide and methane, arise from several sources, including the burning of fossil fuels, waste decomposition and some agricultural and industrial practices.
- 5.4 For buildings and homes, most carbon emissions arise from heating systems and power supplies. These can be reduced by insulation and increasing energy efficiency, installing zero carbon heating systems and using zero carbon electricity.
- 5.5 Progress is being made to decarbonise power networks, especially electricity. In time, it is expected that the electricity supply will be fully zero carbon. The gas supply may become carbon neutral through conversion to biogas or hydrogen, although there are doubts whether enough can be supplied or if it could be carbon neutral. These alternative gas sources may be limited by the land needed, the high costs and the inefficiency of processes involved⁵.
- 5.6 Heat pumps will be a major new source of heating. They extract heat from external sources, such as the air, ground or water, which is converted to a low-level heat that can efficiently heat well-insulated homes. For each unit of electricity used by a heat pump, 2-4 units of heat energy can be supplied. Good insulation is necessary for the efficient operation of heat pumps, especially in the coldest months, and reduces the amount of energy needed for effective heating.
- 5.7 The method for assessing Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) is currently not well-aligned for measuring progress towards net zero carbon or indicating its achievement (see more on this in section 12).
- 5.8 As temperatures rise with global heating, cooling for homes is becoming increasingly important too. This is best achieved by design measures to prevent over-heating from direct sunlight, including shading and insulation.

⁴ SWT, Corporate Strategy 2020-2024.

⁵ Ignore hype over hydrogen heating, government told – BBC, 14 May 2021: www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-57103298

6) Whole house retrofit

6.1 Presentations by Nigel Griffiths and Ian Hutchcroft to the task and finish group highlighted the benefits of a whole house approach for insulation measures to avoid risks from thermal bridges, impermeable layers and insufficient ventilation in creating condensation, damp and mould.

6.2 The Centre for Alternative Technology also highlight the benefits of an integrated whole house approach to retrofit⁶:

“Taking individual measures without proper attention to detail and consideration of the ways different elements interact can make a house worse rather than improving it. Upgraded glazing and draught-proofing can increase damp problems if there isn’t suitable ventilation. Leaving ‘cold bridges’ through a thick insulation layer will concentrate heat loss and may be prone to condensation.

“The ‘whole house retrofit’ approach is intended to avoid these pitfalls. Instead of piecemeal efficiency measures, this systematic approach looks at all aspects of insulation, draught-proofing, ventilation and heating to create a structured plan. Such a retrofit is a big job, and you can treat it like a new build by engaging a specialist architect or retrofit expert to oversee the project and tailor the plan to your home. Houses in rows or blocks can be looked at together, as this should make accurate detailing easier as well as reducing costs.

“Research has shown that spending more money and time on a deeper level of retrofit actually decreases the payback time when compared to measures added without consideration of how elements will interact.”

6.3 Nigel Griffiths suggested the whole building approach to retrofit should be expanded to include human health and wellbeing, local economy (supply of materials and labour) and building communities, as well as to water efficiency, sustainable drainage, the impact of materials, re-greening and local facilities. In Wales, the Government takes a more rounded approach due to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

6.4 To address the performance gap that can arise from retrofit measures that are poorly planned or installed, PAS 2035 is a new standard for effective energy retrofits of existing buildings⁷. PAS 2035 drives a whole house and fabric first approach, and specifies roles and responsibilities for those involved, including for retrofit coordinators and assessors.

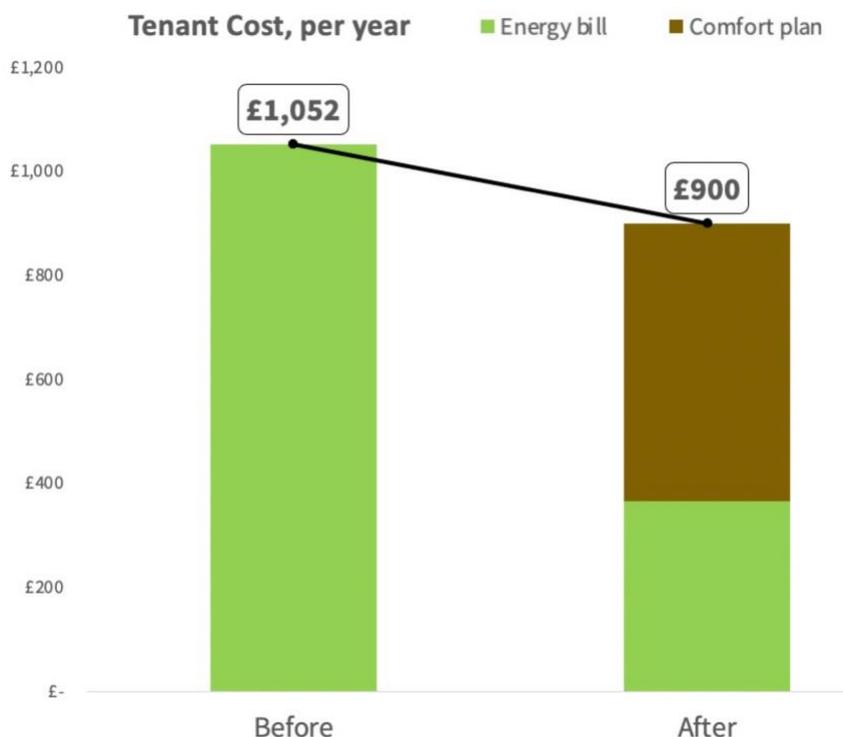
6.5 Social housing retrofit projects are now required to comply with the PAS 2035 standard to receive Government funding, which has prompted PAS 2035 training to be provided for SWT officers. Adopting PAS 2035 should ensure risks of thermal bridging and internal condensation are minimised.

⁶ cat.org.uk/energy-saving-retrofits

⁷ www.trustmark.org.uk/tradespeople/pas-2035

7) Energiesprong approach and case studies

- 7.1 Energiesprong (energy leap) is an approach to retrofit developed in the Netherlands and widely adopted there, with 5,700 homes installed and thousands more planned.
- 7.2 Energiesprong covers insulation, heating, cooling and home energy generation and storage. It is implemented through a specification, which requires whole house retrofit and allows competitive procurement. Costs are reduced by manufacturing components in a factory, which are mostly fitted externally. On-site installation can be undertaken quickly and doesn't require tenants to move out, minimising disruption.
- 7.3 Installers provide a long-term performance guarantee to ensure long-term benefits are delivered and maintained.
- 7.4 Energiesprong has an investment model, which aims to be self-financing through long term savings achieved and government support programmes for energy efficiency and renewable generation. This requires supply costs to be reduced with economies of scale achieved by sufficiently large-scale adoption. As part of the savings realised, tenants make comfort plan payments for their energy and heating, with lower bills for these services than previously, as shown below. A fuel poverty fund can be used to support those who cannot afford their energy bills.



- 7.5 Further value can be gained with the Energiesprong approach by extending or adding homes at the same time.

- 7.6 Energiesprong UK⁸ has received funding from the European Union and the Government, and a delivery team able to work with local authorities and social landlords.
- 7.7 There have been pilot schemes in the UK, including in Nottingham, Essex and Devon, and others in France and Germany.



Nottingham – Energiesprong applied to 7 of 9 properties in a terrace.



Energiesprong project in Maldon, Essex on right (similar house without on left)

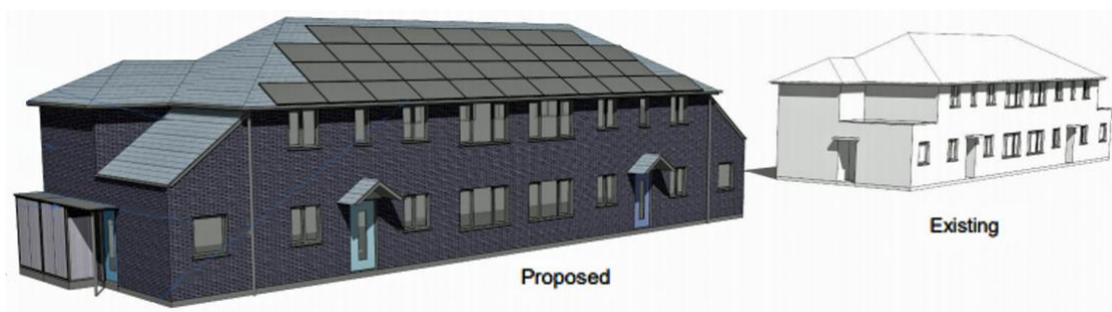
- 7.8 Sanctuary Housing have undertaken an Energiesprong pilot project in partnership with Devon County Council in Paignton, which has been partly funded by a European Regional Development Fund grant. Key elements of

⁸ www.energiesprong.uk/about

the work at two blocks of flats (design shown below), due to be completed this autumn, are:

- Solar panels
- External wall insulation
- Thermally efficient windows and doors (triple glazed)
- Ground source heat pump – communal system for each block
- Floor insulation – between properties and solid ground floors
- Removal of gas appliances and heating systems.

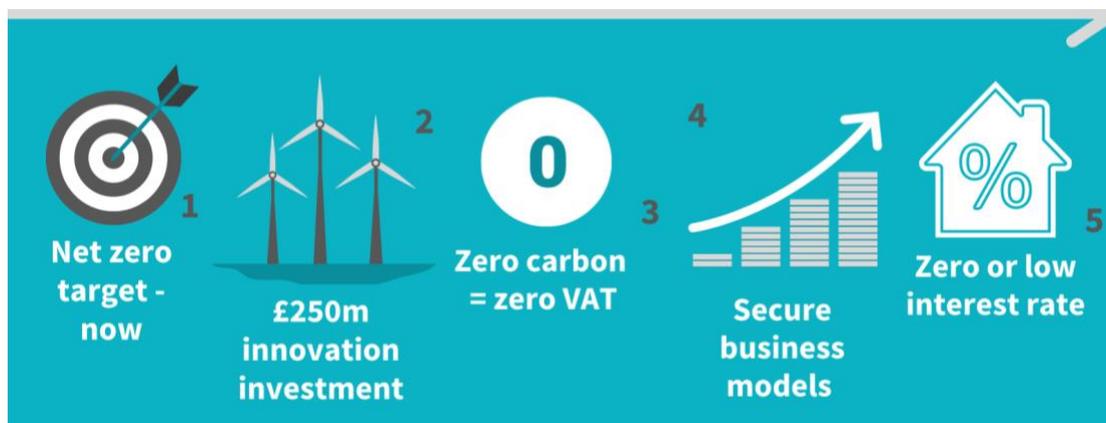
7.9 There have been delays to the project due to Covid, with some supply difficulties and a problem with the initial design of wall insulation panels, which has been addressed. The retrofit work has 10-year performance guarantees to minimise ongoing repairs and maintenance costs.



- 7.10 Sanctuary is at the design stage for a second pilot project for 13 terraced bungalows in Torquay.
- 7.11 Sanctuary costs have been about £84,000 per unit. With increased scale and more mature supply chains, costs of £56,000 per unit are expected.
- 7.12 The cost of the pilot projects has still been cost neutral for Sanctuary over a 10-year investment period, due to grant funding, renewable heat incentive payments, and savings on planned and responsive maintenance costs.
- 7.13 Government funding for a whole house retrofit competition has been awarded to two Energiesprong projects in Sutton (91 non-traditional construction homes) and Nottingham (172 homes on two sites, including flats and houses). There is a similar project in Cornwall for 83 1950s semi-detached homes. These retrofits are all aiming to deliver an energy performance of at most 30 kWh/m²/yr.
- 7.14 In a presentation to the group, Ian Hutchcroft, provided information on a Retrofit Accelerator Homes Innovation Partnership involving ten social landlord projects. This aims to build the scale of delivery necessary for economies to be achieved with the Energiesprong approach. For a grant-funded initial prototype stage, retrofit costs of about £85,000 per home are expected. Costs should fall, as the partnership moves to a pilot stage and

then onto a commercialisation stage, with the volume of homes retrofitted increasing. A final framework stage will be open to other social landlords and is expected to allow Energiesprong retrofit at about £55,000 per property.

- 7.15 Energiesprong UK now estimate income and savings of about £55,000 per property for a retrofit investment over 30 years. This includes about £15,000 from comfort plan charges to tenants, maintenance savings of £28,000 and renewable energy income of £12,000.
- 7.16 Previously, Energiesprong costs and savings delivered at scale have been estimated at about £35,000 per property⁹.
- 7.17 The group felt Energiesprong has merit as an approach and includes good features, but the costs currently look too high, even delivered at scale. There was also concern on whether all the income and savings forecast could be realised, including for the comfort plan.
- 7.18 Currently, the comfort plan cannot be implemented in the UK in the same way as in the Netherlands. Although Energiesprong UK projects have been able to introduce similar charges for tenants. In Nottingham, there is a communal energy standing charge. For future projects, a specific tenant contract has been prepared. However, these approaches are not ideal, as they cannot guarantee the income over the 30-year investment period, so Energiesprong is still seeking Government support to allow comfort plan charges in the UK.
- 7.19 Energiesprong, with more than 25 industry organisations, have called for 5 policy interventions¹⁰ (as shown in image below) to help allow deep retrofit in the UK. These asks are designed to unlock:
- Zero carbon retrofit at scale
 - Paid for by energy and maintenance savings
 - Delivered by a new high-tech British industry
 - Guaranteed actual performance, comfort and costs long term
 - Warm, affordable, desirable homes for life.



⁹ Green Alliance, 2019 - Reinventing Retrofit

¹⁰ www.energiesprong.uk/newspage/unlocking-net-zero-retrofit-at-scale-in-the-uk-our-5-asks-of-government

8) Other approaches to retrofit

- 8.1 In his presentation to the group, Nigel Griffiths mentioned a good programme for retrofit being established in Wales.
- 8.2 To decarbonise Welsh homes, investment of £14.5bn has been proposed, including £5.5bn for social housing (£24,000 per property) and £4.8bn for homes in fuel poverty (£36,000 per property)¹¹.
- 8.3 In November 2020, Wales launched the £20 million Optimised Retrofit Programme¹² to test and trial a whole-building approach to decarbonise social homes. The trial period will also identify capacity, skills and capability gaps in the delivery system.
- 8.4 A study¹³ by the Welsh School of Architecture at Cardiff University has recommended:
- “There should be no distinction between performance standards for retrofit and newbuild. Similarly, there should be no distinction between standards based on tenure or housing type.
 - “Some houses have constraints around retrofit, mostly related to character and historic features. However the justification for ‘acceptable fails’ must be carefully defined so as not to jeopardise decarbonisation targets.
 - “All other housing must be retrofitted beyond SAP90, to achieve an EPC A rating.”
- 8.5 Green Square Accord has transformed an apartment block of 22 homes in Darlaston (below). This has been upgraded through the installation of a whole house wrap of timber framed panels, dramatically improving the insulation and reducing electricity bills for the residents¹⁴.



¹¹ www.futuregenerations.wales/resources_posts/homes-fit-for-the-future-the-retrofit-challenge/

¹² <https://gov.wales/written-statement-optimised-retrofit-programme-2020-21> and www.optimised-retrofit.wales

¹³ gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-07/decarbonising-welsh-homes-stage-2-report.pdf

¹⁴ accordgroup.org.uk/news/2021-07-01/retrofit-whole-house-wrap-project-delivers-lower-fuel-bills-for-residents

- 8.6 In Cornwall, a whole house retrofit pilot project has been launched to install energy efficiency measures to 83 of the council's poorest performing homes¹⁵. Costs are expected to be about £45,000 per property, with measures chosen to suit the property including:
- loft, external wall and ground floor insulation
 - ground source heating
 - block and decommission chimney
 - single room ventilation with heat recovery to kitchen and bathroom
 - double glazing
 - solar power.
- 8.7 A 2018 project in North Camden, retrofitted a block of 15 flats to the EnerPHit standard (equivalent to Passivhaus for new build). This achieved a very low heat demand, but at a cost of £93,000 per flat¹⁶.

9) LETI climate emergency retrofit guide

- 9.1 LETI (originally the London Energy Transformation Initiative) is a network of over 1,000 built environment professionals that are working together on the path to a zero carbon future.
- 9.2 On 21 October 2021, LETI published their Climate Emergency Retrofit Guide¹⁷. This sets out what good retrofit looks like, and advises on how to deliver efficient, resilient and healthy homes. This includes defining energy use requirements, as well as highlighting the potential risks of poor retrofit. The guide was written by a group of over 100 construction industry professionals representing leading architecture and engineering firms, academia and non-governmental organisations.
- 9.3 LETI's recommendations for a net zero compliant retrofit are:
- Follow a whole building retrofit plan.
 - Follow the LETI retrofit hierarchy:
 - 1) Reduce the space heating demand and energy use intensity as far as is practicable for the building/situation.
 - 2) Remove fossil fuel heat sources and replace with low carbon alternatives. LETI believes that the main option for this over at least the next decade will be heat pumps.
 - 3) Generate renewable energy on site wherever feasible – but do not pursue this at the detriment of items 1 or 2 above.
 - Meet the LETI Energy Use Intensity targets which will often result in a 60-80% reduction in total energy consumption.

¹⁵ www.cornwallhousing.org.uk/residents-area/repairs-and-maintenance/whole-house-retrofit

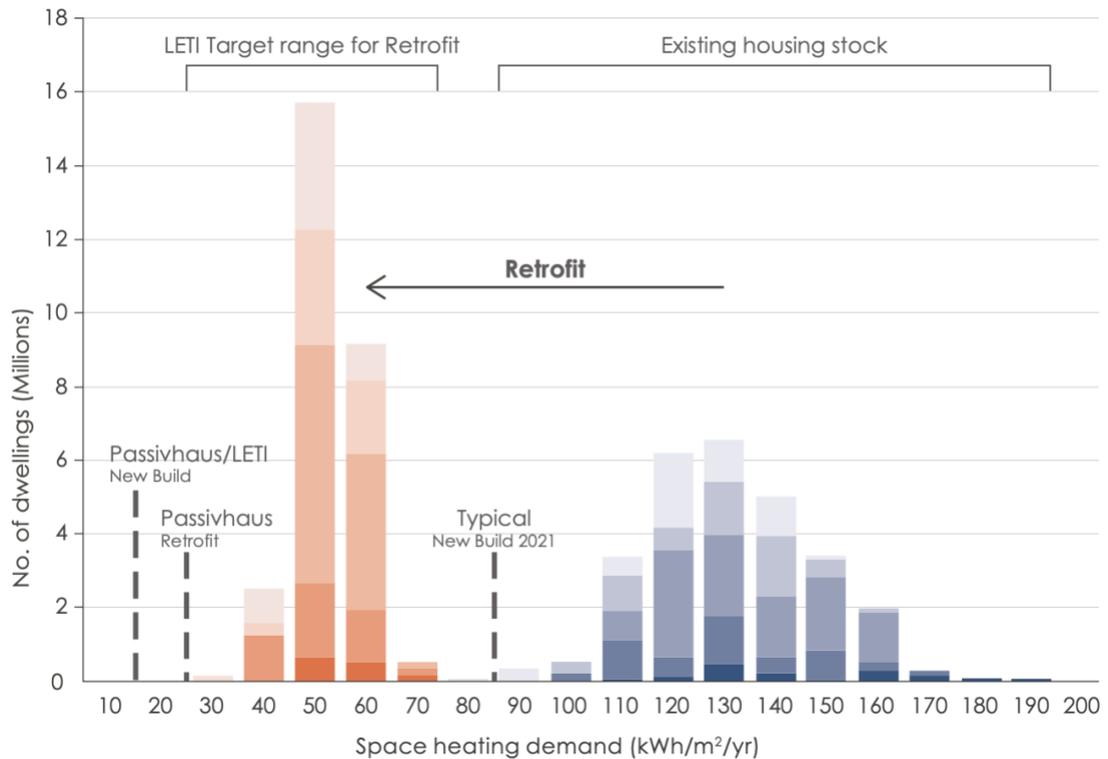
¹⁶ www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/news/detail/?nId=867

¹⁷ www.leti.london/retrofit

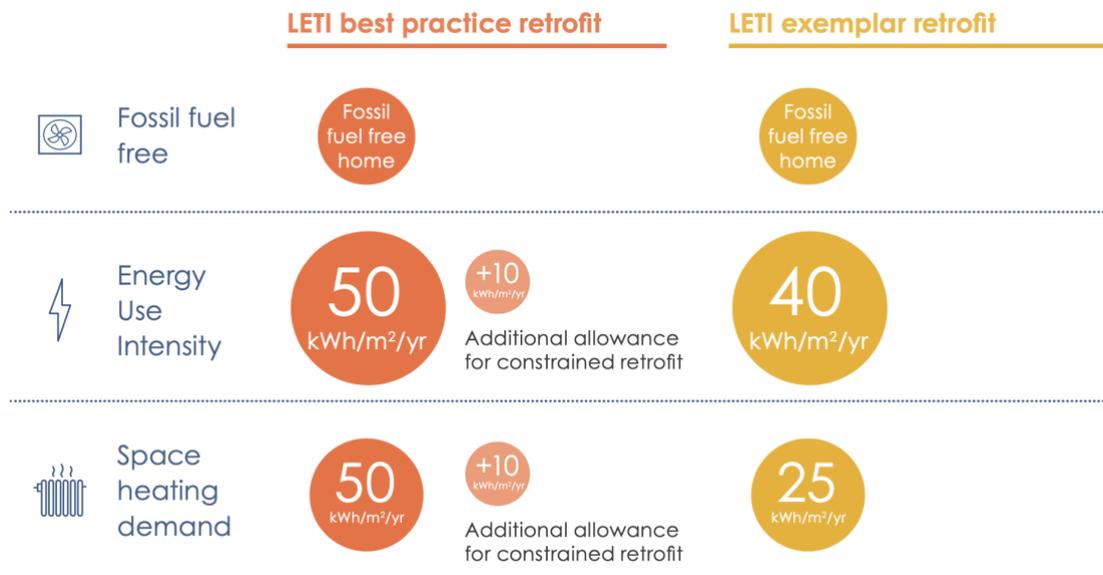
9.4 LETI's principles for good retrofit also include:

- Prioritise occupant and building health.
- Measure the performance.
- Think big!
- Consider impact on embodied carbon.

9.5 The energy performance transition required for UK dwellings to achieve the LETI target range is shown in the following chart.



9.6 LETI energy performance targets are:





9.7 The LETI guidance can be used alongside PAS 2035.

10) Gas and electricity prices

10.1 A comparison from 2019, showed typical electricity prices of 12.5 – 13p per kWh and typical gas prices of about 2.8p per kWh (with similar ranges of standing charges)¹⁸. Most of a gas bill comes from wholesale, network and operating costs. Electricity bills also include about 23% (3p/kWh) from social and environmental levies, which are only 2% (0.06p/kWh) for gas¹⁹.

10.2 However, gas is a fossil fuel producing greenhouse gases when burnt, whereas electricity is increasingly a cleaner source of power derived from renewable energy, especially wind power (on and off shore).

10.3 The higher levies on electricity send the wrong market signal and the lower levies on gas do not reflect its environmental impact costs.

10.4 To encourage the use of electricity for heating, social and environmental levies should be switched from electricity to gas, so that both better reflect their carbon and environmental costs.

11) Comparing heat pumps and gas boilers (carbon and costs)

11.1 Heat pumps extract heat from an external source (air, ground or water) and are powered by electricity. A heat pump can supply 2-4 units of heat energy for each unit of electricity input.

11.2 Fossil fuel gas boilers are powered by natural gas.

11.3 Current UK carbon emissions²⁰ for electricity and gas are:

- Electricity - 0.212 kg CO₂ equivalent per unit (kWh)
- Natural gas - 0.204 kg CO₂ equivalent per unit (kWh).

11.4 If a heat pump gives 2.5 units of heat for each unit of electricity used, the carbon emissions from currently using a heat pump are 0.085 kg CO₂e per

¹⁸ www.ukpower.co.uk/home_energy/tariffs-per-unit-kwh

¹⁹ www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/infographic-bills-prices-and-profits

²⁰ www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2021

kWh. There are some efficiency losses when using gas boilers and heat pumps, which are thought to be similar²¹. Therefore, carbon emissions from a heat pump will normally be less than half those from a gas boiler and will be even less where heat pumps are operating more efficiently.

- 11.5 The electricity grid is continuing to decarbonise so the reductions in emissions from using heat pumps over gas boilers will continue to increase.
- 11.6 The efficiency of a heat pump will fall in the coldest weather, but it should still supply at least 2 units of heat for every unit of electricity used.
- 11.7 Sufficient insulation is required for heat pumps to operate efficiently throughout the year, including in the coldest months. Better insulation will increase heat pump efficiency, as well as reducing the energy used for heating and increasing the carbon savings.
- 11.8 The table below shows fuel costs (2019 as above) for different heating systems, taking account of the efficiency multiplier achieved by heat pumps.

Heating system	Efficiency	Cost per kWh	Cost of useful heat per kWh
Electric heating	100%	13p	13p
Condensing boiler	88%	3p	3.4p
Heat pump	x 2.5	13p	5.2p
Heat pump	x 3.5	13p	3.7p

12) Energy Performance Certificates

- 12.1 Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) are used to indicate the energy and carbon performance of new homes and the existing housing stock in the UK. They are used as a guide by residents, the Council and Government.
- 12.2 Both Nigel Griffiths and Ian Hutchcroft were critical of EPCs, as they are currently based on energy costs and so reflect how costs vary for different energy sources. EPC ratings are not a good indicator for the use of energy or carbon emissions and can also be out-of-date in their assessments.
- 12.3 EPCs are based on the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP), which has developed over more than 20 years. SAP is currently being reviewed and the next version needs to be improved²², so it can be used as a true measure of energy efficiency, which better addresses carbon impact and fuel poverty.

²¹ Page 118, Heat Pumps for the Home (2nd Edition) – John Cantor, 2020

²² Making SAP and RdSAP 11 Fit for Net Zero: Summary, 6 August 2021 - [issuu.com/deepgreenengineering/docs/making_sap_and_rdsap_11_fit_for_net_zero-summary](https://www.deepgreenengineering.com/docs/making_sap_and_rdsap_11_fit_for_net_zero-summary)

13) Ground source heat pumps

- 13.1 Ground source heat pumps are more efficient than air source as they extract heat from below ground where the temperature stays around 10°C all year, protected from temperature extremes²³.
- 13.2 Where sufficient land is available, a horizontal collection loop can be laid with pipes in trenches approximately 1.5m below ground level. If space is tight, a vertical loop can be installed, which generally reaches between 50m and 90m deep²⁴.
- 13.3 Ground source heat pumps are more expensive than air source, but also have few moving parts, so should last for many years and require minimal maintenance (see reference 24 in footnote).

14) Community and district heating

- 14.1 Heat networks are expected to increase as the UK transitions to net zero. Heat is supplied through a network of highly insulated pipes from an energy source to homes, businesses and public buildings in the area. Community heating supplies heat to several buildings in a small area, such as a group of blocks of flats. District heating connects multiple buildings over a large area²⁵.
- 14.2 Heating sources could be waste heat from an industrial process, such as energy from waste incinerator, or, for community heating, a large biomass boiler or a ground source heat array.
- 14.3 There are examples of new heat networks bringing ground source heating to 500 homes in Cornwall²⁶ and to 364 homes in seven tower blocks in Sunderland²⁷, and heat from an energy from waste plant to 1,983 homes and many businesses in Leeds²⁸.
- 14.4 Changeworks and the Centre for Sustainable Energy have produced a report on increasing interest by social landlords in heat networks²⁹.
- 14.5 Government support is available for heat networks³⁰.

²³ cat.org.uk/info-resources/free-information-service/energy/heat-pumps

²⁴ Ultimate Guide to Ground Source Heat Pumps – Nigel Griffiths, July 2019 at www.self-build.co.uk/ground-source-heat-pumps-guide

²⁵ energysavingtrust.org.uk/what-district-heating

²⁶ heatthestreets.co.uk/

²⁷ www.kensacontracting.com/largest-gas-replacement-programme-with-ground-source-heat-pumps-in-tower-blocks-commences-in-sunderland

²⁸ www.carbontrust.com/our-projects/supporting-leeds-visionary-district-heating-network

²⁹ www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1313

³⁰ www.gov.uk/guidance/heat-networks-overview

15) Survey of registered social landlords and Homes in Sedgemoor

- 15.1 A survey was circulated to social landlords with housing in Somerset West and Taunton and to Homes in Sedgemoor. Three completed forms, one written response and one telephone response were received.
- 15.2 The main aims of the survey were to learn about retrofit projects undertaken or planned, their objectives and levels of information and advice.
- 15.3 Two smaller social landlords had not undertaken projects or had any planned. One lacked information and sources of affordable guidance.
- 15.4 A larger regional social landlord had reviewed their stock, which identified 9,000 below EPC band C. Funding had been received to upgrade 370 of these, with the primary aims being to achieve band C and reduce high heating costs. They had an installation team that was being trained for PAS 2035 and were keen to work with partners. Cost was a challenge for whole house retrofit and they had a policy not to increase rents based on energy performance.
- 15.5 Magna provides social housing that includes stock previously transferred from West Somerset Council. Recent retrofit projects have replaced night storage heaters with air source heat pumps, upgraded previous cavity wall insulation from fibre to beads where needed, and topped up loft insulation to 300mm.
- 15.6 Magna's supply and investment strategy aims to ensure all their homes meet EPC C within 10 years, with an aspiration to achieve net zero carbon backed by investment provision in their business plan. Homes with low EPCs may be progressed beyond C to achieve net zero carbon.
- 15.7 Magna have a retrofit coordinator and assessor and are adopting PAS 2035 for new retrofit work. Working with AWS and other social landlords, they are preparing a retrofit strategy and plan a pilot for a whole house approach, which may follow LETI guidance. Engaging with tenants is seen as very important, as well as the need to improve local retrofit supply and skills.
- 15.8 Homes in Sedgemoor have a stock of 3,969 properties. Previously, they had programmes for loft and cavity wall insulation. External wall insulation and air source heat pumps have been installed in some properties and a ground source heat pump to a block of flats. Cavity wall and loft insulation programmes are ongoing and future projects planned under the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.
- 15.9 Primary objectives for Homes in Sedgemoor were to solve damp problems, reduce high heating costs, achieve band C and A or B, to reduce carbon emissions and switch to LED lighting. They have a retrofit coordinator and energy support advisor. They have joined the Net Zero Collective³¹ and are undertaking monitoring of 5 properties prior to retrofit to learn more about impacts on costs, energy efficiency and tenants.

³¹ netzerocollective.co.uk

16) Government policy and funding

16.1 The Government's Clean Growth Strategy (BEIS³², 2017) set a target for social housing to achieve Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band C by 2035, "where practical, affordable and cost effective".

16.2 The Government's new Heat and Buildings Strategy (BEIS, October 2021) describes how the energy performance for buildings, including social housing, will be improved. It states (page 125):

"While we continue to build our evidence base and make strategic decisions, we need to take action in the 2020s to improve the energy performance of our buildings and prepare for and begin the switch to low-carbon sources of heat.

"To balance the certainty and stability needed for market growth, ensure we remain on track for Net Zero, and build-in flexibility and consumer choice, in the 2020s we will:

- introduce and improve energy performance standards.
- develop our policies on smart and flexible technology.
- begin phasing out use of fossil fuel sources of heat.
- build and support low-carbon heat markets.

16.3 Minimum EPC ratings will continue to be used (page 126), with EPCs to be developed through an Action Plan published in 2020 (page 127).

16.4 The press release³³ for the new strategy highlights the following points:

"The government and industry will work together to help meet the aim of heat pumps costing the same to buy and run as fossil fuel boilers by 2030, with big cost reductions of between a quarter and a half by 2025 expected as the market expands and technology develops.

"The Heat and Buildings Strategy sets out how we are taking 'no-regrets' action now, particularly on heat pumps, whilst supporting ongoing trials and other research and innovation on our future heating systems, including on hydrogen. We will make a decision on the potential role for hydrogen in heating buildings by 2026, by learning from our Hydrogen Village pilot. Heat pump technology will play a key role in all scenarios, so for those who want to install them now, we are supporting them to do so.

"To ensure electric heat pumps will be no more expensive to run than gas boilers, ministers want to reduce the price of electricity over the next decade by shifting levies away from electricity to gas. A call for evidence is expected to be published with decisions made in 2022.

"With heat in buildings being one of the largest sources of UK carbon emissions, accounting for 21% of the total, there is an urgent need to deliver a mix of new, low-carbon heating solutions to meet our legally-binding target to

³² Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

³³ www.gov.uk/government/news/plan-to-drive-down-the-cost-of-clean-heat

end the UK's contribution to climate change by 2050.

“... experts are clear there will need to be a mix of new, low-carbon heating solutions into the future for different property types in different parts of the country – such as electric heat pumps, heat networks and potentially hydrogen.

“... the UK currently has 40% of homes receiving a band C energy rating - up from just 9% in 2008 - and the government will continue to drive improvements to poorer performing homes, in line with the government's commitment for as many homes as possible to achieve EPC band C by 2035 where cost-effective, practical and affordable, and to ensure as many fuel poor homes as reasonably practicable achieve a band C rating by the end of 2030.

“... funding support will be targeted to those who need it most through schemes such as the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Home Upgrade Grant, while improvements to public sector buildings will continue to be made through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.”

16.5 On socially rented housing, the new strategy states (page 137):

“... the UK Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Demonstrator, launched in 2020, ... awarded £62 million of funding to social landlords across England and Scotland to test innovative approaches to retrofitting at scale. The Government has announced up to £160 million funding in financial year 21/22, delivering up to January 2023 as the first wave of the SHDF, which is England only. We are investing a further £800 million over financial years 2022/23 to 2024/25.

“We will also consider setting a long-term regulatory standard to improve social housing to EPC band C, with levers required to decarbonise the stock in line with Net Zero. We will consult the sector before setting any regulatory standard.”

16.6 The SHDF Demonstrator competition requires retrofit to achieve “an end use energy demand target of at least 50 kWh/m²” (same as LETI target) and compliance with PAS 2035³⁴.

16.7 The SHDF Wave 1 funding competition requires retrofit to achieve “at least a minimum energy efficiency rating threshold of EPC band C and are expected to improve properties to a space heating demand target of 90 kWh/m²/year or better”, as well as compliance with PAS 2035³⁵.

17) SWT challenges and emerging plans

17.1 SWT are developing plans for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to economically retrofit the Council's housing to meet carbon saving targets, whilst also ensuring tenants remain in well-managed, maintained and

³⁴ Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator: guidance notes – BEIS, Sept 2020

³⁵ Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund: competition guidance notes – BEIS, August 2021

compliant properties in great neighbourhoods.

- 17.2 A financially sound investment strategy should be achieved by:
- Learning from others and from our own pilots.
 - Investment in processes and training (PAS 2035).
 - Accurate and up to date data.
 - Maximising grant funding where it supports strategic priorities.
 - Developing a whole house approach to ensure works are specified and installed 'Right First Time' and avoiding the creation of sick housing.
 - Create communities, tenants and a workforce who are advocates for low carbon retrofit.
- 17.3 Challenges include: affordability, competing HRA business plan pressures and risks, funding criteria, achieving PAS 2035, delivering pilots and new initiatives, targets set for 2030 and 2050, and ensuring no regrets, best practice and taking account of wider matters.
- 17.4 SWT's stock of 2,700 homes has a high proportion of non-traditional houses, a significant proportion of sheltered housing and pre-1940s stock and a wide range of property archetypes. 8% have EPC ratings of A or B, 48% are C, 35% are D, and 8.5% are E or F.
- 17.5 The HRA's capital programme has on-going commitments, especially to maintenance and disabled adaptations. In addition, the capital programme has a large commitment to new build and housing replacement up to 2026/27.
- 17.6 Currently, there are Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LADS) projects with Green Homes Grant funding, improving heating for a small number of low-income households, including mobile homes. The Warm Homes Fund currently provides support to install air source heat pumps.
- 17.7 SWT has joined a consortium of 8 social landlords, including Homes in Sedgemoor, to bid for £4m from Wave 1 of the Social Homes Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF). If successful, SWT's share would be £380k for 24 units. Wave 2 applications are expected to be invited during 2022, when SWT officers anticipate bidding for funding to improve 200-300 units from EPC D to C. Prospects will be improved if the Wave 1 consortium bid and delivery is completed successfully.
- 17.8 Successful retrofit will need to work well with tenants (customer) and address property fabric (insulation, air tightness and ventilation) and heat and power (electricity, other non-fossil fuels, heat pumps, solar electricity and water heating, batteries). Consideration is being given to adopting the new LETI Retrofit guidance.
- 17.9 The LETI Climate Emergency Design Guide for new builds, published in January 2020, is being used for SWT's zero carbon affordable homes pilot³⁶.

³⁶ Report to Full Council – 7 July 2020: Zero Carbon Affordable Homes Pilot

Housing Directorates response to RA response to Report of the task and Finish Group on Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit

The housing directorate welcomes such a comprehensive investigation of low carbon retrofit of SWT homes. The task and finish group's investigation considered, in depth, many of the key areas which will need to be addressed as the council works to produce a Low Carbon Retrofit Strategy and Delivery plan by March 2023.

The Housing Directorate would agree with the Groups comment (1.4) that there was a high degree of alignment between the thoughts of officers and the emerging conclusions and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group. The Housing Directorate have set out below a positive response to many of the Task and Finish Groups Report recommendations and a few areas where there is more diversity of thought currently. The directorate recognises that sections 3 – 17 reflects the evidence considered rather than recommendations and the service have not made comment on this section.

The Housing Directorate's thinking is aligned to many of the key recommendations including:

Using a Whole House approach to consider the measures required or Low Carbon Retrofit and staged delivery of measures

- A whole house approach is essential to successful low carbon retrofit (1.3) and that this may be achieved in stages (2.2). The Directorate would agree and stress that each architype and property type requires a walk route to its 'lowest possible/economically reasonable carbon footprint'.
- To deliver the greatest carbon benefit several stages will be essential for most houses and these stages need to align to the fabric first approach. The service will need to be aligned the stages as best possible to the capital replacement programme and available subsidy (grant).

Government subsidy is essential to achieving low carbon retrofit

- Government subsidy (grant) support will be essential to the installation of retrofit measures (1.5). The Housing Directorate would go further to suggest that the timing and form of subsidy will have a significant influence on the success of achieving any targets set regardless of how we choose to measure carbon savings (improved EPC/SAP ratings, reduced power consumption(kWh/m²/yr), regulated energy (design of the building) or non-regulated energy (design + appliances selected + habits of the occupant, etc).
- The Directorate would agree that with good stock data and an established whole house approach by property architype and form the council should be in a strong position seek to maximise any government grant opportunities which would fund identified measures (2.7.1)

Standardised Guidance

- The report recommends that various guides to retrofit would benefit by being standardised (2.1). The Housing Directorate would agree that a standardised guide would help landlords deliver the good practice/approaches for example the approach. Potentially this will eventually come in the form of building regulations.
- The Directorate is aware of the standards specified in the London Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI) retrofit guide. The Directorate recognise, as does LETI, that their guidance has not been costed and therefore its ambitions may not be the most cost-effective way to

achieve carbon saving or to achieve statutory requirements. The Directorate would question the prescriptive nature of targets, such as those set in the LETI standard for reduced power consumptions, as each landlord will have a range of architypes and property forms which will each have their optimum achievable power consumption measure. Reducing heat and power to its optimum level and then applying renewable grid supplied or on-site energy will produce a zero-carbon home. The key consideration is to create a 'property' target with as low a power consumption as practical to reduce the likelihood that the tenant will face fuel poverty when the property switches to electricity.

- The Directorate suggests that setting a standard measurement for an architype form to prevent fuel poverty is important. Measuring the carbon savings against the property's current energy use is more meaningful than measuring the property against an arbitrary target.
- The use of walk routes by architype and form helps the council maximise the carbon saving and invest in the most appropriate measures for the property.
- The walk route of measures can also ensure decisions are made in relation to investment which do not act against later investment decision, for example understanding if the insulation of the floor and decant of the customer is essential or not to avoid fuel poverty should the property start to use electricity as the source of heat and power is critical and there will be an optimum point in the sequence of measures where this is best done if required.

A whole house approach delivered in stages must begin with fabric

- The directorate enthusiastically support this approach. A whole house approach delivered in stages must begin with fabric to bring about significant power use reductions for homes and for the stock (2.2).
- The Directorate would suggest the stages will in part depend on the distance the architype has to travel to achieve carbon neutrality or the ease and number of measures required and cost constraints.
- The Directorate would also wish to note that the 2030 and 2035 requirements for social landlords to achieve EPC C will focus spend on fabric measures above secondary stage measures such as removing fossil fuel.

Removal of fossil fuels

- The Directorate agree that the removal of fossil fuel is essential to achieve zero carbon (2.2). The timing of the removal of fossil fuels is the final of three essential steps to retrofit:
 1. Gaining customer / tenant support for retrofit. In retrofit the council require access to customers' homes. Access is much easier if customers understand and share the purpose for the works.
 2. Fabric first
 3. Renewable energy via the Grid or through on site/community renewable energy
- The speed at which fossil fuels are replaced will depend on several variables:
 - Achieving EPC C and good insulation standards through a fabric first approach

- The introduction of a new SAP methodology which is likely to weight electric heat over fossil fuel heating (such as gas).
 - The speed by which a decarbonised grid is created
 - The availability of low cost on site renewable technology
 - The availability of subsidy to support introduction of renewable on-site technology
 - Access to homes
- The Directorate recognise that switching to grid fed electricity will exaggerate fuel poverty if progressed too swiftly. This will act against the requirement of the council to achieve EPC C for households in fuel poverty by 2030 and is likely to act against tenants' support for retrofit.

Building customer awareness

- The directorate welcome the importance placed on building up customer awareness and support for retrofit and making full use of tenants as leaders (2.5) (2.9).
- We agree that retrofit projects should be monitored to check performance, tenant's satisfaction and learn lesson (2.9)
- As stated above the Directorate would consider gaining customer support as one of the three key challenges to achieving zero carbon retrofit homes. Customer enthusiasm and support is essential to;
 - allow timely access to carry out works to customers' homes,
 - collecting before and after works energy use data to evidence success
 - monitoring and maximising savings to reduce fuel poverty
- The Directorate is aware that equal to success is the enthusiasm of our workforce and supply chain who interact with customers

Alignment of the retrofit and capital decent homes programme

- The Directorate agree that the retrofit costs and decent homes capital costs should be aligned to ensure homes remain decent and efficient and economic investment is made (2.7.2)

Learning from local and national best practice

- The Directorate/SWT needs to continue to learn from local and national good practice (2.9) (2.10). The directorate support this statement.

Working with other partners

- The Directorate aims to continue to work with other social landlord partners (2.12). The recent consortium Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund submission with seven other regional Registered Providers is evidence of this. The Directorates continues to work increasingly close with Homes in Sedgemoor and through this considers approaches and common themes.

Disposal of underperforming Council Housing stock

- The Directorate agree that the disposal of Council housing stock should only be progressed where there is a clear business case supporting the overall objectives of the HRA (Housing Revenue Account) (2.12).
- The directorate is aware that many landlords use stock disposal as a means of raising the funding to allow more new build homes. This can work as the costs of maintaining an old property can be avoided and a capital receipt received.

Additional thoughts where there is more deviation of the Housing Directorate thinking.

- The directorate and the report have more diverse views on a small number of recommendations:

More intervention by the housing service in relation to tenants' appliances and equipment

- The directorate is cautious of the role of the council, other than advice and encouragement, in specifying the appliances and lighting in a tenant's home. We recognise that energy use varies significantly depending on the choices of appliances or equipment tenant uses and the energy rating of their equipment. Appliances and equipment may vary with tenants as they do across all tenures from kettles and TVs to hot tubs and tanning beds. The Directorate has limited scope under the tenancy agreement to interfere in these choices and some choices may be better remaining with the tenant and bill payer. The Directorate would be enthusiastic to see the improvement of national standards requiring manufacturers to apply low carbon principles (2.6)

Use of a comfort plan to subsidise low carbon investment

- The directorate is unsure of the mechanism that it could adopt to introduce comfort plan principles.
- We consider the comfort plan principles requires a landlord to be confident in the performance of their interventions. SWT does not currently have the expertise and data (pre works and post works) to provide this confidence.
- The directorate recognises that the principles of the comfort plan should continue to be explored as a potential source of investment (2.7.3)

Use of target setting targets through council policy and planning policy

- The Directorate is concerned that over ambitious target setting by the council, including the local planning authority, for the removal of a) fossil fuels and b) establishing household power consumption will act against the principles of whole house, fabric first and the HRAs (Housing Revenue Account) ability to invest in all the homes requiring measures.
- Without identifying new sources of investment targets in relation to fossil fuels need to reflect a staged approach to whole house solutions and understand if the target creates additional carbon savings or just increase investment costs and potentially fuel poverty.

- The LETI ambitions for energy performance should be used to reflect the 2050 goal of zero carbon. However, should new sources of funding allow a swifter move to zero carbon retrofit it will be embraced.
- The Directorate would suggest that the critical measurement is power usage per property archetype/form measured in Kwh/m²/yr. However, setting random targets such as 90, 50, 40 Kwh/m²/yr is likely to be superficial and could increase the opportunity for poor investment decisions, fuel poverty due to inability to invest in all the stock or a requirement to sell more poor stock to help close the gap with the target. The Directorate proposes that each property archetype/form will have a different optimum standard for heat and power and each target is set to ensure the customer is very unlikely to suffer fuel poverty as heat is switched over time to electricity through the grid or on-site renewables.
- Through using a walk route to zero carbon rather than target setting there will be greater and more immediate opportunity to evidence carbon reduction as it would be measured against current carbon use. Carbon could be measured at every point along the walk route as the property receives each measure. An example of this is the results from a test property which we have analysed and has a power usage of 220 Kwh/m²/yr. The best this property could achieve is 45 Kwh/m²/yr but to achieve this the tenant would need to be decanted to allow the floor to be insulated, air tightness interventions and mechanical ventilation would need to be incorporated. These measures are possible but unaffordable considering the number of units the council must retrofit. However, through fabric measures the property could achieve a power usage of 84 Kwh/m²/yr. This level of power usage would fall short of the LETI standard but would create a huge carbon saving of 136 Kwh/m²/yr or 60%. Achieving 84 Kwh/m²/yr on this property would also achieve 80% of that archetypes/forms potential power reduction.
- It is important to note that as the grid decarbonises the property would become zero carbon as long as it has electric heating and the key variable is the relationship of the tenant to fuel poverty.
- It is important to remember that the government is introducing a new SAP calculation which could alter how we prioritise our investment. We are building this new calculation into our thinking as best we can.

Chris Brown
Assistant Director Development and Regeneration

Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit Task and Finish Group

Terms of Reference

Role of the Council Housing Zero Carbon Retrofit Task and Finish Group

A cross party, non-decision-making Task and Finish Group who will investigate funding sources and approaches for a zero-carbon retrofit programme for the council's housing stock.

The Task and Finish Group will prepare a report with recommendations for the Scrutiny Committee, who may then recommend consideration of the report and recommendations by the Executive and, if appropriate, Full Council.

This topic aligns with the Corporate Strategy of SWT, priority theme on Our Environment and Economy Objective 1: *“Work towards making our District carbon neutral by 2030 - deliver projects based on a Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan that work toward this goal (for example installing electric vehicle charging points across the District)”*.

The panel will meet on a regular basis and report back to Scrutiny Committee within 4 months if possible

Scope

The Task and Finish Group will consider:

- Funding sources and approaches for a zero-carbon retrofit programme for the council's housing stock, covering insulation and heating systems as well as energy efficiency, generation and storage.
- Current SWT Council plans for retrofit of the Council's housing stock (currently detailed in the CNCR Action Plan)¹
- Guidance and different approaches being taken to retrofit work, including Energiesprong amongst others and examining examples of good practice.
- Whether part of the savings in energy costs from retrofit work should be reinvested and methods for reinvestment.
- Opportunities for additional non-energy savings and an investment programme to support retrofit work.

¹ <https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/media/2429/carbon-neutrality-and-climate-resilience-plan.pdf>
Appendix 1: <https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/media/2431/appendix-1-indicative-action-plan-to-2030.pdf> There is an update in 5.9 at:
<https://democracy.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/documents/s13172/HRA%20Revenue%20and%20Capital%20Budget%20Setting%202021-22%20including%20Dwelling%20Rent%20Setting%202122%20and%2030-Year%20Busi.pdf>

- Relevant case studies, feedback and lessons from other councils, housing associations and any similar social housing providers.
- Implications for the Council and its tenants.
- Benefits from joint working with partners in the region.

Membership

The membership of the group does not need to be politically balanced.

Name	Political Party / Role
Cllr D Mansell	Independent and Green / Chair
Cllr A Wedderkopp	Liberal Democrat / Member
Cllr I Aldridge	Independent and Green / Member
Cllr N Cavill	Conservative / Member
Cllr J Hassall	Liberal Democrat / Member

Method of Working

- The Chair (and Vice-Chair if required) to be elected and appointed at the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group, who shall be Members from the Scrutiny Committee.
- At the first meeting, business will also include:
 - a) To elect the Chair of the Task and Finish Group (if appropriate)
 - b) To appoint the Vice-Chair of the Task and Finish Group
 - c) To receive any apologies for absence
 - d) To review the Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group
 - e) To complete the Task and Finish Group scoping document
 - f) To consider any other business set out in the agenda
 - g) To determine the frequency of meetings (considering the workload of officers and Committees – which take precedence)
 - h) To determine the date of next meeting
- Any non-executive Councillor may be appointed to serve on Task and Finish Groups and membership will be open to non-councillors, including representatives of external bodies.
- Support from the Governance team.
- Relevant persons from both inside and outside SWT will be invited to attend and answer questions where it does not cause undue disruption to other priority activities.
- The Task and Finish Group will primarily meet virtually on a regular basis, via Zoom or Teams.
- The Task and Finish Group can make recommendations but is not a decision-making body, collective views will feed into the Group's report, which will be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.

- Where possible papers will be issued 3 working days ahead of meeting, allowing sufficient time to review and prepare for the meeting.
- Meeting notes and actions will be circulated to the Working Group within 5 working days where possible.
- All papers will be distributed electronically only.
- The quorum will be a minimum of two members, however, dates of meetings will be selected to allow for the attendance of the whole group wherever possible.
- The relevant Portfolio Holder and Director and/or SMT, if appropriate, will be consulted before the Group's report is completed.
- The final Group report and any recommendations shall be decided by a simple majority of Group members present at the meeting, although the Group should aim for consensus wherever possible.

Report Number: SWT 10/22

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Community Scrutiny Committee - 27 January 2022

Title of Report: Annual Update of CNCR Progress

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Member Cllr Dixie Darch

Report Author: Jonathan Stevens, Assistant Director Climate Change, Regulatory Services and Asset Management.

1. Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides the first annual update on Council progress against its Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience (CNCR) Action Plan.
- 1.2 The CNCR plan contains 180 'immediate' Year 1 actions. This report focuses on those actions.
- 1.3 The report summarises the main actions and successes. There is detail on all 180 actions in the attached appendix.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 There are no recommendations associated with this report.

3. Risk Assessment (if appropriate)

- 3.1 The CNCR plan is an extensive list of aspirational activities. It contains a number of cross cutting actions and open-ended commitments. To support delivery the team, led by the Portfolio Holder (PFH), reviewed the actions to form a prioritised list which features in the 21/22 service plan for the External Operations and Climate Change directorate. Without a prioritised list of activity, the team could become conflicted in trying to deliver in an unfocussed or uncoordinated way.
- 3.2 The commitments list within the service plan is challenging, there is a considerable amount of work on this list. Any draw on the team outside the agreed business plan will impact delivery performance.

4. Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in February 2019 and appointed an Executive Member for Climate Change.
- 4.2 SWT approved its own Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience (CNCR) Action Plan in October 2020. The plan provides an overview of the key issues facing Somerset in relation to the climate emergency and a strategic basis for working towards addressing these issues over a 10 year period.
- 4.3 The plan is owned by the External Operation’s Climate Change team, but actions attributed to SWT are delivered by services across the Council.
- 4.4 The plan does include actions to address nature recovery, but a separate document is being worked up to reflect the Council’s Ecological Emergency declaration in October 2020.
- 4.5 The CNCR Plan is split into 4 sections: ‘immediate’ year one actions, short term year two and three actions, medium term year four to six actions and long term year seven to ten actions. This report concentrates on the year one actions.
- 4.6 The status of the year one actions is as follows:

Complete	55
Current	63
On Hold	26
Pipeline	36

Full updates on each action are included within the appendix.

- 4.7 A significant amount of the actions within the CNCR plan are not within the control of the Council to directly deliver and will be delivered by external partners and bodies. However, the Council has a role to influence and support, and these actions are tracked in the appendix. Furthermore, there are a number of lobbying and awareness raising activities that appear in the plan as current, but they are ongoing and will never be fully ‘complete’.
- 4.8 A summary of the Council’s main achievements in the first year are as follows:

4.8.1 Planning

The Council has an approved ‘Climate Positive Planning: Interim Guidance Statement on Planning for the Climate Emergency’. It explains that the Climate Emergency is a material consideration and provides further guidance and explanation in relation to specific adopted policies of relevance to the Climate Emergency.

The emerging Districtwide Design Guide will also provide guidance on how carbon reduction, sustainability and climate resilience should be integral to high

quality design in new developments, ensuring the level of housing growth needed to meet future demand is high quality, sustainable, and maintains or enhances the character and distinctiveness of the area. The design guide is due for approval by the Council in December.

4.8.2 Zero Carbon Affordable Homes Pilots

The Council's housing service has submitted two planning applications:

North Taunton Phase A – development of 47 new homes with a requirement in the contract to build these to a low carbon standard – an 80% improvement on building regulations. These properties will become zero carbon either through the use of green electricity tariffs or as the national grid decarbonises by 2050. This development is now under way.

Seaward Way, Minehead – development of 54 zero carbon homes – approved by planning committee June 2021.

4.8.3 Transport

SWT secured a government grant worth £136,000 to boost the roll-out of on street Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points in council-owned car parks. 22kW fast EV charge points are being installed in Minehead, Porlock, Taunton, Watchet, Wellington, Williton, Dulverton and Wiveliscombe.

Transition of the Council's pool car fleet to EV has begun with the purchase of two Renault Zoes. Work is also underway to install EV charging points at Council premises in readiness for further fleet transition, and we have secured addition workplace charging scheme funding of £4,200

The Council is also working in partnership with Western Power Distribution to deliver a further 15 rapid EV charging points across three town centre locations.

The Council is running e-scooter schemes to provide a sustainable option for travel in Taunton and Minehead as part of the official Department for Transport trials. It has appointed Zipp Mobility to manage the trial schemes which went live in Taunton on 30 October 2020 and in Minehead on 5 June 202. both schemes will run until end of March 2022.

4.8.4 Buildings

Full decarbonisation strategies have been completed on Deane House, Westpark Depot and the Crematorium. Officers are currently working up plans for future implementation. This will allow the Council to move towards decarbonisation in its three biggest buildings.

A second phase of decarbonisation strategies will commence early 2022.

4.8.5 Open Spaces

The Council has also implemented a 3 for 1 tree replacement programme for any trees that are felled on Council land and has planted approximately 800 new trees over the past two winters. The Woodland Trust have been engaged to help identify area of Council land that would be suitable for larger scale woodland creation. The Council is also donating £8k towards trees for Exmoor National Park's woodland creation project at Bye Wood.

Over the last two summers, the Council's grass cutting teams have sown 60kg of wildflower seed, created several small meadows and left areas of grass to grow longer in some open spaces to help create a better habitat for local wildlife.

The Council has engaged the Somerset Wildlife Trust as a consultant to develop formal design principles for next summer, so that council-owned land is managed with both people and nature in mind. This will include the creation of new grassland meadows across the district.

5. Links to Corporate Strategy

5.1 Environment and Economy

Work towards making our District carbon neutral by 2030 - deliver projects based on a Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan that work toward this goal (for example installing electric vehicle charging points across the District)

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

6. Finance / Resource Implications

6.1 The report is a record of progress against the CNCR plan and as such there are no negative implications of this report.

7. Legal Implications (if any)

7.1 There are no identified implications from this report.

8. Climate and Sustainability Implications (if any)

8.1 The report is a record of progress against the CNCR plan and as such there are no negative implications of this report.

9. Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications (if any)

9.1 There are no identified implications of this report.

10. Equality and Diversity Implications (if any)

10.1 There are no identified implications of this report.

11. Social Value Implications (if any)

11.1 There are no identified implications of this report.

12. Partnership Implications (if any)

12.1 There are no identified implications of this report. The Council continues to work in partnership with other bodies to deliver against CNCR actions.

13. Health and Wellbeing Implications (if any)

13.1 There are no identified implications of this report.

14. Asset Management Implications (if any)

14.1 There are no identified implications of this report.

15. Data Protection Implications (if any)

15.1 There are no identified implications of this report.

16. Consultation Implications (if any)

16.1 There are no identified implications of this report.

Democratic Path:

Community Scrutiny - Yes

Reporting Frequency: Annually

List of Appendices

Appendix A	CNCR Year One Immediate Actions
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Contact Officers

Name	Jonathan Stevens
Direct Dial	07773346411
Email	j.stevens@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Community Scrutiny Committee
January 6th 2021
Appendix Document - CNCR Plan Year One Immediate Actions

Action Ref	Action Description	Current Status	Directorate	SWT or Other	Progress Update (updates need to be concise and suitable for sharing)
18	Develop an action plan for retrofit of around 90% of homes and 100% of non-residential buildings with low carbon heat and energy efficiency measures including through use of costed building decarbonisation "passports" for individual households and groups of building archetypes.	On Hold	Development and Place	SWT and partners	Bones of an action plan have been developed by a group of officers across the Somerset Councils as part of the Low Carbon Retrofit Group, however more detailed work likely required.
1	Develop Local Plan policy requiring all new development to be zero carbon and climate resilient as soon as practically possible.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Forthcoming districtwide Design Guide (Dec 21) will set out low and zero carbon standards and climate resilient design principles. SWT has Council has approved Climate Positive Planning: Interim Guidance Statement on Planning for the Climate Emergency in the interim to existing policy is used to maximum effect.
2	Evidence and develop an "Allowable Solutions" type carbon offsetting fund for developments unable to meet zero carbon on-site to pay into.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Progress against this action is secondary to the action for developing a planning policy requiring zero carbon development.
Page 71	Publish an Interim Policy Statement clarifying relevance and implementation of existing development plan policies on sustainable design and construction and relevance of the Council's Climate Emergency declaration as a material consideration.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Interim Guidance Statement on Planning for the Climate Emergency approved as a live document in February 2021.
	Lobby Government to deliver national policy requiring zero carbon and climate resilient new development as soon as practically possible.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Response to the Future Homes Standard Consultation submitted Feb 2020, - Sent lobbying letter to Department for Education with regards to sustainability of new public buildings in August 2020. - Joint signatory to Good Homes Alliance letter calling for higher environmental standards from Homes England in May 2021.
4	Adopt the district-wide Design Guide incorporating strong emphasis on sustainability as Supplementary Planning Document.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Emerging Districtwide Design Guide has a focus on sustainability and has been significantly strengthened with regards to zero carbon and climate resilience aspirations. Due for adoption as SPD in December 2021.
7	Lobby Government to end the current Permitted Development Rights to convert agricultural buildings to residential dwellings in the open countryside.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Included in response to Government consultation on further permitted development rights and use class changes in January 2021.
5	Deliver training on zero carbon and climate resilient buildings and the role of planning and planners to all planning officers and Members as well as offering training out to communities and developers.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Training for Development Management officers and Planning Committee Members provided on both the Districtwide Design Guide (2020) and Climate Positive Planning (2021). Additional training proposed alongside adoption of the Design Guide SPDs during Spring 2022.
54	Build awareness and capacity for community energy projects and play a more direct and proactive role in enabling.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Council signed up to support the Local Electricity Bill in October 2020 but no further progress.

47	Identify suitable areas / allocate sites for low carbon and renewable energy generation within the New Local Plan.	Current	Development and Place	SWT	Work to develop a Somerset-wide renewable energy evidence base and a potential subsequent Energy Plan for Somerset is underway but very early stages and will require external input.
53	Lobby Government to remove artificial barriers (e.g. NPPF/policy and Contracts for Difference criteria) to delivery of renewable energy including onshore wind in the district.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Council signed up to support the Local Electricity Bill in October 2020 which should help to remove barriers to community energy projects.
61	Develop Local Plan policies to ensure that new grid infrastructure can be delivered that will resolve constraints, address network climate vulnerabilities, is compliant with a carbon neutral future, and will enable transition to a flexible and smart distribution network able to cope with increased decentralised and renewable energy generation and EV rollouts.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Work on developing a renewable energy evidence base and subsequent Energy Plan for Somerset will likely provide the necessary evidence in this regard, but no progress.
69	Develop evidence base to understand carbon neutral heat network potential within the district and on Council-owned assets.	Current	Development and Place	SWT	Council has been successful in a bid to the Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU) to help fund a more detailed project investigating heat network potential in Taunton town centre. Linked to work to develop a Somerset-wide renewable energy evidence base and a potential subsequent Energy Plan for Somerset.
Page 71	Apply to the Heat Networks Development Unit to secure funding to explore potential for a carbon neutral heat network serving Firepool, Taunton Pool and nearby town centre buildings.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Bid to the HNDU submitted in December 2020 was successful.
	Develop planning policy through the New Local Plan to require, encourage and enable heat network development where opportunities exist.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Progress is limited until work on the Taunton town centre heat network study and in development of a renewable energy evidence base and subsequent Energy Plan for Somerset is completed.
52	Provide advice to town and parish councils and neighbourhood planning groups about planning for low carbon and renewable energy through their Neighbourhood Plans.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Officers have provided short emailed advice to individual Neighbourhood Plans. Complete as far as SWT can go without additional resource required to expand on this.
60	Develop Local Plan policy to ensure that all new buildings are served by three-phase electricity supplies in order to be future-proofed for homes and vehicles playing a more active role in power generation and grid balancing.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Work on developing a renewable energy evidence base and subsequent Energy Plan for Somerset will likely provide the necessary evidence to develop this work.
109	Continue developing the strategic outline business case to re-open Wellington Train Station and lobbying Government to include on the DfT project pipeline for design and delivery.	Current	Development and Place	SWT	The Strategic Outline Business Case submitted to the Restoring Your Railways panel was successful. A brief for the next phase of work (PACE 1) to achieve an Outline Business Case has been agreed with Network Rail. This can commence once the funding is in place.

145	Develop a Digital Strategy that will identify how high speed, high quality and resilient gigabit digital connectivity can be delivered throughout the district, reducing the need to travel, enabling smarter travel and increasing ability to work and access services remotely.	On Hold	Development and Place		AWAITING UPDATE
	Deliver priority cycle route in Taunton linking Vivary Park - Market House - Coal Orchard - Firepool - Train Station.	Current	Development and Place	SWT	Station to Vivary route to be developed with Future High Street Fund, along with improved cycle parking for Taunton town centre. Delivery by Regeneration team, provisionally March 2023.
	Deliver priority cycle route in Taunton linking the Gateway and Silk Mills Park & Ride sites via the town centre.	Current	Development and Place	SCC	Included in SCC's LCWIP for Taunton. SCC in process of determining delivery priority and funding of schemes.
	Develop a Taunton Transport Strategy building on the "Taunton: Connecting Our Garden Town" document from 2017, picking up on developments since its publication and actions identified within this Action Plan. Establish a "Transport Taskforce" within the Council to co-ordinate delivery.	Current	Development and Place	SWT	A Garden Town Delivery Plan is currently in production which will pick up much of the work that had begun on a Taunton Transport Strategy and recent developments as well as which continues to be progressed via the Active Travel Programme. Estimated delivery date May 22.
106	Develop Local Plan policies to require and enable delivery of infrastructure to facilitate delivery of Bus Rapid Transit scheme(s).	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	SCC have submitted a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to Government 'Bus Back Better' initiative. This was drafted with local operators and any new policy development will likely come from this.
142	Incorporate a sustainable hierarchy for transport within the New Local Plan.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	A sustainable travel hierarchy was included in the Issues & Options plan in 2020. Linked to transport evidence base work and SCC's work on an updated Local Transport Plan. Work to develop appropriate policies will develop from this.
143	Develop Local Plan policy for reduced parking standards in new development.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Linked to transport evidence base work and SCC's work on an updated Local Transport Plan and Travel Planning Guidance/Parking Strategy. Work to develop appropriate policies will develop from this. New Local Plan policies will be delivered through a new Unitary Development Plan in due course, the timetable for which is not yet set.
144	Develop Local Plan policy to encourage and facilitate car-free developments in appropriate locations.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Linked to transport evidence base work and SCC's work on an updated Local Transport Plan and Travel Planning Guidance/Parking Strategy. Work to develop appropriate policies will develop from this.
93	Develop Local Plan policy requiring EV charging infrastructure in all new developments in line with the EV Charging Strategy once complete.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Adopted EV Charging Strategy includes a proposed model policy for requiring charging infrastructure in new developments. This has informed the expectations of the Districtwide Design Guide, due for adoption in December 2021, and will inform updates to SCC's Travel Plan guidance including the Somerset Parking Strategy.
111	Lobbying Government and operators to electrify the mainline rail network running through the district.	Current	Development and Place	SWT	Ongoing. Will lobby as opportunities arise, mostly via Wellington station project.

148	Develop Local Plan policies to require gigabit digital connectivity in new developments. In line with the Digital Strategy once complete.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Work on a Digital Strategy remains on hold at this stage.
118	Adopt the Taunton Garden Town Public Realm Design Guide as SPD and use this as the blueprint for delivering sustainable streets, cycle infrastructure and street tree planting in Taunton.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Emerging Public Realm Design Guide has a focus on sustainability and facilitating sustainable travel. Due for adoption as SPD in December 2021
	Develop and deliver upon a COVID Economic Recovery Plan with climate action integral to its vision and objectives.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	The SWT Economic Recovery and Growth Plan adopted Jan 2021 is aligned to the Industry Workstream of the CNCR Plan.
177	Prepare a district-wide workforce development strategy taking account of the skills that will be necessary to deliver on the actions set out in this plan, the skills gap, current sector activity and skills audit, skills we have that may not be needed in the future and how we will support people and businesses through this transition.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Audits of local labour requirements are ongoing through engagement with local employers, through the innovation leadership group and with potential inward investors. The preparation of a district wide workforce strategy related to clean teach and climate resilience sectors is linked to the Innovation District activity and planned for completion by March 2023.
166	Work with SCC to design, deliver and communicate a pilot small grants scheme to support businesses to achieve reductions in Scope 1 emissions (on-site and fleet).	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Work complete
Page 74 170	Appoint a "Green Economy/Clean Growth Inward Investment Specialist" (potentially as a shared resource) to work with businesses to sustainably align their growth ambitions with the climate emergency and encourage businesses into the area that can help the area to achieve carbon neutrality and climate resilience.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Industry workstream priorities have been reassessed. No plans to progress.
172	Identify and deliver on opportunities for education and skills growth and job creation in the West Somerset Opportunity Area to build economic opportunities, reduce the need to travel out of the area for work and to address social mobility and deprivation issues in the area.	Current	Development and Place	SWT or Other	The West Somerset Employment Land project aims to unlock sites for job creation, and feasibility study now complete. Other projects are being delivered by SWT officers through the West Somerset Opportunity Area and Economic Development Employment and Skills Team, including Access to Employment Grants, Adult training course at West Somerset College, Employment Hubs.
174	Develop a communications campaign to market the sustainable economic development and inward investment opportunities presented by Taunton Garden Town and Somerset West and Taunton Innovation District aligned with our aspirations for carbon neutrality and climate resilience.	Current	Development and Place	SWT	A study has been completed to identify SWTs key attractors for Inward Investment including Innovation and Clean technology businesses. The development of an Inward Investment Marketing and Communications Plan is underway, delivery of a communications campaign will commence in January 2022.

179	Work with partners to grow the sector and supply chain for key technologies and products that are necessary to achieve carbon neutrality in Somerset (including in relation to heat pumps, renewables, energy efficiency and circular economy in particular) through support and directly stimulating demand as part of Council developments.	Current	Development and Place	SWT	Work to develop SWT as an Innovation District is underway – this, along with the marketing and communications campaign and unlocking employment land will enable the growth of these sectors and supply chains in the District.
160	Develop a communications campaign targeting businesses within the district, engaging them in carbon reduction and climate resilience, the benefits to them of action, risks of inaction and where they can access support at present.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Campaign planned for 22/23. The work requires county wide collaboration to develop a communications campaign and climate change support for businesses programme. Possibly something Climate Team to take on.
171	Adopt the emerging Small Scale Industrial Units Local Development Order (LDO) to enable business creation, expansion and retention within the district and close to where people live, reducing the need for businesses to leave the area and to travel.	Complete	Development and Place		LDO adopted September 2020.
175	Work with local community groups and businesses to develop opportunities to foster innovation in the low carbon / sustainability sector.	Pipeline	Development and Place		AWAITING UPDATE
213	Develop Local Plan policies that support SWP Developer Guidance and the emerging Somerset Waste Local Plan and which will lead to delivery against minimum standards for sustainable waste management in development as well as developments being resource efficient during construction, occupation and eventual dismantling.	Current	Development and Place	SWT	Climate Positive Planning has been published and this includes guidance linking existing planning policy requirements across to use of the SWP Developer Guidance, and also highlighting the importance of embodied energy and carbon. The Districtwide Design Guide also has a focus on aspirational standards for reducing embodied carbon.
214	Engage with development of the Somerset Minerals and Waste Plan Reviews to understand necessary waste processing infrastructure and where it should be located (taking into account potential for use of waste heat in particular).	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Minerals and Waste planning is a County Council function, and SWT will engage as required.
210	Support the opening of a Repair Café at the Glassbox, Taunton Library.	Pipeline	Development and Place		AWAITING UPDATE
	Support the University of Exeter in bidding to UKRI for funding to co-design and deliver a Circular Regional Food System in the South West.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Complete
229	Develop Local Plan policies that protect existing and allocate land / set requirements for establishment of new orchards and allotments.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	The emerging Districtwide Design Guide refers to the importance of integrating allotments and orchards into coherent green infrastructure as part of sustainable placemaking as well as the value of existing allotments and orchards to the character of different areas.

238	Develop Local Plan policy that protects best and most versatile agricultural land and sets criteria as to when it is acceptable for its loss, protects soil quality and requires mitigation from developments to reduce detrimental impacts to soil health and carbon storage.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Existing plan policy protects best and most versatile agricultural land and sets criteria for when it is acceptable to be lost in line with national policy. Embodied carbon (which considers land-use change) is recognised and aspirational standards are identified in this regard in the emerging Districtwide Design Guide.
239	Develop Local Plan policy that may support farmers and landowners to sustainably diversify in order to build resilience to the projected impacts of climate change and change practices to more viably deliver ecosystem services.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Existing plan policy in the former West Somerset area partially covers this action in that it supports farm diversification to help support the local agricultural economy where it does not conflict with sustainability considerations. No such explicit policy exists in the former Taunton Deane area. New Local Plan policies will be delivered through a new Unitary Development Plan in due course, the timetable for which is not yet set.
241	Work with partners to map current levels of natural capital and ecosystem services and potential impacts of climate change.	Current	Development and Place	Somerset Wildlife Trust	Council working to support this via representation on the Local Nature Partnership, led by Somerset Wildlife Trust.
242	Work with partners to map carbon sequestration potential opportunities on farmland including planting trees, widening and re-connecting hedgerows and changing land management practices.	Current	Development and Place	Somerset Wildlife Trust	Council working to support this via representation on the Local Nature Partnership, led by Somerset Wildlife Trust.
245	Work with the Local Nature Partnership to complete a Nature Recovery Network Strategy including an interactive online map and user guide.	Current	Development and Place	Somerset Wildlife Trust	Council working to support this via representation on the Local Nature Partnership, led by Somerset Wildlife Trust.
	Complete a new Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for the district drawing together opportunities to improve access to green spaces, active travel linkages, reinstate and create green landscape linkages, improve biodiversity, re-wild and regenerate the landscape and increase carbon sequestration and climate resilience.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Work on this action has been stalled for some time due to lack of resource. New Green Infrastructure Officer recently started with a focus on Taunton Garden Town means this project can now progress. It will initially focus on a Taunton Garden Town GBI Strategy, emerging out of work on the Garden Town Delivery Plan before expanding out to district-wide in future years.
284	Develop detailed plans to deliver on the Taunton Garden Town ambition to raise tree canopy cover to 20% within the town.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Public Realm Design Guide SPD due to be adopted in December 2021 includes a target to raise the tree canopy cover in the town to 30% by 2050 through growing a Garden Town Forest or "Urboretum". Further work is also underway within the climate team to map planting opportunities on Council land.

262	Develop Local Plan policies referring to the Nature Recovery Network Strategy including requiring developments to deliver against it.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	The Nature Recovery Network Strategy is being progressed by the Local Nature Partnership and officers attend and contribute to the LNP Nature Recovery Sub-group. Work to develop appropriate policies will develop from this.
264	Develop Local Plan policies requiring retention and protection of trees within development sites and a minimum target of tree canopy cover within new developments.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Climate Positive Planning refers to the importance of trees within development sites in relation to existing policy and responding to both the climate and ecological emergencies. Future policy will draw on the proposed Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Nature Recovery Network Strategy as well as implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain.
246	Review and upgrade the current Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Somerset Environmental Records Centre to give long term funding certainty and enable it to oversee the Nature Recovery Network data and keep it up to date.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Revised annual SLA signed October 2021.
263	Develop Local Plan policies requiring a target level of biodiversity net gain above the proposed national minimum 10% from new developments and necessary on-site measures with mitigation to be delivered before development can occur.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	The Environment Bill is expected to mandate a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain from new developments. Work to develop appropriate policies will develop from this.
315	Develop a Coastal Communities Strategy setting out a 30 year plan for what the coast and coastal communities will be in 2050 taking account of coastal erosion; flooding; housing; economy, highways; nature; culture; leisure; deprivation and regeneration.	On Hold	Development and Place	SWT	Discussion on-going with the EA and other partners but limited resource to progress currently.
294	Work with partners to map opportunities for delivery of nature based solutions such as tree planting, wetland creation and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) to sequester carbon whilst delivering flood risk management benefits.	On Hold	Development and Place	SWT	Action closely aligned with development of a Nutrient Neutrality Strategy, Nature Recovery Network Strategy, GBI Strategy and future work responding to the Ecological Emergency. New Nutrient Neutrality Officer starting soon expected to take on some of this.
299	Develop Local Plan policies requiring integration of high quality, multi-benefit SuDS within new developments in line with the Somerset SUDS Review.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Climate Positive Planning includes reference to emerging SCC SUDS Guidance, though timing for completion of this guidance is not yet confirmed. The emerging Districtwide Design Guide and Public Realm Design Guide SPDs include information about how to integrate high quality SuDS infrastructure into new developments. Work to develop appropriate policies will develop from this.

300	Develop Local Plan policies directing development away from areas of or which could adversely impact upon fluvial, coastal and surface water flood risk and in line with the step change promoted by the emerging National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 complete. Work to develop appropriate policies will develop from this. Work may include identifying and defining Coastal Change Management Areas; policies for development in CCMA's and relocation of settlements at risk of coastal erosion. South-west Coastal Group discussions on single definition and process for CCMA is underway.
308	Develop Local Plan policies to actively enable relocation of homes and businesses away from locations at major risk of flooding or coastal change.	Pipeline	Development and Place	SWT	Evidence including the Shoreline Management Plan Review in progress. Work to develop appropriate policies will develop from this.
301	Lobby Government to ensure that the NPPF / PPG always requires plans to be prepared and development to be managed in compliance with the flooding and coastal change implications of the latest climate projections.	Current	Development and Place	SWT	SWT will lobby as when opportunities arise.
Page 78 21	Develop Local Plan policies to require compliance with the optional national water efficiency standards and set out expectations around rain and grey water harvesting.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Climate Positive Planning equates existing planning policies in both the former Taunton Deane and West Somerset areas to a requirement to meet the optional national water efficiency standard of 110l/person/day and encourages use of water harvesting. Full Council resolved in October 2021 to "Require all new residential development to include water efficiency measures (110 litres per person per day) in line with SWT sustainability and climate change objectives, and that this will be a material planning consideration in the determination of affected proposals" following evidence showing the relationship between reduced water consumption and reduced phosphate emissions from new development. The emerging Districtwide Design Guide identifies further aspirational standards in relation to water efficiency in new development.
13	Deliver a Zero Carbon Affordable Homes Pilot which will deliver 50 net zero carbon, fabric first, modular construction new Council Homes as a pilot, with a first phase of 12 in 2020/21.	Current	Housing and Communities	SWT	This scheme has been replaced by zero carbon SWT affordable housing developments at NTWP (227)and Seaward Way (52)
10	Develop and deliver a zero carbon and climate resilient standard for new Council Housing.	Complete	Housing and Communities		The Housing service has developed and is applying to its employers requirements a zero housing standard for first letting. This standard is being used for 115 zero carbon new affordable homes. The service has also established a specification which provides an 80% zero carbon benefit on first let which is is applying to phase A (227 units) at NTWP)

32	Retrofit 175 Council homes and a further 25 owner occupier/private rented homes in the district with first time central heating replacing expensive and inefficient night storage and solid fuel heating systems with Air-Source Heat Pumps together with a package of relevant fabric improvements through the Warm Homes Fund.	Current	Housing and Communities	SWT	Procurement undertaken and potential properties identified. Initial surveys being undertaken.
33	Validate and improve data on EPC ratings of all Council-owned housing stock.	Current	Housing and Communities	SWT	Accelerated programme of EPC surveys being undertaken. Aiming for completion March 2022.
35	Develop an action plan for a programme of major retrofit / disposal of our Council-owned housing stock including identifying opportunities for installation of heat pumps and other low carbon heat solutions.	Current	Housing and Communities	SWT	Strategy - on target to be agreed by March 2023 with a delivery plan supported by HRA business plan. Working group set up to oversee and learn from pilots and develop the strategy. Bid made to the Government Decarbonisation Fund Oct 21, with view to delivery April 22 - Jan 23 if successful. Second bid to Decarbonisation fund Summer 22.
49	Invest in local renewable energy projects.	On Hold	Development and Place	SWT	Current market conditions mean it is unlikely that local renewable energy projects would provide the necessary return to meet CI criteria. However any potential opportunities will be reviewed and assessed as they come forward.
90	Develop proposals to place the Taunton P&R service on a long term financially sustainable footing and continue financially subsidising until it reaches that point.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	SCC have now found funding for the Park and Ride, therefore our status as stakeholder in the procurement and operation has ended. Update Oct 21. SCC have made the P&R service free for 12 months
97	Re-tender Taunton P&R bus service with appropriate clauses to move service towards alternative fuel and/or electric bus fleets.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	Service will be re-tendered in 2020. Update Feb21: See above
116	Make the trial closure of St. James Street in Taunton permanent.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	The closure of St James St has now been made permanent.

117	Trial closure of East Street and Hammet Street in Taunton.	On hold	Development and Place		<p>Update Feb 21:</p> <p>The trial closure of East St will continue throughout 2021 as social distancing is required to be maintained as the vaccination programme of Covid19 rolls out and the virus is still transmissible. During the temporary closure, SWT will undertake modelling of traffic in and around the town centre to assess if any changes are necessary to accommodate change in traffic patterns.</p> <p>Update Oct 21 SCC requested the closure of East St was removed following severe congestion issues in Taunton whilst road works were preventing normal movement of traffic around town.</p> <p>Since then, SWT have held working group sessions with town centre stakeholders to work through feedback and options for a revised scheme for East St. This will then be subject to a public consultation before coming back to Members for approval.</p>
Page 80	Develop a communications campaign to publicise and expand the Taunton "P&R Perks" Scheme which incentivises use of the P&R service by rewarding users with discounts at town centre outlets.	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	this action links in with action for a sustainable footing for P&R. Could look to expand and improve offers to encourage people into the town centre to spend money locally.
	94	Support and promote expansion of community EV car clubs such as Watchet Drives	Current	Development and Place	SWT
102	Develop a staff incentive scheme to encourage use of the P&R (and other public transport options).	Complete	Development and Place	SWT	<p>On hold during pandemic and majority of staff working from home.</p> <p>Oct 21 See update above on P&R</p>
25	Work with partners to develop communications campaign effectively engaging the general population in retrofit, what is necessary, how to go about it and where to get advice, funding and support.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	The government have launched its green home grant initiative SWT are promoting and signposting homeowners and landlords to this
24	Lobby Government to make retrofit of the existing building stock a national infrastructure priority.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	SWT committed to lobbying when opportunities arise.

39	Commission investment-grade audits of the energy and carbon performance of the Council's offices and non-residential buildings including identifying opportunities for installation of heat pumps and other low carbon heat solutions.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	<p>Audits complete for Deane House, Crematorium and Westpark Depot Oct 2021.</p> <p>Energy efficiency measures such as LED lighting have also been implemented as part of programme with SLM in leisure centres.</p> <p>Recommendations are being evaluated and funding identified.</p> <p>Phase 2 of surveys will follow in the new year.</p>
23	Expand eligibility criteria where possible to enable more people to access ECO funding towards delivering energy efficiency retrofit to their homes.	Pipeline	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Christian Trevelyan (Somerset Independence Partnership) progressing with CSE as a joint Statement of Intent for all four Somerset districts. Anticipating a draft of this imminently.
30	Enforce Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for private rented housing and work with Devon, Somerset and Torbay Trading Standards to ensure enforcement of non-domestic rentals (EPC band E by 2020, D by 2025 and C by 2030). Including appointment of a full time MEES Project Officer for an initial 12 month period.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Provisional BRE data they have estimated that there are 1732 properties in the private rented sector that fall below an EPC Band E. The breakdown is 1325 Band F and 407 Band G, though will include some exempted properties (e.g. Listed Buildings) and maximum landlords can be required to spend is £3,500 which in some cases will not be sufficient to raise above an E.
Page 81	SLM to complete roll out of LED lighting, and identify and implement further carbon reduction measures in all Council-owned leisure centres.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	<p>SLM are required to prepare an "Environmental and Energy Management Plan" to set targets for reducing CO2 emissions and projects to achieve this.</p> <p>LED lighting has been installed.</p>
	43	Council air conditioning unit inspections are up-to-date, and regular checks of refrigerant leakages are undertaken.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT
57	Develop a programme to enable aggregated purchasing of renewable energy, insulation and other energy efficiency interventions for communities, individuals and businesses at below market rates.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	No progress to date.
45	Develop evidence base to understand low carbon and renewable energy generation and energy storage potential within the district and on Council-owned assets and support publication of a local renewable energy target.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Feasibility studies have been produced for Deane House, the Wellington Depot and the Crematorium. Reviewing these with Hydrock in early October. There will be recommendations that require PFH approval.
44	Sign up to UK100 pledge to meet 100% of the district's energy demand from clean energy sources by 2050.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	No progress as yet.
63	Appoint an Energy specialist to provide in-house specialist energy related advice and work towards meeting the Council and area-wide renewable energy targets.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Currently on hold whilst we establish if there are Council wide renewable energy targets in place to justify a dedicated officer Assumed to be a K grade role at c£70k p.a including on-costs.

78	Publicly promote rollout of smart meters.	Pipeline	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Messaging promoting rollout and why they are important as part of transition to a cleaner, fairer energy system required from Comms. Target Q4 21/22
78	Work with partners to develop an EV Charging Strategy that identifies a pathway to rollout of EV charging infrastructure across Somerset (including consideration of current grid constraints and ways to circumvent/overcome them).	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	EV Charging Strategy completed
67	Lobby Government for a national decarbonisation of heat strategy.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	SWT committed to lobbying when opportunities arise.
68	Lobby Government to renew and expand incentives such as ECO and RHI as well as replacement for FiT scheme.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	SWT is committed to lobbying when opportunities arise.
77	Work with WPD to implement the DC Share project	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Currently on schedule for delivery during Q2 2022.
65	Support town and parish councils and community groups to provide advice and raise awareness in relation to energy conservation, efficiency and generation.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	SWT have been engaged with Town and Parish council in regards to a number of projects, these include the EV charge point grants, the free tree giveaways, and business case data on waterless urinals for public toilets. Marked as complete, but will be ongoing.
75	Establish a task force of public sector bodies, energy sector bodies and high energy users across the County to work collectively towards developing a Local Area Energy Plan for Somerset and identifying and driving forward opportunities for decarbonisation.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT and partners.	Proposal in place for a Somerset wide Task Force, supported by the Full Council decision. request is for £59k over 3 years. Development of a Local Area Energy Plan (building on the pilot done by Energy Systems Catapult) would explore some of the bigger issues and opportunities in more detail and potentially pick up on others.
66	Deliver training on energy conservation and efficiency to all officers and Members.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Training to be rolled out to staff March 2021 and Cllrs April 2021
79	Deliver EV charge points as part of Coal Orchard development in Taunton town centre.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	The Coal Orchard EVCPs are part of the DC Share Project on schedule for Q2 2022
80	Business case for the options to implement charging points in phases across the Council's network of car parks.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	We are progressing the installation of charge points against the EV strategy, using the public sector framework ESPO we have are purchasing our charging units through the supplier SWARCO. Phase one will be delivered Q3/Q4 2021/22
85	Enable delivery of EV charge points funded through the Council's Community Charge Point Fund.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Complete, but council is keeping the grant scheme open
99	Develop a demonstrator bus subsidy for UK Green Transport Week 2021 or another awareness week annually until any regular incentive/subsidy is in place.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT and partners.	No progress to date.

	DfT Escooter Trial	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change		EScooter trial went live in Tanton October 2020 and Minehead in June 2021 and both will run until 31st October 2022
86	Apply to the OLEV Workplace Charging Scheme and deliver EV charge points at all Council sites to enable transition of Council fleets and staff vehicles to EV.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change		We applied for OZEV funding for workplace chargers at DH and were awarded £600. We also applied for OZEV fundign for on street chargers and have been awarded £136k. Phase 1 Summer 2021, Phase 2 Q4 2021/22
137	Develop incentives for Council staff to use active travel and public transport modes for business travel.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change		Now that we have started to open up our office again this is something we can start to explore (switched from pipeline to current)
151	Lobby Government to reduce motorway and national speed limits to 50mph, and the 30mph (street lit roads) limit to 20mph.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	SWT is committed to lobbying where opportunities arise.
157	Lobby the National Infrastructure Commission to ensure that it takes account of latest climate projections for Somerset and recognises climate adaptation as a national infrastructural issue.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	SWT is committed to lobbying when opportunities arise.
89	Develop a staff incentive scheme to encourage transition of personal vehicles to EV.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	The "My Staff Shop" options exist but there are clarifications needed from HR / Payroll on different employment considerations, leavers, maternity, redundancies, terminations etc. Progress is dependant on HR/Payroll capacity
Page 83 86	Establish a Carbon Management Board within the Council to deliver and monitor progress against our corporate carbon neutrality target.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT and partners	Full Council approved that a local multii agency climate emergency task force was established to aid delivery and implementation of the Somersetwide strategy. TOR are still being negotiated between the four districts and the county council, with the hope to have an implemenation board in place soon
187	Deliver mandatory training in climate change and carbon literacy to all Council officers and Members, with periodic updates.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Training to be rolled out to staff March 2021 and Cllrs April 2021
188	Develop regular internal communication to ensure all officers and Members are aware of this action plan, progress being made against it, and what their role is in delivering on it.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Part 1 Cllrs - this will be via PFH updates and the rollout of training Part 2 Employees - CNCR plan progress updates provided to all directorates. Training will be rolled out to all employees. Internal weekly newsround up will be used to provide regular updates
	Publicise community-based recycling projects such as the Compass Centre #cashnottrash community teracycle project at least until Recycle More is rolled out in the district.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWP	Linked to Recycling on the Go project with its associated timeline. Pilot sites in operation by Q3 FY 2021/22

201	Improve data collection to establish the mass of each waste stream within the Council's corporate waste and how it is processed in order to better understand GHG emissions arising.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT and partners	Requires change of process and database of disposals to be created and kept up to date. Will feed into SWP project considering collaborative procurement of corporate waste collection services (action 203)
223	Develop a communications campaign that encourages residents and businesses to grow their own and buy local, seasonal and climate friendly food, linking healthy eating, active lifestyles and the climate emergency.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Visible action that taps into necessary behaviour changes. Requires comms input and will need to be backed up by linking residents to opportunities to do these things. Initial message could focus on links between current COVID-19 crisis and climate change to establish new normals.
222	Work with partners to establish a baseline of the emissions and land footprint of food consumption in the county and communicate the average impacts in comparison to NHS/WHO recommended diets.	Pipeline	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT and partners	Will require considerable data that is not currently held. this could be a future opportunity for a wider delivery team across a number of authorities.
232	Work with partners to establish an accurate baseline of emissions from agriculture across the district.	Pipeline	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT and partners	Will require considerable data that is not currently held. this could be a future opportunity for a wider delivery team across a number of authorities.
236	Work with partners to develop a Land Management Strategy to protect and enhance soils through more regenerative agricultural processes.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	Other	Likely that this action will be owned and progressed by the external partners (including FWAG, the NFU and Local Nature Partnership). SWT committed to supporting where required.
228	Lobby Government to develop regulation requiring carbon footprint labelling of food products along the lines of current nutrition labelling.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	SWT committed to lobbying where opportunities arise.
255	Deliver training to officers and members on the climate impacts of food consumption and the linked benefits of healthy and climate conscious eating and active lifestyles.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Training rolled out to staff March 2021 and Cllrs April 2021
250	Working with partners, co-create a Vision for the natural environment in Somerset, develop a strategy for implementing the Vision.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	Other	Action owned overall by Somerset Wildlife Trust and the Local Nature Partnership. SWT producing own supporting nature recovery vision document to cover land management etc.
256	Deliver a "free tree" giveaway project where town and parish councils can apply for a package of trees, stakes and tree protectors to deliver in their community.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Now in its second year, SWT have a scheme for parish and town councils can order free trees for national tree planting week every year
281	Support Wellington Transition Town and Wellington on Street Team groups to deliver on the tree planting plans for Wellington.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	The Council supported Wellington Transition Town through the 2020 free tree giveaway. Also contributing to tree planting on the WTT Foxes Field project.
292	Deliver the Maidenbrook Country Park, including tree planting and creation of active travel routes linking Monkton Heathfield and Nerrols.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	SWT are engaged with the parish council and looking for ways to further support the delivery of their scheme wider and more ambitious scheme. The current park is in place and is an Asset owned by SWT, and therefore the initial creation is complete.
252	Lobby Government to introduce a national ban on peat extraction.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	SWT is committed to lobbying when opportunities arise.
253	Work with partners to set out how to restore peatlands in Somerset by establishing a Peat Partnership, revitalising the Somerset Levels and Moors Peatland Task Force and working with the IUCN Peatland Programme.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	Other	Action owned overall by a sub-group of the Local Nature Partnership. Likely action requires Council to be a lead partner.

254	Work with partners to develop and deliver on an Ash Die Back Action Plan to ensure replacement of affected trees and utilisation of wood for biomass energy.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Early officer-led conversations have begun around developing a more holistic countywide action plan, but no details as yet. Council-owned trees inspected on rolling basis and currently dealt with on case-by-case basis. Any tree felled is replaced on the 3-1 basis.
261	Appoint additional Green Infrastructure Specialist to enable focus on delivery of the Nature Recovery Network Strategy and our own Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy with partners across the district.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	
303	Deliver immediate projects identified by the Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation Improvement Scheme.	Current	external Operations and Climate Change	SWT and partners	Officers continue to work with EA and partners to finalise schemes.
317	Work with partners to lobby Government to make the Somerset Rivers Authority a permanent body with a permanent annual Council Tax precept / other permanent funding.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT and partners	Requires working with the other SRA partners to lobby Government with a specific proposal. Likely to be work in build up to Unitary.
323	Work with Wessex Water and South West Water to develop a communications campaign and signpost best practice guidance relating to water conservation and awareness.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Work underway with Hydration Stations, to be expanded to cover signposting of their existing advice. To incorporate the good work we are undertaking on waterless urinals and rainwater harvesting
329	Lobby Government to deliver national support for those communities that will be disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, including strategies, funding and triggers for assisted relocation.	Pipeline	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT and partners	SWT Officers engaged with EA and the Devon and Somerset Coastal Group
	Work with the Somerset Rivers Authority to analyse sub-catchment flood-risk data across the district and develop integrated schemes for future delivery in at risk areas.	Pipeline	External Operations and Climate Change	Other	SRA have set aside £150k for a Sub-catchment analysis and Development of Integrated Schemes. Project to analyse existing flood risk data, set it against the physical geography and see what gaps there area in protection. This will then produce factsheets for high risk areas not covered by existing schemes of works, and contain suggested solutions which could be future priority areas for SRA funding.
314	Work with partners to review the North Devon and Somerset Shoreline Management Plan in line with latest climate projections.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	Other	Remains ongoing. SWT represented on North Devon and Somerset Coastal Advisory Group
316	Fully support and play an active role at both officer and Member level in partnerships including the Somerset Rivers Authority and Somerset Catchment Partnership.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	SWT are an active partner with Member and Officer representation
318	Deliver training to officers and members on projected climate impacts and specific local risks relating to flooding, sea level rise and coastal change.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Training rolled out to staff March 2021 and Cllrs April 2021

298	Lobby Government to develop grant funding for retrofitting of SUDS into existing communities.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	SWT committed to lobbying when opportunities arise.
311	Lobby Government and insurance sector to ensure that insurance is fit for purpose and provides affordable cover for those in flood risk areas and supports the use of flood mitigation measures.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	Other	Likely that this action will be owned and progressed by the external partners (including FWAG, the NFU and Local Nature Partnership).
341	Develop a communications campaign to harness the carbon reduction opportunities presented by the "new normal" created by the Coronavirus pandemic and ensure there is no rebound effect once restrictions are lifted.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	This action is particularly optimistic as there appears to be considerable pent up demand for purchasing, entertainment, and travel these are activities that are traditionally high carbon producers. SWT have put in place a number of travel oportunities that we hope will live on long after the lockdown restrictions are lifted, including E-scooters, pedestrianisation
345	Establish a Climate Service within the Council	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	The Council have created a Climate Change and Environment team, with programme and project managers
330	Work to fully cost and carbon impact model the actions set out in this action plan (and others as they are developed).	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Remains an ongoing annual action as projects are developed.
331	Request budget approval for our CNCR plan	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	CNCR budget of £500k approved at Full Council 26th October 2020
336	Produce visual aids to communicate what key and familiar locations throughout the district might look like in the future with and without action to help people visualise the risks and the solutions required as part of a carbon neutral future.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	changed from pipeline to current and allocated to a project manager October 2021
	Monitor the Council's corporate GHG emissions and delivered actions on an annual basis.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	A baseline was carried out in 2018/19 this is currently being reviewed, focusing on adressing the caveats in the first instance. No review this year as still very early for most projects.
	Monitor and review progress on delivery against this Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Action Plan on an annual basis.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Commitment to an annual review with preparation of the future years activities. CNCR plan to update Community Scrutiny annually.

332	Appoint a Grant Funding Officer to specifically focus on identifying and applying to grant funding opportunities in relation to climate action.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change		Officer started 13/09/21 15 hours per week, Mondays and Tuesdays
334	Establish a local, multi-agency Climate Emergency Task Force including the Council and various stakeholders, community and interest groups to aid collaboration and delivery.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT and partners	Proposal being worked up by the Districts and County Council for the creation of an Implementation Board.
335	Disclose the Council and the district's emissions, climate risks and mitigation/adaptation plans to CDP on an annual basis, aiming to achieve a score of A (Leadership) by 2023.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	SWT have submitted a return for 2021 in August SWT received a score of A- in 2020 SWT received a score of C in 2019
	Deliver 2 EV charge points at the Council's Deane House offices and Blackbrook Leisure Centre	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Blackbrook Live 23rd May Minehead Live 22nd July Dulverton Live 23rd July Deane House TBC
	Transition of pool car fleet to EV	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Phase 1 - purchase of 2 x EVs completed Phase 2 - followed by transition of remainder of the pool car fleet to occur during 2021/22
	Installation of Hydration Stations in key locations as determined by Wessex Water	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Agreements in place between SWT and WW. Minehead 04/10 to 13/10 Taunton 18/10 to 22/10 Wellington 25/10 to 29/10
Page 87	Rain water harvesting on council property	On hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Review underway to identify locations that are suitable for rainwater harvesting with the aim of reducing demand on fresh water from council operated properties. Early indication that payback periods may be prohibitive at present.
	Implement Recycling on the Go pilots within the District area and on behalf of Somerset Waste Partnership	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Grant funding bid was successful and the Commercial Services team were allocated funding towards the capital replacement of our bin infrastructure. Bin Audit carried out in July, the results of which showed that 34% of waste could be recycled. Plastic bottles and cans have been selected for segregation. Trial extended to whole of district.
	Committee report template to be updated to include climate impacts in executive summary, to enhance the visibility of climate change implications in recommendations for members	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	A new section on climate and sustainability implications has been added to the report template
	Promote the Terracycle free recycling programme	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	PR issued earlier in the year
55	Make an immediate switch to 100% renewable electricity tariff for Council grid supplied electricity linked to a Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGO) Certificate.	Complete	Internal Operations	SWT	The HH metered sites (large sites consuming over 100KVA) and the un-metered sites have switched over. However the standard sites could not be switched until April 2021.

181	Identify the Council's top ten most significant suppliers in terms of carbon emissions and proactively engage with them to establish a more accurate carbon footprint of the goods and services they supply and ways in which they can reduce emissions.	Current	Internal Operations	SWT	Work to identify top 10 based on a method from (Dan Lash Exeter University) in progress.
182	Adopt an interim procurement statement setting out an expectation that suppliers and their supply chains are actively working towards reducing their carbon footprint.	Complete	Internal Operations	SWT	Statement was agreed between officers in August 2019 Statement is being included in standard procurement templates.
180	Improve data collection and recording in relation to Council procurements by assigning each supplier to the relevant GHG reporting sector.	Pipeline	Internal Operations	SWT	Procurement officers aware of process undertaken for 2018/19. Need to set up process to capture this. *Top 10 identified as above will be surveyed to establish more detailed information on reporting mechanisms and GHG data.
58	Develop a local incentive scheme (e.g. Council Tax / Business Rates discount) to encourage local residents and businesses to install energy efficiency improvements, low carbon heat and renewable energy generation.	On hold	Internal Operations	SWT	This action is not being taken forward this year in view of resource constraints within the Revenues Team and the move to a single unitary council, which will require us to have common policies for this sort of scheme.
290	Develop a policy to enable all Council officers additional paid leave per year to volunteer in local climate action projects (e.g. tree planting).	On Hold	Internal Operations	SWT	11.10.21 - We have recently introduced a wellbeing day for all team members in light of the strain placed on the teams by Covid, this is a year long scheme. We can revert this to the climate day in future.
139	Develop a platform for staff to easily and securely arrange carpooling for business travel and commuting.	On Hold	Internal Operations	SWT	11.10.21 - we have conducted a number of surveys through the last 12 months that indicate our people prefer to work from home, we have taken a cautious approach to returning to the office and at the current time it is felt that such a service would be contradictory to this approach. As infections rates reduce we can seek to utilise the tools within ms365 to produce a tool.
140	Carry out a staff commuting survey on an annual basis and use this to develop and review a Green Travel Policy for the Council.	Pipeline	Internal Operations	SWT	Would be informed by an annual staff commuting survey which could only really be carried out once normalcy resumes.
147	Continue to improve the Council's digital conferencing facilities and wider digital transformation to reduce the need for staff, customers, Members and partners to travel, and seek to retain positive behaviour shifts achieved during COVID-19 lockdown.	Complete	Internal Operations	SWT	All staff and member technology enabled to support working from home and attend meetings remotely.
282	Produce and communicate a list of potential woodland creation grants for 2020, and forward plan bids where possible.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	This work is ongoing, and runs alongside tree planting project. Council's new bid writer post will manage this.

257	Investigate and deliver tree planting, hedgerow creation and other relevant projects on appropriate Council owned land holdings in line with the Nature Recovery Network and our own district Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	<p>Council provided funding for Friends Groups Hedges for Edges project.</p> <p>Circa 700 trees planted on Council land over past 2 winters.</p> <p>Following on from pilot work, SWT has engaged consultants to identify areas on Council land for meadow creation, beginning Spring 2022.</p> <p>£100k identified in 21/22 budget to fund larger woodland creation projects. Plans for this currently being developed with partners, but land is limited. A joint EOI with SWT, ENPA, AONBs and others to the Trees for Action fund to develop a 'Somerset Forest' has been submitted.</p> <p>SWT is member of Nature Recovery Network and will contribute to other projects as they come forward from this.</p>
251	Develop a communications campaign to tell people about what the Council and partners are doing around the natural environment and how they can get involved through volunteering, attending skills and learning events and experience days.	Pipeline	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Will involve listing out all forthcoming actions and timescales from this action plan and more detailed, specific projects and planning out general and targeted comms relating to those projects to publicise our efforts and get people involved. Concentrate on developing campaign so ready to hit the ground as projects deliver.
Page 89	Work with SLM (Everyone Active) to install combined heat and power (CHP) units at Blackbrook and Wellington Leisure Centres.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	SLM priced installation of CHP in both leisure centres at cost of £28k each. Project was on hold due to Centre closures during Covid, but can be pursued again.
	Work with SLM (Everyone Active) to replace air conditioning units at Blackbrook Leisure Centre fitness facilities and air handling units at Wellington Leisure Centre.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Air con units complete and the handling unit is currently being procured by SWT
82	Set in place improved data collection in relation to fuel usage and mileage travelled by the Council's vehicle fleet.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Mileage will be recorded through fuel cards. Installation of new sat tracking systems in all vehicles will assist with identifying driver habits. New trackers order and awaiting installation
84	Conduct a Council vehicle fleet review using support provided by the Energy Saving Trust.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Requires engagement with EST on free review they offer on this. Should prioritise initial engagement with them to get ball rolling. Note, likely some overlap with DC Share project within which we have committed to transition of our fleet
0	Cleansing and maintenance of cycle routes	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Re-prioritising request has been made and is being supported
192	Work with Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) to identify and engage with businesses utilising circular economy principles and seek to support and communicate best practice.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	Other	Carbon reduction is included in SWP business plan

219	Support and promote SWP campaigns and initiatives to increase waste reduction, reuse and recycling including the 'Slim My Waste, Feed My Face' campaign.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Campaigns were rolled out in Taunton current SWP 22/23 business plan	WS paused due to Covid. Not in current SWP 22/23 business plan
198	Work with our street cleansing service provider to ensure that as much waste from public litter is recycled as possible.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Recycling on the Go project is in progress and the remainder of all waste goes to energy from waste with zero percentage going to landfill	
285	investigate and deliver major urban tree planting schemes on appropriate Council-owned land.	Current	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	£100k identified in 21/22 budget to fund larger woodland creation projects to be delivered in 22/23. Plans for this currently being developed with partners, but land is limited.	
266	Set a corporate policy requiring replacement of any tree that is removed on Council land or as part of a Council development with a minimum of three new saplings and encourage other organisations to adopt similar standards.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Corporate policy was adopted and implemented.	
272	Develop communications campaign to explain the Council's new approach to managing open spaces.	Pipeline	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	QR code signage with link explaining new principles featured in open spaces during 2021. Design principles to be formally adopted in 2022/23	
276	Deliver and monitor five Wildflower Meadow Pilots on Council-owned land at Grange Drive, Leycroft Grove and Moorfields (Taunton); Gay Street; and at Seaward Way, and Culvercliffe (Minehead).	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	60kg of wild seeds sown in open spaces including Seaward Way, Culvercliffe, Grange Drive, Leycroft Grove...	
	Promote external tree planting funding opportunities such as the Woodland Trust's "Free trees for schools and communities" project to our communities.	Complete	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Potential funding opportunities have been communicated to Friends Groups and public via social media. Complete, but will be ongoing.	
271	Begin delivering on open space management plans prepared by Somerset Wildlife Trust for Council-owned open spaces at French Weir, Glasses Mead, Silk Mills P&R, Vivary, Blackbrook, Children's Wood, Hamilton Gault, Killam's, Wedlands, Weirfield, Wellsprings, Galmington.	Pipeline	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Principles of management plans now being followed. Further work where required will follow adoption of design principles.	
274	Develop an information pack, standard agreement and communications campaign for community groups and parish councils who wish to manage Council-owned open spaces.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Has been previously considered but no decision yet has been taken	
276	Increase capacity of Council nurseries to grow our own trees, starting with a pilot growing 2,000 whips at our Stoke Road nursery.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Review of Nursery completed. Could be incorporated into business plan. Likely to be incorporated as part of wider woodland creation projects.	
275	Establish mechanism to monitor impacts of changing open space management, trees planted etc.	On Hold	External Operations and Climate Change	SWT	Awaiting adoption of design principles. Some Friends Groups trialling PlantLife app.	

Full Council Meeting – 7 December 2021

Report of Councillor Dixie Darch – Climate Change

Overview

Jonathan Stevens, previously the Open Spaces manager has taken over the role of Assistant Director with a responsibility for Climate Change following Chris Hall's move to Director of Development and Place.

In the light of the unitary decision to go for One Somerset, we are reviewing the CNCR plan to identify priority actions we can deliver in the time left. Many of the existing CNCR actions are long term and involve the support of County or central government. We will retain these within the plan, but they will be carried over to the Unitary council.

EV charge points

The Instavolt charge points at Deane House went live on 11 November. These 50kw charge points are available 24/7 and are in addition to the previously installed chargers at Blackbrook Leisure Centre in Taunton, Alexandra Road in Minehead and Exmoor House car park in Dulverton. Between July and October these chargers have been used a total 1504 times.

Our successful OZEV bid means we have received £136,000 to offset the installation of our SWARCO charge points, in car parks across the district. SWARCO are currently finalising installation dates with Western Power. Groundwork and installation for the charge points at Belvedere Road car park is underway.

Escooter trial

The Escooter trial continues to be successful in both Taunton and Minehead.

Taunton Weekly Insights

14/11/2021 – 21/11/2021

	This Week	Last week	Cumulative
Total Number of rides	1,397	1,285	63,344
Total distance travelled	2,189 miles	1,853 miles	137,437 miles
Average trip length	1.57 miles	1.44 miles	2.45 miles
Average trip duration	0:12:55	0:13:15	0:16:56
Average Speed	7.27 mph	6.53 mph	8.68 mph
Total time spent on scooters	300 hours	283 hours	17876 hours
New users	84	150	10,120

Minehead Weekly Insights

15/11/2021 - 21/11/2021

This week:

	This Week	Last week	Cumulative
Total Number of rides	160	214	13,418
Total distance travelled	219 miles	278 miles	22,591 miles
Average trip length	1.37 miles	1.3 miles	1.84 miles
Average trip duration	0:10:35	0:07:55	0:16:55
Average Speed	7.74 mph	9.83 mph	6.52 mph
Total time spent on scooters	28 hours	28 hours	3783 hours
New users	43	72	5,060

Free trees for parishes and unparished area

This year 22 parish councils took advantage of our free tree give away, where communities were offered up to £50 worth of trees for community planting. As a result, we have successfully funded 156 trees which will be planted for National Tree Week, 27th November to 5th December 2021.

Queen's Green Canopy Project

A review has been carried out by our Planning, Open Spaces and Climate Team on potential sites for the Queen's Green Canopy Project with sites selected in Taunton, Wellington and Minehead. In Taunton the most suitable site identified was Upper Holway open space. The proposal is to plant 85 trees in 5 separate clusters to include an area with conifers and a fruit orchard. There is scope to extend planting in the future and maintenance and information boards have been included in the budget. In Minehead a site has been selected at Culvercliffe, a large section of land that is the start of the coastal walk at the end of the harbour. There are currently a few trees there and these will be extended to create an avenue of 105 trees.

In Wellington we are collaborating with Wellington Transition Town and contributing to their plans for planting at Foxes Field. They will plant and maintain the trees as a community initiative.

This winter there will also be 450 trees planted in in our open spaces, some of which are replacing the 50 trees felled, as part of the 3 for 1 strategy.

Water Refill stations

Free water refill stations have been installed in Minehead (Warren Road) and Taunton (outside Clarke's shoe shop in High Street) as a collaborative initiative with Wessex Water and Somerset County Council. This is part of the *Refill not Landfill, Say No to Plastic* campaign. Wellington (outside the post office in High Street) will be installed in the New Year. All three stations must undergo rigorous drinking water compliance tests before being made available for the public. The station at Minehead is now live for public use.

Climate Change Partnership with Sedgemoor District Council.

The first member-led Consultation Panel meeting of this partnership was held on 25 October. The group will serve as non-decision-making panel and sounding board which can make recommendations to the Portfolio Holders of both councils. Cllr

Sarah Wakefield and Cllr Dave Mansell are serving as SWT's representatives. This partnership has enabled us to extend the team working on climate change actions, including a Project Manager for our Ecological Strategy/Action Plan, part funded by Sedgemoor and other Project Manager posts fully funded by Sedgemoor. Both councils will retain their sovereignty.

Implementation Board

The first meeting of the Climate Strategy Implementation Board (CSIB) is on 23 November. This is the county-wide strategy involving all five Somerset councils.

Waterless Urinals

Following the successful roll out of waterless urinals in our SWT owned public toilets, we offered all parish and town councils which have previously taken over the maintenance of public toilets in their areas, the opportunity of funding towards the installation of waterless urinals, as requested at Scrutiny earlier in the year. Following site visits to identify suitable locations where retrofit might be possible, we have been unable to convert any further facilities at this time.

Recycling on the Go

Working with our colleagues in Commercial Services and the Somerset Waste Partnership, we are rolling out segregated bins to encourage the recycling of more waste. As part of this project, we commissioned a waste audit on a selection of bins in Taunton, Minehead and Dulverton, the results of which showed that 34% of waste in those bins could have been recycled. The new bins will have segregation for general waste, plastic bottles, and cans. To support the rollout of these bins we have invited all SWT secondary schools to take part in a poster competition, to design a promotional poster promoting the new bins and encourage their proper use.

Link to the Support Services for Education webpage - [Recycling on the go – poster competition! | Support Services for Education](#)

