

North Somerset Climate Emergency Strategic Action Plan – Progress October 2020

Our commitment: North Somerset aims to be a carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral area by 2030

Impact

H: high
M: medium
L: low
TBC: to be confirmed

Note, these are estimates subject to further work

Deliverability

GREEN: delivery is unlikely to pose any challenges or difficulties/ additional financial costs will be minimal
AMBER: delivery will pose some challenges or difficulties/there is likely to be an additional financial cost
RED: delivery will pose significant challenges or difficulties/there is likely to be a significant financial cost

Action	Method	Influence	Impact	Other benefits	Deliverability	Progress – October 2020
Become a Net Zero Carbon Council						
Take a leadership role across the area to encourage, support and enable others to reduce their carbon emissions	All	An area we directly control	H			NSC began a programme of Carbon Literacy in October 2020 and in December was awarded the Carbon Literacy Bronze Award. This aims to increase awareness across the council of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities and give employees the ability and motivation to reduce emissions. Annual Team Plans now include Climate Emergency actions. Team leaders are urged to nominate a representative from to attend training and feedback how teams can contribute to helping NSC achieve aims of a carbon neutral council and a carbon neutral area by 2030.
Appoint a Climate Emergency Project Manager to oversee the CE Strategy delivery and Action Plan implementation	All	An area we directly control	H			Project Manager appointed February 2020
Ensure a programme of robust reporting on progress internally and externally (data dashboard)	All	An area we directly control	M			Emissions reporting systems established. System for reporting individual progress action and indicators still required.
Assess all major council projects for their impacts on carbon emissions	All	An area we directly control	M			Current WECA project to produce a Carbon assessment tool is due to be delivered in 2021.
'Carbon proof' all future strategies and policies and ensure mitigations	All	An area we directly control	H			The Climate Emergency features prominently in all strategy development.
Continuous development of the Council's sustainable procurement policies and practices	All	An area we directly control	L			Sustainable procurement policies and practices under review
Support flexible working and home working to reduce the carbon footprint of our workforce	Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Productivity gains Public health outcomes		Home working policy updated Autumn 2020. Large percentage of the workforce currently working from home. Emerging Asset and Accommodation strategy reviewing future working patterns. Home energy volunteer group in place to review changes to home energy consumption. Guidance given in internal newsletter on domestic energy conservation. Accommodation strategy to develop employee support strategies.

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Continue to provide/promote schemes such as 'cycle to work' and 'Travelwest challenge' to encourage sustainable transport choices by our workforce	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can directly control or can influence through our contracts or through funding/support/policy	M	Air quality improvements Public health outcomes		Cycle to work limit increased to £2,500 to enable purchase of electric bikes. Approval to move forward with EV salary sacrifice scheme given in November 2020.
Calculate and then rapidly reduce the council's use of single-use plastic	Reduction	An area we directly control	L	Reduced waste		Work put on hold while low percentage of workforce in office.
Ensure all the council's electricity supply is provided by 100% renewably generated sources	Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Supports investment in technology		Mostly complete - all areas where council pays for electricity is provided by 100% renewables. Completely outsourced/outside managed we don't have sight of but will encourage through contracts and discussion.
Review our estate to investigate means of increasing energy efficiency to heating, lighting and cooling systems	Reduction	An area we directly control	H	Capital investment in estate Lower energy costs		List of 35 buildings agreed to receive energy efficiency audits. In addition, new Government decarbonisation fund and Low Carbon Skills Fund recently announced and assessment underway for feasibility.
Investigate the business case for acquiring or funding renewable energy installations in North Somerset	Avoidance	An area we directly control	H	Supports investment in technology Security of own supply		Initial feasibility of rooftop solar in council buildings assessed. Further business case not yet developed.
Replace streetlighting with low energy LED units	Reduction	An area we directly control	H	More resilient infrastructure Lower energy costs		65% complete. Energy consumption for streetlighting decreased by 31% in September 2020, compared to September 2019.
Renew our ageing fleet with fully electric vehicles and charging facilities	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can directly control or can influence through our contracts or through funding/support/policy	M	Supports investment in technology Air quality improvements		Currently, of a fleet of 95 vehicles, 33 are EVs. A further 30 of our fleet vehicles will be replaced with EVs/PHEVs by early 2021. A review of vehicle requirements will also commence shortly.
Work with our contractors and service providers to support them in reducing their carbon footprint, take advantage of renewable energy sources, consider an electric fleet, and reduce their use of single-use plastic	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	H	Supports investment in technology		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2020, NSC and Alliance Homes signed a partnership agreement which featured an objective working together to 'Support the achievement of carbon neutrality in North Somerset by 2030 and reduce fuel poverty.. In October, the Partnership Board met with a focus on climate emergency actions and understanding the scale of the task. Alliance Homes are currently undertaking an asset management review of their ~6,000 homes in North Somerset. In September, discussions with representatives of town and parish councils who have climate emergency interests started. This group is now planning to meet every 6-8 weeks for themed meetings to support each other with progressing climate actions. Skanska have a decarbonisation plan in place and are currently review this in line with the North Somerset contract.

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An energy efficient built environment						
Aim for all our new homes to be zero carbon or net carbon plus	Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Air quality improvements Reduced carbon		Creating Sustainable Buildings and Paces SPD currently under review. Proposals outlined in the Future Homes Standard and Government planning white paper may reduce the amount of control Local Authorities can have on new homes.
Aim for all our own new commercial space to be zero carbon or net carbon plus	Avoidance	An area we directly control	M	Lower energy costs for occupants		
Where possible, specify precision manufactured buildings for homes, community and commercial space	Avoidance Mitigation	An area we directly control	H	Reduced wastage Less time on site Drives new skills		North Somerset Council's Executive has approved a recommendation to appoint Keepmoat Homes to deliver 425 new high-quality homes on its land at Parklands Village in Weston-super-Mare, including 15 per cent zero carbon homes.
Aim to focus new mixed-use development on brownfield land, in town centres with public transport and proximity to major employment hubs	Avoidance Reduction Mitigation	An area we can directly control or can influence locally and nationally	H	Critical mass for transport and community infrastructure Protect habitats Affordable housing		The Local Plan 2038 is currently in development. The first document, outlining the 'Challenges for the Future' was consulted on in Summer 2020. The responses highlighted public concerns over climate change. This has been taken forward into the 'Choices for the Future' consultation, which will take place in Autumn 2020. The Choices document outlines four spatial approaches to delivering housing to 2038. Responding to the climate emergency and developing in sustainable locations are key strategic priorities, alongside prioritising brownfield development in existing town centres.
New Item Take opportunities to retrofit and/or improve the home energy efficiency of existing buildings.	Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	M	Public health outcomes Supports investment in technology Supports green skills/jobs		In December 2020, NSC submitted a joint bid with Bristol City Council as lead to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) £200m Green Homes Grant. If successful, the work to improve the energy efficiency of 100 homes in North Somerset will be delivered between April and September 2021. Alliance Homes have joined the bid and they plan to target oil fired homes also provide external wall insulation. The proposal is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 park home full retrofit improvements • 50 social housing (Alliance Homes) combination EWI, renewables • 25 private sector dwellings identified through existing warm homes project
New Item Support, encourage and enable homeowners and businesses to improve energy efficiency of existing buildings.	Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	M	Public health outcomes Supports investment in technology Supports green skills/jobs		North Somerset Council have expanded the range of loan assistance available to include lending money to homeowners or landlords to make homes more energy efficient or install low carbon technologies. The new Home Energy and Renewable Loan for up to £8000 (4% fixed/Typical 4.2% APR) can be used for the installation of renewable and low carbon technology measures and improvement of insulation in domestic properties.

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						In addition, all homeowners will be given a £250 incentive payment, to use for the purchase of A++ rated kitchen appliances or used to reduce their Council Tax liability for the year the improvements are carried out. The loan can be used in conjunction with a voucher from the Governments Green Homes Scheme to fund the householders required contribution for works.
Work with schools and other stakeholders to ensure their estate is energy efficient and install renewable energy sources	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	H	Supports investment in technology Security of own supply		Energy efficiency scheme to be offered to schools. To be funded through 0% Salix Loans, or Government decarbonisation grants where appropriate.
Develop planning policy to actively support community led housing, self-build and custom build housing and consider use of council land to enable this	Reduction	An area we can directly control or can influence locally and nationally	L	Diversify housing delivery models		
Replenish our carbon stores						
Develop and implement our Green Infrastructure Strategy	Mitigation Storage	An area we can directly control	M	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		In development
Identify Council land suitable for rewilding with aim of reducing amenity grass by 20%	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	H	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		5,000 trees planted during spring 2020. Success rate has been reviewed and at most locations is around 70/80%. Select few locations have a much higher success rate. 20,000 trees to be planted winter 2020/21.
Identify landscape scale tree planting opportunities to deliver nature recovery networks especially woodland creation and linking woodlands	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	H	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		Within GI Strategy
Identify Council land suitable for changing grass cutting regime to encourage biodiversity	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	M	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		Sites for tall grass on council land have been identified and established during 2020. Areas will be increased over the coming two summers
Encourage and support our residents to create wildflower gardens through schemes such as the 'Blue Heart'	Mitigation Storage	An area we directly control	M	Public health outcomes Ecological diversity		Using the blue heart campaign as part of the rewilding project. Areas of tall grass will be assessed for viability to increase wildflower
Adapting to climate change						
Ask Government to rapidly review the impacts which achieving net-zero will have across society and put in place effective measures to ensure that we have a fair transition to a net-zero country where the most vulnerable groups are supported	Adaption	An area we can ask for help nationally	N/A			Council response to the Government's proposed Future Homes Standard highlighted the urgency of zero carbon homes policies.
Ensure a resilient infrastructure in North Somerset including retrofitting our built environment where necessary	Adaption	An area we directly control	N/A			Creating Sustainable Buildings and Paces SPD currently under review – includes new section on adapting to climate change.
Ensure that work around our flood defences considers climate change and any local and regional effects	Adaption	An area we directly control	N/A			Summer Lane flood defence work underway.

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Ensure North Somerset's Emergency Management Plan is robust and resourced	Adaption	An area we directly control	N/A			
Renewable energy generation						
Explore the development of strategy that discourages investment in fossil fuels and promotes renewable energy generation	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control	H	Investment in new technology Public engagement		Assessment of potential for renewable energy generation across North Somerset currently underway. This will inform Local Plan development. Potential locations for renewable generation included in Local Plan call for sites.
Pass a motion declaring North Somerset a Frack Free Zone to discourage the exploration and production of shale gas	Avoidance	An area we directly control	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement		
Encourage our partners and stakeholders to procure electricity supply from 100% renewably generated sources	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through our contracts or through funding/support	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement		
Encourage our residents to consider 100% renewable energy and support access to grant funding where possible	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through support	M	Investment in new technology Public engagement		Updated NSC Climate Emergency webpage and NS Life articles encourage 100% renewables. The new Home Energy and Renewable Loan for up to £8000 (4% fixed/Typical 4.2% APR) can be used for the installation of renewable and low carbon technology measures and improvement of insulation in domestic properties. Plan to join WECA Solar Together scheme in Autumn 2021 – bulk buying scheme which allows residents to purchase PV installations at a reduced rate.
Reduce emissions from transport						
Continue to drive project delivery to shift from private car use	Avoidance	An area we can influence or ask for help locally/nationally	H	Air quality improvements Access to employment Opportunities for investment		Active travel strategy has been developed – public consultation to run from 2nd November to 14 December. JLTP4 contains guidance and projects to reduce car usage, JLTP5 will further bolster guidance & projects
Develop policies that actively encourage the demand for and delivery of connected public transport	Reduction	An area we can influence or ask for help locally/nationally	M	Public health outcomes Ease congestion Air quality improvements		JLTP5 and the new Local Plan are likely to identify further public transport projects including Mobility as a Service
Develop and secure funding for projects to grow the walking and cycling network across the district	Avoidance	An area we can influence or ask for help locally/nationally	M	Public health outcomes Ease congestion Air quality improvements		DfT Emergency Active Travel funds secured – temporary and permanent schemes. All transport projects are to include cycling and walking infrastructure within their business cases wherever possible.
Implement our project to deliver an electric charging hub in Portishead	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Air quality improvements Investment in new technology		Portishead Marina Electric Vehicle Charging Hub which is due to open in December. Other charging points are also planned in key locations, with the first in Kewstoke.

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Require all schools to deliver travel plans which maximise the number of students walking, cycling or travelling sustainably to school.	Reduction Mitigation	An area we can influence or ask for help and support locally	M	Air quality improvements Public health outcomes Public engagement		Work beginning on Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy (SMOTS) for secondary schools. Strategy will audit current travel data and infrastructure and highlight what can be done to reduce reliance on school buses and cars.
Consider reviewing parking planning guidance note to set maximum parking levels and reduce the number of spaces delivered for new development.	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Air quality improvements		Parking standards SPD currently under review. Revised standards will facilitate reductions in vehicle parking in accessible locations.
Encourage resident parking schemes, car sharing schemes and walking and cycling to support	Avoidance Reduction	An area we directly control and/or influence through support	M	Air quality improvements		The new Local Plan is likely to require such in new developments.
Encourage our residents to consider their transport choices	Avoidance Reduction	An area we can influence through support	M	Air quality improvements Public health outcomes		Work continues to deliver the DfT Access Fund, with a focus on business, schools and communities to encourage active and sustainable travel and reduce single occupancy car use. Marketing and communication has been used to publicise offers, encourage active and sustainable travel and provide information about relevant upcoming events and road and path closures.
Repair, reuse, reduce and recycle						
Zero kerbside waste to landfill with an increasing percentage recycled and the remainder used as energy from waste	Avoidance	An area we directly control	H	Managing international impacts Ecological diversity		New 10 year contract commenced 1 April 2020 for the delivery of kerbside collected waste to Energy from Waste plants at Avonmouth. This is a joint WoE arrangement. Over 14,000 tonnes delivered in first 6 months and reduced road haulage as previously waste taken to Gloucestershire. Waste strategy in development which will have climate emergency as a key theme and how the various waste management functions impact and measures to reduce.
Consider our green waste collection to encourage composting and rewilding	Reduction	An area we directly control	M	Financial savings		Charging for collections to commence from April 2021. An integral part of this is to encourage composting through subsidised composters, links to composting advice, community composting and working with Town and Parish councils and the local community
Increase the percentage of Improved reuse areas to be negotiated with contractors and encourage third sector involvement, such as Changing Lives in Clevedon	Avoidance	An area we can directly control or can influence through our contracts or through funding/support/policy	M	Resident engagement		Changing Lives carry out bulky waste collections within North Somerset with reusable items being prepared for re-use and sold within their shops. Reuse strategy is in development with opportunities for the new NSC owned recycling and waste company to provide.
Encourage our residents to reuse, repair and recycle	Reduction	An area we can influence through support	M	Resident engagement		Will be addressed within reuse strategy. Information provided within service leaflet, on web and social media. Community re-use events suspended due to COVID but will re-commence when possible.
Sign-post community groups to expertise and funding	Mitigation	An area we can influence through support	L	Community engagement		Signposting in place to local community groups. Will be covered more fully in reuse strategy.