

## Appendix 2

Corporate Priority Area	Ref	Annual Plan Commitments 2020/21 <a href="https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/your-council/annual-plan/">https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/your-council/annual-plan/</a>	Owner	Directorate	30 September progress update	RAG
Our environment and economy	1	The Council is acutely aware of the need to invest in our local economy to help it recover from Covid 19. There are a number of initiatives in train and none more significant than <b>Firepool</b> . We are working on a business case that will guarantee the delivery of a regenerated Firepool and within an accelerated period.	Joe Wharton	Development & Place	We have published two reports for Full Council approval which are due for a decision at a Special Full Council on 3rd November. These approvals, which include the formation of a dedicated delivery company to focus on construction works at Firepool and other key regeneration sites in the district, are developments of earlier Firepool papers and members briefings, following the direction of travel as reported to members throughout the year. If approved, the key infrastructure works can begin in earnest in Q1 2021, along with the residential development on Block 1 (Firepool South)	Green
	2	We will approve a <b>Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Action Plan</b> for the District and progress further actions that reduce the Council's and the District's carbon footprint, supports biodiversity and increases resilience to more extreme weather events;	Graeme Thompson	Development & Place	We have drafted and published a Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience (CNCR) Action Plan for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee. The CNCR Action Plan identifies a proposed one-year action plan together with route maps for longer term action, and the role that we will need to play in delivery.  Our CNCR Action Plan and the Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy are due to be considered by the Scrutiny Committee 14 October, Executive Committee on 20 October, and Full Council at a special meeting on the 26 October	Green
	3	Using funding from our successful <b>Warmer Homes Fund</b> bid, we will commence installing improved heating systems and energy efficiency measures within 175 SWT council owned homes as well as provide advice, support and access to funding for Private Sector Households to	Ian Candlish	Housing & Community	This project was delayed by all capital programmes being placed on hold during the Covid lockdown period. However, procurement has now been undertaken and the initial phase of this two year programme is due to commence shortly.	Green
	4	We will commence a pilot <b>to create wild meadows</b> initially on Council owned land in Taunton, Minehead and Wellington. Sowing will take place in late Autumn 2020.	Jonathan Stevens	External Operations	Areas identified and seed purchased. Work being scheduled for Autumn.	Green
	5	Building on the extensive work that took place during 2019/20, we will produce <b>a draft Local Plan to 2040</b> , undertake consultation before submitting the final Plan to the Secretary of State for consideration	Laura Higgins	Development & Place	The timetable of the Local Plan has been affected by the pandemic and so further evidence gathering and the Reg 19 Draft Plan stage planned for Summer 2020 has been delayed.  Furthermore, the Government's Planning Reform proposals and change to the calculation of housing need will impact upon the content and scope of the Local Plan so we need to review what this means for our Local Plan.  Additionally, the timetable is likely to be affected by the outcome of the unitary proposals. Whichever scenario emerges, a Local Plan would need to be produced to cover the whole of the new Local Planning Authority area. The background work and consultation so far on the Local Plan 2040 will still be of relevance to any new Local Plan for a unitary authority.	Amber
	6	We will approach completion of our regeneration project at <b>Coal Orchard</b> , Taunton;	Joe Wharton	Development & Place	Following the slowdown of site works due to Covid19 restrictions and the effect on supply chain, the site is now back up and running to maximum capacity given new regulations. The programme has been revised to allow for these unprecedented issues, and is due for completion in May 2021.	Green
	7	We will jointly commission, and complete, a Strategic Outline Business Case for the re-opening of <b>Wellington Railway Station</b> .	Sarah Povall	Development & Place	The brief for the SOBC is complete. SWT and Mid Devon District Council have jointly commissioned WSP to undertake this work, which is running to schedule and due to be complete by December 2020.	Green
	8	We will undertake works that provide a long term solution for the integrity of the <b>harbour wall in Watchet</b> , that enables it to meet the challenges of rising tidal levels in the future.	Chris Hall	External Operations	Work started early October. 12 week programme. On target.	Green
	9	We will deliver against the Economic Development Strategy including the completion of a feasibility study for an <b>innovation centre</b> in the District	Mark Wathen	Development & Place	The economic development strategy was formally approved by Full Council in February 2020 and published on our website in March. The initial action plan has morphed into part of the SWT recovery plan as well as being aligned to and integrated within the Somerset Recovery Plan due to be finalised in November 2020. On the Digital Innovation Centre to be sited on Firepool, two business cases for funding have been submitted. One is for £5.5m of LEP Get Britain Building Fund, earmarked for a 3000m2 Digital Innovation Centre to be built out by January 2022 as well as the other European Regional Development Funding of £1.6m ask from MHDCLG. This is matched by significant capital contributions from County and joint revenue funding from both County and SWT. The only reason for being Amber is that we need final confirmation from the LEP and MHDCLG about securing the funding, which is expected in November 2020.	Amber

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A Transparent and Customer Focused Council	10	Building on improvements introduced during 2019/20, to our <b>housing repairs service</b> , we will be focussing on offering our tenants a time and date for their repair, during the tenants first call with us; same day or a later date at the tenant's convenience and on improving the proportion of repairs which take place on the same day in which they were requested.	Ian Candlish	Housing & Community	This project was delayed by a focus being prioritised on delivering emergency only repairs during the Covid lockdown period. However, the required IT and scheduling processes are now being put into place and we will be implementing improvements to the service during the remainder of the financial year.	Green
	11	We will improve how we engage with our residents, businesses and tenants by <b>modernising our communications approach</b> .	Becky Howat	Housing & Community	We use social media platforms to update tenants including some for specific projects such as the North Taunton Woolaway Project. The tenants newsletter has been revived with the first issue circulated in September. Information is regularly updated on the Coronavirus drop down and the housing pages of our website. Press releases are issued for newsworthy items. We have recently begun engagement around the Canonsgrove project with the community in Trull.	Green
	12	We will undertake elections to the <b>Tenants Strategic Board</b> and enable this group with Mod.gov technology to better support them to fulfil their role.	Shari Hallett	Housing & Community	A timeline for the election of tenant representatives has been established. Elected tenant representatives will be appointed by end of March 2021 ready to start in April 2021. Meetings of the existing Tenant Strategic Group representatives are already taking place online.	Green
	13	We will continue to <b>review our processes</b> in order to improve the customer experience, including making more of our services available online for those who can and wish to transact in this way.	Jason Sykes?	Internal Operations	Below is a list of new forms published since April.  COVID 19 Related <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Business &amp; Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grant Scheme</li> <li>• Discretionary Business Grant Scheme</li> <li>• Community Chest Grant</li> <li>• Coronavirus Support Requests</li> <li>• Test and Trace Support Payments</li> </ul> Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pavement Licence Application</li> <li>• Bin Report</li> <li>• Dead Animal Report</li> <li>• Litter and Drug Debris</li> <li>• Public Toilet Report</li> <li>• Rural Rate Relief</li> <li>• Retail Discount</li> <li>• Small Business Rate Relief</li> <li>• Licensing Application</li> <li>• Complaint about a licensed person, vehicle or premises</li> <li>• Book an appointment</li> </ul> Process Improved for Customers (Not Firmstep Related) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accepting card and electronic payments for Moorings and Slipways</li> </ul>	Green
	14	We will introduce a <b>Member Equality Group</b> to be ambassadors for those within our communities who may be at heightened risk of discrimination, to ensure their voices are consistently given prominence in all that the Council does.	Paul Harding	Internal Operations	On the 7th September, the Audit, Governance & Standards committee approved a recommendation for the creation of a joint Member and Officer Equalities group as a mechanism for providing additional focus on equalities matters both internally and externally. The group will meet for the first time on 14th October 2020.	Green
	15	We want you to be able to <b>follow and take part in the democratic decisions</b> that affect you in SWT. We understand that not everyone is able to attend council meetings in person, which is why we will continue broadcasting key meetings on our website so that you can	Amy Tregellas	Internal Operations	Council meetings are being live-streamed on Zoom and have been throughout lockdown and since.	Green

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Homes and Communities	16	We will complete 8 new units of <b>social housing in Laxton Road, Taunton;</b>	Chris Brown	Housing & Community	Laxton Road is on schedule to be complete december 2020	Green
	17	We will build at least <b>6 new modular and energy efficient homes for social rent;</b>	Chris Brown	Housing & Community	The service is progressing the zero carbon affordable homes pilot which was approved by Members in July 2020. The first phase of zero carbon homes will be delivered September 2021 through to February 2022 which show homes being opened throughout this period.	Green
	18	We will commence the <b>construction of 47 good quality, energy efficient homes</b> as part of phase A of the North Taunton regeneration project;	Michelle Hall	Housing & Community	Good progress is being made. The demolition of all Phase A properties is now complete and our main construction contractor Engie are working towards a start on site in early 2021. They will be undertaking preparatory works in the lead up this this. We continue to engage with residents, stakeholders, councillors and SWT employees.	Green
	19	We will increase the number of <b>homelessness preventions</b> within our area,	Sarah Richards	Housing & Community	In order to increase the number of homeless prevention cases in our area we are adapting how cases are assessed by the Housing Options Service by introducing a robust prevention focussed triage system which identifies opportunities for early intervention in order to prevent homelessness. We can now refer cases to our Tenancy Sustainment Team who works with landlords and tenants to help preserve existing tenancies which are at risk and our Private Rented Sector Team who works with landlords and letting agents to source suitable and sustainable properties for homeless households. This prevention focussed approach will reduce the use temporary accommodation. We are currently recruiting into vacant posts which we have refocused to provide more focus on prevention.	Green
	20	We will work with partners to put in place a stronger , more joined-up <b>process for rough sleepers</b> in our area.	Mark Leeman	Housing & Community	This is being tackled at strategic, tactical and operational levels. Strategically, the Health and Wellbeing Board have (Sept' 20) adopted 'Improving Health and Care through the Home in Somerset'. This is a 'duty to cooperate' among health, care and housing providers. To support this, the HWBB have also agreed to establish a Somerset Homelessness Reduction Board, to be 'stood up' in early 2021, which will oversee all strategic commissioning relating to RS/complex homeless. To complement this, we continue to work with the LGA/ARK consultants on the 'Better Futures for Vulnerable People in Somerset' programme. Tactically, SWT housing options service is currently reviewing demand and need around RS, with a view to developing a RS accommodation strategy, that will inform local commissioning arrangements (including the relationship with support services). Operationally, we continue to work with the YMCA, Arc, and Open Door (plus others) where we are seeking wrap-around support through the Homelessness Cell with some degree of success	Green
	21	We will continue to work with developers to facilitate the provision of <b>additional Affordable Homes;</b>	Chris Brown	Housing & Community	The pipeline of schemes remains strong with around 70 schemes in or approaching planning. There remains a challenge in securing sufficient affordable homes to meet the councils affordable housing target. The main challenge is scheme viability which often results in a lower affordable housing contribution from the private developers. The ten affordable housing providers who form SWTs affordable housing partnership continue to work closely with the council on s106 purchases and their own new build programmes.	Amber
	22	We will <b>review our voluntary and community grants</b> in order that they deliver value for our communities and align to the Council's priorities;	Scott Weetch	Housing & Community	A review has been undertaken and will go through the committee cycle in the coming weeks to be finalised at Full Council in February 2021	Green
	23	We will identify, and deliver, a solution that improves <b>CCTV equipment and monitoring arrangements for Watchet and Minehead;</b>	Scott Weetch	Housing & Community	Existing equipment has been repaired and become operational again. We are working with partners to find the best solution for the long term which will look at integration with the rest of the CCTV suite.	Green
	24	We will implement a <b>Public Space Protection Order</b> in order to help fight against anti-social behaviour in Taunton.	Jeremy Davis	Housing & Community	The PSPO consultation was suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions need to be had with the portfolio holder and the police to discuss the future proposals of the PSPO so as to take in to account of changes that have brought about due to COVID-19 legislation that has since been put in place by central government.	Amber

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An Enterprising Council	25	We will continue the programme of <b>acquiring income generating property assets</b> which will also help support the funding of service delivery to our communities;	Andrew Low	Development & Place	Acquisitions are in line with programme targets.	Green
	26	We will commence <b>collaboration with the Somerset District Councils to deliver a more efficient, sustainable, but locally accountable, system of local Government</b> in the county that will work better for our communities;	Martha Dudman	Development & Place	Somerset West & Taunton Council, Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council and South Somerset District Council have together launched Stronger Somerset – an ambitious strategy to reform local government in Somerset. A prospectus has been created to better deliver for people, places and productivity across Somerset. Leaders of the District Councils.  We have written a joint letter to the Secretary of State for Local Government, Robert Jenrick, to update him on our plans for a Stronger Somerset. We also included our outline Business Case which lays out our vision for a fresh start for our county, from adult care and children's services to a new relationship with towns and parishes.	Green
	27	We will <b>let further empty space within our offices at Taunton and Williton</b> , making better use of public resources and delivering extra income to the Council;	Sally Stark	External Operations	We have agreed terms for the letting of the majority of the ground floor Deane House to the MoJ/National Probation Service and solicitors are instructed. Our agents continue to market the 'War Room' and the 2nd floor space. We have agreed terms and completed a lease of part of the ground floor at West Somerset House to Avon & Somerset Police who are fitting out. Further marketing is on hold due to temporary building closure.	Green
	28	We will <b>review our land and property assets</b> to identify further opportunities to better support the achievement of the council's objectives (including service delivery, regeneration projects and community initiatives).	Darren Stone	Housing & Community	We have commenced a review of our land and property assets and are working with colleagues in the Development and Place Directorate wherever potential regeneration or community initiatives are identified.	Green