



# Annual Monitoring Report



2016



## **Foreword**

The North Somerset Council Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is published each year. This AMR monitors the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

The primary purpose of the AMR is to report on the performance of the planning policies and the progress of emerging policy documents and North Somerset Council remains committed to preparing and publishing a monitoring report in this format each year.

Further copies of this document and those from previous years are available on our website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/planningpolicy)

**We welcome any comments on this document that would help us to improve both the information and format of future reports.**

## **Please contact:**

Planning Policy and Research  
North Somerset Council  
Town Hall  
Walliscote Grove Road  
Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 1UJ

E-mail [planning.policy@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@n-somerset.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01934 426 665

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## **Introduction**

The production of an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is a statutory requirement.

The purpose of this report is to:-

- Show how North Somerset's development plan documents are progressing;
- Show how well the policies in the Local Plan documents are performing; and
- Where policies are not being implemented, explain why and set out what steps are being taken to ensure that the policy is implemented, or whether the policy should be amended or replaced.

Annual monitoring will also form the basis for review of any development plan documents that are adopted.

## Local Development Plan

The development plan for North Somerset currently comprises the following adopted documents and associated policies maps:

- North Somerset Core Strategy (2012)
- Sites and Policies Plan Part 1: Development Management Policies (2016)
- West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy (2011)
- North Somerset Replacement Local Plan (2007)
- Backwell Neighbourhood Development Plan (2015)
- Long Ashton Neighbourhood Development Plan (2015)

### Core Strategy

Following an examination conducted by an independent Inspector, the North Somerset Core Strategy was found sound and was formally adopted in April 2012. Plan adoption is followed by a prescribed period during which an aggrieved party can lodge a legal challenge. The legal challenge is not about the merits of the case, but whether the correct statutory processes have been complied with.

The adoption of the Core Strategy was challenged. The High Court Judgment found that Policy CS13: Scale of new housing was unlawful by reason of the Core Strategy Inspector's failure to give 'adequate or intelligible reasons for his conclusion that the figure made sufficient allowance for latent demand, ie demand unrelated to the creation of new jobs'. As a result Policy CS13, along with other policies that could require consequential changes if the housing requirement increased, were remitted back to the Planning Inspectorate for re-examination. The policies that were remitted were:

- CS13: Scale of new housing
- CS6: North Somerset's Green Belt
- CS14: Distribution of new housing
- CS19: Strategic gaps
- CS28: Weston-super-Mare
- CS30: Weston Villages
- CS31: Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead
- CS32: Service villages
- CS33: Infill villages, smaller settlements and countryside

The re-examination took place in two stages. Policy CS13 was re-examined first, followed by the remaining remitted policies.

Policy CS13 was re-adopted as a result of the Secretary of State's letter dated 18 September 2015.

The second stage of the re-examination assessed whether any consequential changes were needed to the other remitted policies as a result of the increase to the housing requirement. The Inspector's Report dated 8 November 2016 concluded that policies CS6 and CS19 remained sound without change, and

that policies CS14, CS28, CS30, CS31, CS32 and CS33 could be found sound with modifications.

The fully re-adopted Core Strategy incorporating the changes recommended to the remitted policies will be considered for adoption by the council on 10 January 2017.

Further details are available at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/corestrategy)

#### *Sites and Policies Plan Part 1: Development Management Policies*

This development plan document contains the detailed planning policies and to deliver the adopted Core Strategy. It covers a range of development issues including development in the Green Belt, major transport schemes, conservation areas, extensions to dwellings, development in the countryside, retailing, accommodation for older people, minerals planning and design.

The examination of this plan was held in 2015, and the council received the Inspector's final report on 26 April 2016, which found the plan sound subject to inclusion of his recommended main modifications.

The plan was adopted by full council on 19 July 2016.

For further details please visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sitesandpolicies](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sitesandpolicies)

#### *West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy*

The four unitary authorities in the West of England area worked together to produce this development plan document which was adopted in March 2011. The plan period runs until 2026. The strategy sets out the policy for the provision of waste management infrastructure for the plan area. The document is available at <http://www.westofengland.org/waste-planning/adopted-joint-waste-core-strategy>.

#### *North Somerset Replacement Local Plan*

The Replacement Local Plan was adopted in March 2007 and sets out policy to guide development throughout the district. With the adoption of the Core Strategy and more recently the Sites and Policies Part 1, much of the plan has now been superseded. A list of the superseded and saved policies can be viewed here: <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/planningpolicy>

#### *Neighbourhood Development Plans*

Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) have been made for two parish areas within North Somerset, Backwell and Long Ashton. As they are adopted, these form part of the local development plan.

The plans can be viewed at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans)

### Community Right To Build

Community Right to Build allows some community organisations to bring forward small scale developments on a specific site without the need for planning permission. A proposal for a new village hall/community centre was prepared by the Congresbury Village Hall Development Trust and went to a referendum in September 2016. The result was to grant planning permission for the proposal.

## **Emerging plans**

### Sites and Policies Plan Part 2: Site Allocations Plan

The Site Allocations Plan will help to deliver the key policies set out in the Core Strategy. These include the housing needed within North Somerset, policies related to the delivery of additional employment growth, policies that will protect the environment and provide additional facilities for leisure and social and community uses.

The Site Allocations Plan underwent its first round of consultation in February 2013. However further progress was delayed as a result of the successful high court challenge which led to the re-examination of Policy CS13 and the consequential changes for a number of other remitted policies. Following confirmation of the CS13 housing requirement by the Secretary of State in September 2015, a second round of consultation took place from February to April 2016.

The comments received at that stage further shaped the plan, and a Publication Version was prepared for a final round of consultation in November/December 2016 before being submitted for examination early in 2017.

Full details are available at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sitesandpolicies](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sitesandpolicies)

### Joint Spatial Plan

In 2014 the four West of England councils (Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire) agreed a formal memorandum of understanding, pledging to work together to understand and plan strategically for the future development needs of the sub-region.

The Joint Spatial Plan will set out a prospectus for sustainable growth that will help the area meet its housing and transport needs for the next 20 years.

The issues and options consultation took place from November 2015 to January 2016. Responses to the consultation were reviewed by officers and have been used to inform the future stages of the JSP.

A second phase of consultation, 'towards the emerging spatial strategy' took place in November/December 2016.

Further details are available at [www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk](http://www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk)

### Neighbourhood Development Plans

In addition to the two made plans for Backwell and Long Ashton a further ten Neighbourhood Areas have also been designated. These are:

- Churchill
- Claverham
- Clevedon
- Congresbury
- Locking
- Pill/Easton-in-Gordano and Abbots Leigh
- Portbury
- Winscombe and Sandford
- Wrington
- Yatton

The areas are at various stages of plan production and other parishes within North Somerset have also expressed an interest in developing a Neighbourhood Plan. Full details are available at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans)

### **Supplementary Planning Documents**

Whilst not formally part of the development plan, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) can provide more detail on certain aspects of the development plan and clarify the interpretation of a policy or approach.

Current adopted SPD's:

- Affordable housing
- Biodiversity and trees
- Creating sustainable buildings and places
- Development contributions
- Dolphin Square
- Employment led delivery
- Landscape character assessment
- Parking standards
- Solar photovoltaic arrays
- Residential design guide part 1
- Residential design guide part 2
- Travel plans
- Weston Villages
- Wind turbines

Emerging Supplementary Planning Documents:

- Weston-super-Mare Town Centre



All adopted and emerging supplementary planning documents are available to download from [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/spds](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/spds)

### **Other planning guidance**

Other planning policy documents that provide information, guidance and advice are:

- Statement of Community Involvement
- Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment
- Junction 21 Local Development Order
- Highways development design guide
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- Annual Monitoring Report
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Local Aggregates Assessment
- Horse related development in the Mendip Hills AONB
- Forest of Avon guidance for developers

All of these documents and other guidance notes are available to download from our supplementary planning web page at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/spds](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/spds)

### **Community Infrastructure Levy**

We are preparing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for North Somerset. The CIL is a charge which developers will have to pay towards the cost of infrastructure to support development. The levy will be a charge per square metre of development.

Consultation on the draft charging schedule took place during the summer 2016 and the council hope to implement the CIL following an examination in February 2017.

Full details of the proposed CIL are at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CIL](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CIL)

### **Local Development Scheme**

The council produce a Local Development Scheme which sets out the anticipated programme for all emerging documents. This is available within the emerging plans and strategies section of [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/planningpolicy)

## **Topic areas**

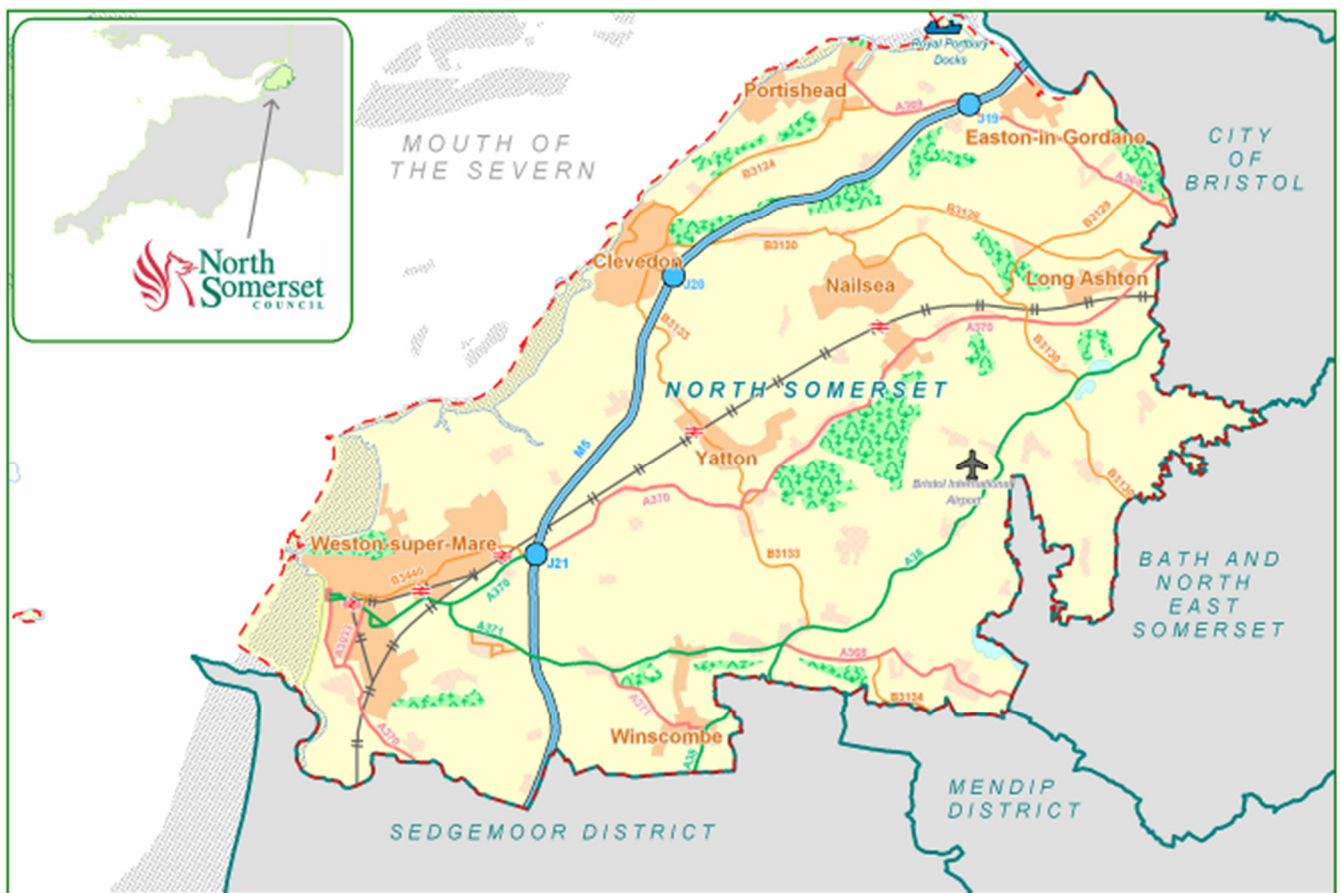
The Annual Monitoring Report is presented on a topic basis, for ease of reference. The topics have been set out to mirror the themes in the Core Strategy, which are:

- Living within environmental limits
- Delivering strong and inclusive communities
- Delivering a prosperous economy
- Ensuring safe and healthy communities.

Following the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the withdrawal of Government guidance on monitoring it is now a matter for local authorities to decide what to include in their monitoring reports while ensuring that they are prepared in accordance with relevant legislation.

## Setting the scene in North Somerset

### Location map



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North Somerset covers an area of around 37,500 hectares (145 square miles) and has a population of 209,900 people<sup>1</sup>. The district contains an international airport, a deep sea west coast port, part of the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a large area of Green Belt stretching south west from the edge of Bristol, as well as areas of low-lying levels and moors. The main settlements include the strategically significant town of Weston-super-Mare and the three smaller towns of Portishead, Clevedon and Nailsea. The M5 runs from north to south through the district and the mainline railway from Bristol to the South West also crosses North Somerset stopping at five stations along its route.

<sup>1</sup> 2015 Mid Year Population Estimate, Office for National Statistics

## Demographic structure

### Population size

- The population of North Somerset is 209,900, an increase of 1,700 over the past year.
- The age breakdown for North Somerset is:-
  - Aged 0-15 years – 18.1%
  - Aged 16-64 years – 58.7%
  - Aged 65 years and over – 23.2%
- Currently the proportion of people in North Somerset aged 65+ is 23.2%, compared to 21.4% in the South West and 17.9% nationally.

Source: 2015 Mid Year Population Estimates, ONS

### Ethnic composition

- At the 2011 Census the black and minority ethnic population made up only 2.7% of North Somerset's population compared to 4% of the population in England.

### Dwellings, household types and tenure

- At the 2011 Census there were 88,227 occupied households in North Somerset. This means that on average there were **2.3** people living in each household.

In North Somerset:-

- 30.7% of households are single person households; nationally the figure is 30.2%.
- 8.8% of households are lone parent households; nationally the figure is 10.6%.
- 50% of households are comprised of couples; nationally the figure is 45.3%.
- 36.8% of the population of North Somerset own their property outright and 36.1% own their property with a mortgage or a loan. This means that 72.9% of North Somerset residents are owner occupiers compared to a figure of 63.5% nationally.
- 25.4% of the North Somerset population rent their properties.

Source: 2011 Census

## **Socio-cultural issues**

### **Crime rates and perception of safety**

- During the monitoring period 12,666 crimes were recorded in North Somerset. There has been a significant decrease over the past 10 years with the number of crimes recorded in 2005 being 16,596.

Source: ONS

- 59% of North Somerset resident adults feel very safe or fairly safe when outside in their local area after dark. 93% of adults feel very safe or fairly safe when outside in their local area during the day. These figures are similar to last time the measure was recorded in 2012.

Source: North Somerset Residents Survey, October 2014

### **Unemployment rates**

- The unemployment rate of people aged 16-64 in North Somerset is 3.3% for the period April 2015 to March 2016. This is a decrease on the previous year's figure of 4.2% and lower than the unemployment rate of 4.1% across the South West.

Source: Annual Population Survey April 2015 to March 2016

### **Deprivation**

- North Somerset Council is ranked as the 121<sup>st</sup> most deprived district out of 326 districts.
- North Somerset has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest inequality, as measured by the range in national ranking between the most and least deprived LSOAs in the district.
- North Somerset has 5 LSOAs within the most deprived 5% in England, all within South or Central wards of Weston-super-Mare.
- There are 11 LSOAs within the least deprived 5% in England, these are spread across the district.

Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015

## LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS

### Climate Change

#### Climate Local Commitment

North Somerset Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions and tackling climate change. The Core Strategy outlines principles that will guide development to be more sustainable.

In June 2013 the council signed up to the Climate Local Commitment. This is an initiative to support carbon reduction and climate resilience led by the Local Government Association (LGA). The council produces an annual progress report update which can be viewed here: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/climatechange](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/climatechange)

#### Community Resilience North Somerset

The council set up '*Community Resilience North Somerset*' to build on the Strategic National Framework for Community Resilience. The scheme provides a structure within a community to deliver assistance at a local level when emergencies arise such as flooding or severe weather incidents arise.

In 2015 Community Resilience became a Community Interest Company, and the initiative is now largely community-led.

#### Carbon Emissions

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) provide data at local authority level measuring industry/commercial, domestic and road transport carbon emissions in tonnes. It is the council's target to reduce the annual per capita emissions by 15% between 2010 and 2015. Figures are only available from 2005 to 2014 but the council had already achieved double this target and the per capita emissions have been reduced by 30%.

Year	Industry and Commercial	Domestic	Transport	N. LULUCF Net Emissions	Grand Total	Population ('000s, mid-year estimate)	Per Capita Emissions (t)
2005	522.4	471.3	588.8	26.0	1,608.6	194.7	8.3
2006	519.4	476.2	576.2	25.2	1,596.9	197.0	8.1
2007	502.9	459.8	597.5	24.4	1,584.7	199.5	7.9
2008	475.7	460.7	585.8	23.7	1,545.9	200.9	7.7
2009	423.3	417.4	562.0	23.3	1,426.1	201.7	7.1
2010	461.2	445.9	551.6	22.7	1,481.4	203.0	7.3
2011	404.6	388.7	539.7	22.0	1,355.1	203.1	6.7
2012	419.1	423.1	549.1	21.3	1,412.5	204.4	6.9
2013	399.3	411.2	545.4	20.9	1,376.8	206.1	6.7
2014	303.0	339.7	550.3	20.1	1,213.1	208.2	5.8

## LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS

### Sustainable design and construction

#### Renewable energy

On council owned buildings there are various renewable energy technologies being used:

- Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare – photovoltaic panels, generating capacity 32.5kW.
- Bournville Primary School – Combined Heat and Power Plant – capacity unknown.
- Clevedon Secondary School - photo voltaic panels, generation capacity 3.5KW.
- Winscombe Primary School - wind turbine, generation capacity 2.5KW.
- Mendip Green School, Weston-super-Mare – wind turbine, generation capacity 250W.
- High Down Junior School, Portishead - photo voltaic tiles, generation capacity of 1KW.
- Backwell Secondary School - photo voltaic tiles, generation capacity between 0.6 – 2KW.
- St Katherine’s Secondary School, Pill - photo voltaic technology, generation capacity unknown.
- St Georges School, Weston-super-Mare - ground source heat pump, capacity unknown.

The council will consider further schemes on council owned buildings; an update on the progress of this project will be given in future reports.

Large renewable energy and microgeneration schemes are supported by the council. Renewable electricity produced in North Somerset, as at the end of 2015, is detailed in the table below.

	Number of sites	Capacity (MW)	Generation (MWh) (2015)
Photovoltaic	6,192	61.47	41,617
Onshore Wind	7	5.038	12,634
Hydro	1	0.009	24
Anaerobic Digestion	1	0.499	2,754
Landfill Gas	2	2.349	9,060
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,203</b>	<b>69.365</b>	<b>66,090</b>

Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industry

The council is part of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Scheme, which is a mandatory scheme aimed at improving energy efficiency and cutting emissions in large public and private sector organisations. Details of the scheme can be viewed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/crc-energy-efficiency-scheme>. In March 2016 the government announced the scheme will close following the 2018/19 monitoring year which will result in streamlining the business energy tax landscape and an increase in the Climate Change Levy.

**Code for Sustainable Homes**

The national policy for the Code for Sustainable Homes was withdrawn on 27 March 2015. New technical standards were outlined comprising additional optional Building Regulations and new national space standards. This is in addition to the mandatory existing Building Regulations.

**Supplementary Planning Documents**

The Sustainable Buildings and Places SPD, Wind Turbine SPD and the Solar Photovoltaic Array SPD are all adopted and available to view here: <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/planning-building-control/planningpolicy/supplementary-planning-advice/adopted-supplementary-plans/supplementary-plans-adopted/>



## LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS

### Environmental protection

#### **Flood Risk**

Policy CS3 of the adopted North Somerset Core Strategy relates to Environmental Impacts and Flood Risk Assessment. Since July 2016 it has been supplemented by adopted Policy DM1 on Flooding and Drainage in the adopted Sites and Policies Plan: Part 1. One monitoring indicator identified is to review the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) at regular intervals. The SFRA was produced as a series of studies between 2008 and 2010, the outputs from which have been made available on the council website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sfra](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sfra)

Improved modelling by the Environment Agency (EA) has resulted in changes to the mapping of flood risk in a number of areas: Bleadon/Loxton, Congresbury/Yatton, Clevedon, Weston-super-Mare, Wrington and along the coast. These have been incorporated into the SFRA. Four successful challenges have also resulted in parcels of land being reclassified from fluvial 3b to fluvial 3a, but all except Loxton Lea at Loxton have been superseded by EA remodelling. Results from further remodelling of the Congresbury Yeo catchment are currently being assessed for their implications for the SFRA, which will be updated once this has been done.

As a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), North Somerset has prepared a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) which outlines how we intend to manage local flood risk within our area. Local flood risk means flooding from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

The LFRMS identifies objectives for managing local flood risk, proposes measures to achieve these objectives and sets an action plan giving approximate timescales for implementing these actions. Further details are available at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/flooding)

#### **Environmental policies**

The adopted Core Strategy policy CS5: Landscape and the historic environment seeks to protect and enhance North Somerset's landscape and townscape as well as the Mendip Hills AONB. The adopted Sites and Policies Plan Part 1: Development Management Policies number DM11 seek to protect the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the saved Replacement Local Plan 2007 policies ECH/9 and ECH/15 relate to Forest of Avon and the coastal zone. The policies provide guidance on development proposals within these areas.

## LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS

### Nature conservation

#### Key assets

North Somerset has:

- 2 National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- 13 Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- 204 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)
- 56 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- 1 Ramsar
- 4 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- 1 Special Protection Area (SPA)
- 75 Local Geological Sites (LGS)
- 972 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)
- 1 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Source: North Somerset Council and Natural England

#### Local sites

Local sites include Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites. The 204 Local Wildlife Sites in North Somerset cover an area of 8509.39 hectares. The condition of Local Sites is largely unknown as the majority are privately owned. Local Sites are non-statutory sites so there is no obligation on owners to protect or report on the features for which the site was designated; or for them to allow their landholdings to be surveyed (unless the designation happens to overlap with that of a SSSI). Therefore, designated Local Wildlife Sites may include habitats that have been damaged or destroyed through inappropriate management or neglect.

#### Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

SSSI condition is assessed by Natural England. 77.2% of North Somerset SSSIs are in favourable condition. This greatly exceeds the national target of 50% of SSSIs in favourable condition by 2020 set within 'Biodiversity 2020'.

	Hectares
Favourable	2,691.11
Unfavourable Recovering	441.19
Unfavourable No Change	278.46
Unfavourable Declining	64.80
Assessed area	3,483.70

Source: Natural England

#### Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

Our 13 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) cover a total of 291.424 hectares across the district. The 2015 mid year population estimates from the Office for National Statistics gives the population of North Somerset as 209,900. This provides a ratio of 1 hectare of LNR per 720 head of population, which is well within Natural England's access to natural green space target of 1 hectare of LNR per 1,000 head of population.

National priority species Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*)

A successful volunteer project to protect toads crossing Winscombe Hill is ongoing. Toads are protected under European law and avoidable mortality should be prevented. The 'Toad Patrol' assists over 1000 toads across the roads each year including aiding them escape from gully pots. Other toad migration routes are also covered including placing warning signs on the roads.

North Somerset Wetlands Programme

The North Somerset Wetlands Programme was established by the Avon Wildlife Trust in 2011 to assess the condition of the North Somerset Levels and Moors and identify the most valuable wildlife areas. In June 2015 Wessex Water awarded the trust five years of funding to develop and deliver conservation objectives. This includes work on protecting the SSSI working with farmers and local landowners.

## LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS

### Landscape and the historic environment

#### Heritage sites

North Somerset has:

- **36** Conservation Areas
- **1,074** Listed Buildings
- **66** Scheduled Monuments
- **8** Registered parks and gardens
- **58** Unregistered parks and gardens.

Source: English Heritage / North Somerset Council

#### Historic Environment

It is the council's aim for the historic environment to be maintained and protected. Any development affecting conservation areas, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and archaeological sites should be appropriate and seek to enhance and reflect the character of the protected area.

#### Conservation Area Appraisals

A revised draft version of the Birnbeck Conservation Area Appraisal has been prepared and will be out for public consultation in early 2017 with adoption later on in the year. Further work on other appraisals is expected to progress over the next year.

#### Historic England 'Heritage At Risk'

Eleven sites within the district are on the Heritage at Risk Register 2016. Four of these sites are Conservation Areas, five are Listed Buildings and two sites are Scheduled Monuments.

The four Conservation Areas at risk are:

- Clevedon Triangle, Clevedon
- Boulevard/Montpelier, Weston-super-Mare
- Birnbeck, Weston-super-Mare
- Melrose/Grove Park, Weston-super-Mare

The five Listed Buildings at risk are:

- Ashton Court, Long Ashton (Grade I listed)
- St Mary's Church, Portbury (Grade I listed – place of worship)
- Birnbeck Pier, Weston-super-Mare (Grade II\* listed)
- Church of St Michael, Church Road, Dundry (Grade I listed – place of worship)
- Christ Church, Montpelier, Weston-super-Mare (Grade II listed – place of worship, new on HAR2016 list)

The two Scheduled Monuments at risk are:

- Elms Colliery, Nailsea (the buildings are also Grade II listed)
- Conygar Hill, Portbury

#### Conservation Areas

Currently four out of 36 of North Somerset's Conservation Areas are on the Heritage at Risk register. This represents 11.1% compares to 6% throughout England.

These Conservation Areas have been identified 'at risk' due to their deteriorating condition. In 2009 English Heritage included Conservation Areas on their Heritage At Risk Register for the first time. The top ten threats were identified as:

- Unsympathetic replacement doors and windows (83% of conservation areas).
- Poorly maintained roads and pavements (60%).
- The amount of street clutter (45%).
- Loss of boundary walls, fences or hedges (43%).
- Unsightly satellite dishes (38%).
- The effects of traffic calming or traffic management (36%).
- Alterations to front elevations, roofs and chimneys (34%).
- Unsympathetic new extensions (31%).
- The impact of advertisements (23%).
- Neglected green spaces (18%).

### **Listed Buildings**

There are a total of 1,074 listed buildings in North Somerset comprising:

36 Grade I

80 Grade II\*

958 Grade II

The following listed buildings are on the Heritage at Risk Register.

Ashton Court at Long Ashton is a large country house with a Grade I listing with the Registered Parks and Garden being Grade II\*. The site is owned by Bristol City Council. At present the building is part occupied by the estate office and used as a hospitality facility. The unused part of the building is derelict and is subject to ongoing decay.

Historic England awarded a grant to assist with a feasibility study to record the extent of the decay to the building and to assess works to restore the building. Progress has been made in the project work to develop a Conservation Management Plan, condition survey and a business plan are nearing completion.

Birnbeck Pier is a Grade II\* listed structure linking Birnbeck Island to the mainland. Both the pier structure and the buildings are in very poor condition and at risk of further deterioration and loss of fabric. Historic England have previously awarded a grant to assist in establishing the repair and development cost of the pier.

Ferocious storms at the end of 2015 left the North Jetty of the pier unsafe and beyond repair. The council served a safety notice on the owners who subsequently applied to demolish the structurally unsound part, the consent was granted and the demolition is expected to be undertaken imminently.

The Birnbeck Regeneration Trust are working with the owners, council and other interested parties to develop a viable scheme to take forward to bring the pier and surrounding buildings back into use. Until a scheme has been

identified and funding has been secured it is likely that the pier will stay on the Heritage at Risk Register.

St Mary's Church, Portbury is a Grade I listed church, owned by the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Work was completed in 2014 on the roof which was funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Despite these works the building has further issues including the sandstone wall being in poor condition. There is major structural voids in the aisle wall and further funding was applied for from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2016.

The Church of St Michael, Dundry was included on the 2015 register due to its deteriorating condition including damp problems, falling plaster work and failing roof. A Heritage Lottery Fund grant for Places of Worship was offered in 2015 after a successful application.

Christ Church, Montpelier, Weston-super-Mare is a grade II Listed Place of Worship and is new entry on the 2016 register. The embedded ironwork is corroding and the high level stonework to the tower and spire is eroding.

#### Other Listed Buildings

St Josephs, West Hill, Portishead is a Grade II villa and part of a larger site which has been redeveloped for residential use. The mansion is a listed building and has been restored and converted into flats. The mansion was in a state of deterioration suffering from significant water penetration and a substantial amount of dry rot.

Brimbleworth Farm (Grade II listed) has been without a roof since a fire in April 2005. Planning permission has been granted for a conversion into two dwellings along with the conversion of two outbuildings to dwellings as well as 11 new build dwellings on the site. There are several issues at this property including timbers rotting and the partial collapse of some external stone walls as a result of water ingress, and the majority of first floor structures have collapsed. The site has been cleared but no works have been undertaken.

Royal Pier Hotel, Clevedon – the redevelopment of the building into flats has now been completed.

Clevedon Pier which is a Grade I listed structure, has been undergoing works to create a new visitor centre. The biggest hurdle in constructing the visitor centre was the excavation of 800 tonnes of rock without damaging existing structures. The project had funding from Heritage Lottery Fund and the Coastal Communities Fund and is now complete with the centre opened in May 2016.

The project won the 'People's Choice' Angel award from Historic England, an award which was voted for by the public. The award recognises the collaborative partnership working lead by a strong community effort to preserve historic assets.

Burwalls House, Leigh Woods is a substantial Grade II listed building of Jacobethan style, with the grounds having an unregistered parks and gardens designation. The site was previously owned by the University of Bristol and used as a training and conferencing facility. The site has now been redeveloped with the main house being converted into five apartments and some buildings within the site being demolished and being replaced with new build houses.

Clifton Suspension Bridge has launched a project to replace the toll booths on both sides of the bridge which are no longer fit for purpose. The original tolls booths on the Leigh Woods side will be refurbished with new ones replacing the 1970s additions. This presents an opportunity to select a design which is sympathetic and in keeping with the listed bridge. Subject to the necessary planning consents, work is anticipated to start in late 2017.

Weston-super-Mare Museum is a listed building in the centre of town. In March 2015 a Heritage Lottery Fund grant for over a million pounds was awarded to the museum for refurbishment and modernisation works. Work is well under way and the re-opening of the museum is scheduled for August 2017.

Uphill Manor is a Grade II\* listed building. In August 2016 an accidental electrical fire destroyed roofs, floors and staircases with smoke and water damage effecting most of the remaining interior. The property operated as a Bed and Breakfast and the owners have committed to restoring the property back to its original state.

### **Scheduled Monuments**

Middle Engine Pit in Nailsea (also known as The Elms Colliery) is a scheduled monument and is owned by North Somerset Council. The structures within the scheduled monument are also Listed Buildings. This site is derelict and has previously been subjected to vandalism. Repairs to the boundary wall were completed early in 2016. The council has refreshed a 2001 conservation proposal document which, if implemented, would see the buildings conserved/repared, archaeology stabilised and displayed and the public given access to the site. This is currently being considered.

The Discovering Black Down project has now come to an end. This was a three-year Heritage Lottery funded project which aimed to raise awareness of the archaeological and wildlife value of the area, and to restore and repair badly eroded paths. The area includes the Scheduled Monument of Burrington Ham hillfort.

Work is underway to create a management plan for Worlebury hillfort, which will incorporate the valued ongoing volunteer work of scrub clearing to ensure the preservation of the monument. It is proposed that additional partnerships will be forged with local groups in order to further improve maintenance and interpretation of the Scheduled Monument, and establish better links with the town. This is hoped to lead to better appreciation of and interaction with the hillfort.

An excavation, led by the council and a local volunteer group, took place in Congresbury in the summer of 2016. This excavation focussed on the medieval market cross (a Scheduled Monument and Grade II\* Listed Building), to investigate the extent of the cross below the modern road surface, as the cross was being damaged by traffic. Temporary barriers have now been put in place to alleviate further damage whilst a permanent solution is found.

The council's Archaeologist is involved in a number of large scale infrastructure projects, including the Southern Strategic Support Main from Barrow Gurney to Cheddar. This is revealing a variety of previously unknown sites of archaeological interest that will further our knowledge of the past human activity within North Somerset.

North Somerset is part of the Know Your Place project, established in Bristol in 2011. This project aims to make heritage data more accessible and to enable more people in researching their local area and heritage. A large proportion of archaeological sites and buildings of historical interest within North Somerset will be possible to view, and digitised historic maps mean these assets can be further enjoyed and understood. The North Somerset Know Your Place is due to go live at the end of March 2017. This can be used in conjunction with the North Somerset historic environment record online.

### **Historic Environment Record**

The North Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) is published on the council's website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/HER](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/HER) . The HER is presented as an interactive map where layers can be loaded on to a base map of the district. Publishing the HER online has allowed better accessibility to individuals who have an interest in the historic environment.

Layers on the HER interactive map are:

- Conservation Areas
- Scheduled Monuments
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
- Unregistered Parks and Gardens
- Archaeological Sites
- Historic Landscape Characterisation
- Reports Tables
- Listed Buildings



## LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS

### Green Belt

#### Size of the Green Belt

The size of the Green Belt within North Somerset is 154.9 square kilometres and covers 40% of the district. There has been no change to the Green Belt during the monitoring period.



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As part of the evidence base for the Joint Spatial Plan a Green Belt assessment was undertaken. The Green Belt was strategically assessed against the National Planning Policy Framework in relation to a Green Belt's purpose. It was concluded that all areas of the Green Belt serve at least two of the five criteria outlined in the NPPF. The criteria are:

- to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas
- to prevent neighbouring towns merging
- to assist in safeguarding countryside from encroachment
- to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns
- to assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

#### Development within the Green Belt

Through the planning system the council seek to protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development with no net loss of the Green Belt area. Major applications approved in the Green Belt in the past year include an application at Yanley Landfill Site to vary conditions on a previous permission to allow more time to complete the restoration works and to change the landscaping details. Another application has been approved at Stancombe Quarry, Backwell to extend the quarry and increase activities to 2043. The area is allocated for carboniferous limestone extraction.

An application for the demolition of a hotel and country club and the erection of a retirement care community was granted at Redwood Lodge, Failand. The application was granted in accordance with paragraph 89 of the National Planning Policy Framework as the proposal was to redevelop the site, providing less development than was there originally.

## LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS

### Waste

#### New waste management facilities

No planning applications for waste management facilities were approved in North Somerset during the monitoring period.

#### Joint Waste Core Strategy

North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire have an adopted West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy (JWCS).

In accordance with the waste hierarchy, the JWCS focuses on waste prevention, re-use, recycling and recovery of value from waste, with the ultimate aim to divert waste away from landfill. The West of England authorities are committed to meeting the sub-region's needs and the timely provision of sufficient waste infrastructure.

Delivering the JWCS relies upon a robust monitoring system. This is set out in section 7 of the JWCS. The tables below show monitoring results for the JWCS for North Somerset only, against key indicators, for 2015/16. A copy of the adopted JWCS document is available to view at [www.westofengland.org](http://www.westofengland.org)

#### Recycling/Composting

Unitary Authority	Capacity of applications approved during 2015/16 (tonnes)	Capacity lost during 2015/16 (tonnes)	Capacity operational at 31/03/2016 (tonnes)	Capacity permitted but not operational at 31/03/2016 (tonnes)
North Somerset	0	0	268,200	0

#### Recovery

Zone & indicative requirement for residual waste treatment capacity as set out in the JWCS	Capacity of applications approved during 2015/16 (tonnes)	Capacity lost during 2015/16 (tonnes)	Capacity operational at 31/03/2016 (tonnes)	Capacity permitted but not operational at 31/03/2016 (tonnes)	Electricity and/or heat output from operational recovery facility (MW)
A~390,000tpa	35,000	0	115,000	1,087,000	0
B~100,000tpa					
C~150,000 tpa					
D~60,000tpa					
E~100,000tpa	0	0	15,000	0	1.1

## Hazardous/Non-Hazardous Landfill – N/A

### Inert Landfill

Unitary Authority	Site Name	Capacity of applications approved during 2015/16 (tonnes)	Landfill capacity which became unavailable during 2015/16 (tonnes)	Landfill operational at 31/03/2016 (tonnes)	Landfill permitted but not started at 31/03/2016 (tonnes)
North Somerset	Durnford Quarry	0	0	Approx 382,500 tonnes per annum for 20 years (2012-2032)	0
North Somerset	Lulsgate Quarry, Felton	0	0	202,000 tonnes per annum 2009-2015 plus approx 70,000 tonnes per annum for one year (2016)	0

### Commentary

#### Recycling/composting

There has been an increase in operational capacity for North Somerset from the 2014/15 data. This partly reflects the addition of a recycling firm which was already operating (at Winterstoke Road, Weston super Mare) prior to 2015/16 but which had not been reported upon.

The JWCS sets out an indicative requirement for recycling and composting of municipal, commercial and industrial waste. However, the capacity tonnages of operational and permitted sites in the monitoring table may include construction, demolition and excavation waste, as many recycling facilities, particularly transfer stations, recycle this waste as well.

#### Recovery

There has been a change in the capacity operational as at 31/3/16 reflecting an error in previous records, concerning North Somerset: 5000t had been erroneously included in zone E when it should have been in A. That has now been corrected.

#### Landfill

There has been no change in permissions for landfill capacity for hazardous/non-hazardous waste and inert waste since last year.

## LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS

### Minerals

#### **Production of primary land won aggregates and secondary and recycled aggregates**

We are unable to publish details of the amount of primary land won aggregates in North Somerset for 2014/15, due to confidentiality issues. Data on production of crushed rock across the West of England sub region in recent years is available in the published annual reports of the South West Aggregates Working Party, at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

#### **Landbank of crushed rock**

The adopted Core Strategy Policy CS8 relates to minerals and states that the council will seek to maintain a landbank for crushed rock of at least 10 years. Currently the calculated landbank is in excess of 10 years. This indicator will be monitored and reported annually.

## LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS

### Transport and movement

#### Transport accessibility

The working population of North Somerset use the following types of transport to travel to work:

- |                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| • Public transport | 5.5%  |
| • Car              | 68.5% |
| • Walking          | 9.5%  |
| • Cycling          | 2.8%  |

Nationally the figures are:

- |                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| • Public transport | 16.4% |
| • Car              | 57.5% |
| • Walking          | 10.7% |
| • Cycling          | 2.9%  |

Over 37% of the working age population travel over 10km to work.

Source: 2011 Census Travel to work statistics

#### Car ownership

The total number of cars owned in North Somerset at the time of the 2011 Census was 121,381. The percentage of households without access to a car was **17.2%**, compared to 26% nationally. The percentage of households with 2+ cars was 41.3%, compared to 32.2% nationally.

Source: 2011 Census

#### Traffic

In 2015 motor vehicle traffic in North Somerset was **2,339** million kilometres, an increase from **2,329** million kilometres in 2014. Department for Transport figures show traffic growth of 18.2% on North Somerset roads between 2000 and 2015.

Source: Department for Transport Road Traffic Statistics

In 2015 there were 49 reported killed and seriously injured casualties on North Somerset roads. This is a decrease on the 2014 figure of 51.

Source: Department for Transport Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2015 Annual Report

#### Joint Local Transport Plan

The West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 3 (JLTP3) 2011 to 2026 which covers the areas of North Somerset, Bristol City, South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset was adopted in March 2011. The vision of the plan is to provide '*an affordable, low carbon, accessible, integrated, efficient and reliable transport network to achieve a more competitive economy and better connected, more active and healthy communities*'. The plan has five key transport goals:

- Reduce carbon emissions.
- Support economic growth.
- Promote accessibility.
- Contribute to better safety, security and health.
- Improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment.

### **Joint Transport Study**

Alongside the Joint Spatial Plan, the four WoE councils are working on a major study to shape the future of our transport network over the next 20 years. The councils have been working together to develop proposals for a package of integrated public transport, walking, cycling and highway investment, to tackle congestion, improve air quality and promote more sustainable travel choices and deliver housing and employment growth up to 2036. Further details and a summary are available online: <https://www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk>

### **Rail**

The council aims to increase transport choice and promote accessibility by maximising and developing the transport network and reducing congestion. The North Somerset Core Strategy together with policies in the Sites and Policies Plan Part 1 document sets out that only acceptable railway related development on safeguarded land will be supported. No major improvements have been completed during the monitoring period.

### **Rail Survey**

The need to provide an increase in transport choice and reduce congestion can be indirectly monitored through the amount of passengers using the rail service in North Somerset.

On a single selected survey day in November 2016, 4,271 passengers boarded trains using the five stations in North Somerset and 4,352 passengers disembarked. The information collated via online questionnaires on how passengers travelled to the stations is still being analysed for the recent 2016 survey, but our 2014 survey showed that 52% of passengers travelled to the station by means other than the private car.

Promoting non-car modes of transport has been identified as a key issue in the Joint Local Transport Plan and station improvements schemes should help to improve both rail use and sustainable travel to stations in the future.

### **Parking**

The council is progressing with an application to the Department for Transport (DfT) to adopt Civil Parking Enforcement powers (CPE) which will mean the council taking over responsibility for on-street parking enforcement from the police who are currently responsible. CPE will enable improved enforcement of on-street parking for a range of offences including double yellow lines, loading bays and pedestrian crossings. The council's parking team will be gearing up to start enforcement from spring 2017 subject to DfT approval. Further details are available at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/parking](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/parking)

### **Walking, cycling and Rights of Way network**

The council aims to increase transport choice and promote accessibility by maximising and developing the transport network and reducing congestion. This can also have other benefits such as improving the health and wellbeing of the population. We are working towards expanding and improving strategic cycle routes and pedestrian links.

Work has been ongoing on developing the North Somerset section of the English Coast Path between the River Axe and the River Avon a distance of approximately 30 miles. Numerous site meetings with landowners were undertaken and costs are



being compiled for each of the six sections within North Somerset. It is anticipated that reports will be submitted to the Secretary of State next summer.

The Public Rights of Way Team have resolved 473 issues on the network in the last twelve months. Work has also continued on the legal side dealing with PRow diversion applications and Definitive Map Modification applications.

The council is committed to improving key cycle routes. The first stage of the Coastal Route link to Brean was completed through the Walborough Nature reserve. Work is progressing in securing the Weston-super-Mare to Clevedon link via Tutshill sluice with options appraisals and ecological survey carried out. The Queensway shared use route was extended in Worle, and our programme of Portishead – Bristol improvements completed with a new shared-use path built in Abbots Leigh.

The Bikeability child cycling training programme successfully delivered 1271 Level 1 and Level 2 places across 35 primary schools (including independent and home schooling). This compares to 1080 places across 36 schools in 2014/15. We also delivered 267 Level 3 places at eight secondary schools compared with 81 places the previous year. Bikeability is DfT grant funded.

### **Highway schemes and transport improvements**

The council aim to increase transport choice and promote accessibility by developing the transport network and reducing congestion.

Work has progressed on the following major transport schemes:

- Ashton Vale to Temple Meads MetroBus – Full Approval was given to the scheme in September 2014 by the DfT. Since then, progress has been made with the advanced ecological works and vegetation clearance. In February 2015 construction work started on the scheme and updates on progress can be viewed at <https://travelwest.info/metrobus/metrobus-build>
- South Bristol Link – The scheme includes a combined highway and rapid transit link with associated cycling and pedestrian infrastructure between Hengrove, the A38, the A370 and Long Ashton Park & Ride site. Details can be viewed at: <http://travelwest.info/metrobus/archive-papers/south-bristol-link>. The project gained Full Approval from the Department for Transport in January 2015. Construction has been ongoing throughout 2016 with opening to general traffic in early 2017 and MetroBus services starting as soon as possible.
- MetroWest Phase 1 - The project includes the re-opening of the Portishead line to passenger train services, with a new station in Portishead and re-opening of the former Pill station. The project entails delivering a half hour passenger train service for the Portishead line, the Severn Beach line and the Bath to Bristol line (for local stations). The outline engineering design for MetroWest Phase 1 is due for completion in January 2017. The extent of engineering work required to re-open the line is likely to be greater than identified in the feasibility design completed in 2014 as part of the Preliminary Business Case. The emerging additional works relate mainly to upgrading the existing Portbury Freight line to be capable for operating passenger trains and to provide sufficient line capacity to operate both freight trains and passenger trains. We have also undertaken consultation on options for providing alternative highway access to the Ashton Vale



industrial estate to retain sufficient access for businesses. The outline engineering design will be reported as part of the Section 42 consultation for the Development Consent Order. The Outline Business Case is scheduled to be completed in Autumn 2017. In parallel, the council is preparing the Development Consent Order planning application and this is scheduled to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in Winter 2017.

- North/South Link Road, Locking Parklands – This link from the A371 to A370 West Wick Roundabout through Locking Parklands is a key part of the access strategy for the Weston Villages development and will provide access to the development from either side. Design and planning work has progressed during 2016 and construction is expected to start in 2017/18 which will include improvements at West Wick Roundabout.
- Cross Airfield Link Road (CAL) – Much of this link is already in place to serve the new housing developments that can be seen at Haywood Village from the roundabout on A371, and the connection to Winterstoke Road is expected to be completed by the developer in 2017/18.
- M5 Junction 21 – The final phase of planned improvements at J21 are being prepared for anticipated delivery in 2017/18 linked to maintenance works that Highways England plan to carry out in the same location. Carrying out these works in tandem will keep costs down and keep delays to a minimum. The improvements will further increase capacity of the northbound on-slip and help reduce the queuing and delays that have begun to occur again since implementation of the last phase of improvements.

### **School Travel Plans**

Our annual monitoring and reporting of mode of travel to school is managed through our School Travel Facts (STF) service which is a key feature of our road safety and school travel portal [www.travelsmartschools.com](http://www.travelsmartschools.com). Our portal enables pupils and the wider school community to view individual school reports and mapping, receive guidance and information on road safety training and encourages active and sustainable travel to school.

Schools have the responsibility to continue to develop and update their travel plans. We encourage the use of Modeshift STARS to create school travel plans and support planning applications. Modeshift STARS is a national awards scheme that recognises schools that have shown excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. The application process provides an online template that upon completion will generate a national standard school travel plan.

### **Workplace and Residential Travel plans**

Travel Plans are a planning requirement for all new large or expanding developments as well as some smaller ones where there is expected to be a significant transport impact. Our Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) sets out the detail of what is expected from a developer to mitigate the transport impacts of their development and encourage more sustainable travel. During 2015/16, travel plans were secured for two residential and two business developments.

The council continues to promote help and support organisations and businesses with a planning requirement for a Travel Plan and also those who are voluntarily developing a Travel Plan. This includes the promotion of sustainable travel initiatives and awareness campaigns under the brand Travelwest ([www.travelwest.info](http://www.travelwest.info)) - such

as the popular commuter challenge events, jointly organised by the four local authorities that make up the West of England Partnership.

### **Air Travel**

Bristol Airport is the largest airport serving the South West, providing an important facility for both leisure and business needs as well as providing employment opportunities in the local area.

The Bristol Airport 2015 Operations Monitoring Report provides information on the activity at the airport over the past year. Some key figures are:

- There were a total of 68,074 aircraft movements, an increase of 6% over the past year. 55,949 of the total aircraft movements were air transport movements, a 3.14% increase on the 2014 figure.
- Terminal passengers increased by 7%, to a total of 6,786,790.
- Over 891,000 passengers used the Bristol Flyer Airport Express bus service to Bristol, an increase of 15.8%. An estimated 14% of air passengers used public transport for their journey to or from the airport.
- The number of full time equivalents employed at the airport is 2,818.

## DELIVERING STRONG AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

### High quality design

#### **Housing Quality and Design**

The council is committed to supporting high quality design in new housing development. The Core Strategy identifies the importance of this in policy CS12: Achieving high quality design and place making. The policy suggests that in designing new developments of 10 or more dwellings, applicants should demonstrate how they meet the Building for Life criteria.

Policy DM32: High quality design and place making, of the adopted Sites and Policies Plan Part 1 sets out criteria against which planning applications will be determined. The Weston Villages SPD sets out further specific detailed guidance for this major mixed use development area.

Two Residential Design Guide SPDs have been adopted. Section 1 covers protecting the living conditions of neighbours (adopted January 2013) and Section 2 details appearance and character of house extensions and alterations (adopted April 2014). These documents are available to download from our website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/SPDs](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/SPDs). Other guidance has been produced to aid high quality design including a Development Management Advice Note on recycling and waste (September 2013) and a Highways Development Design Guide (December 2015).

#### **Sustainable Buildings and Places**

Policy CS2 of the Core Strategy relates to delivering sustainable design and construction. The policy states that when considering proposals for development the council will require energy efficient designs and the use of on-site renewable energy.

The policy also refers to the Code for Sustainable Homes and the Lifetime Homes scheme. The Government released a Written Ministerial Statement in March 2014 stating that the Code for Sustainable Homes and the Lifetime Homes schemes would be wound down and replaced with a simplified system incorporated into Building Regulations. The policy also references BREEAM standards which ensures buildings are of sustainable design and construction.

The Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places in North Somerset Supplementary Planning Document was adopted in March 2015. The document has been produced to support policy CS1: Addressing climate change and carbon reduction and CS2: Delivering sustainable design and construction of the Core Strategy. The document also updates policy CS2 following the change in national policy.

## DELIVERING STRONG AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

### Scale of new housing

#### Housing provision

Policy CS13 of the Core Strategy sets out the scale of new housing proposed for the district over the plan period and CS14 sets out how this is proposed to be delivered in line with the spatial strategy of the plan.

The council re-adopted Policy CS13 during 2015, which has had the effect of increasing the plan period housing requirement to 20,985 dwellings. Re-examination of the other remitted policies, including Policy CS14: distribution of new housing, took place in 2016. The Inspector concluded that the spatial strategy within the Core Strategy is still sound provided some flexibility was added to the settlement policies. The modifications were consulted on and the council received the Inspector's report in November. This will be considered by full council in January 2017.

Full details of the Core Strategy and the re-examination of remitted policies are available on our website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/corestrategy](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/corestrategy)

#### Five year housing land supply

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years worth of housing against their housing requirements. The latest published land supply position statement has a base date of April 2016 and is available to view on the council's website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/planningpolicy). This will be updated in April 2017.

#### Strategic Housing Market Assessment

Along with the other authorities across the West of England, North Somerset has undertaken a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to form part of the evidence base for the Joint Spatial Plan. The document was published in July 2015 and is available to view at <https://www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk>

## DELIVERING STRONG AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

### Distribution of new housing

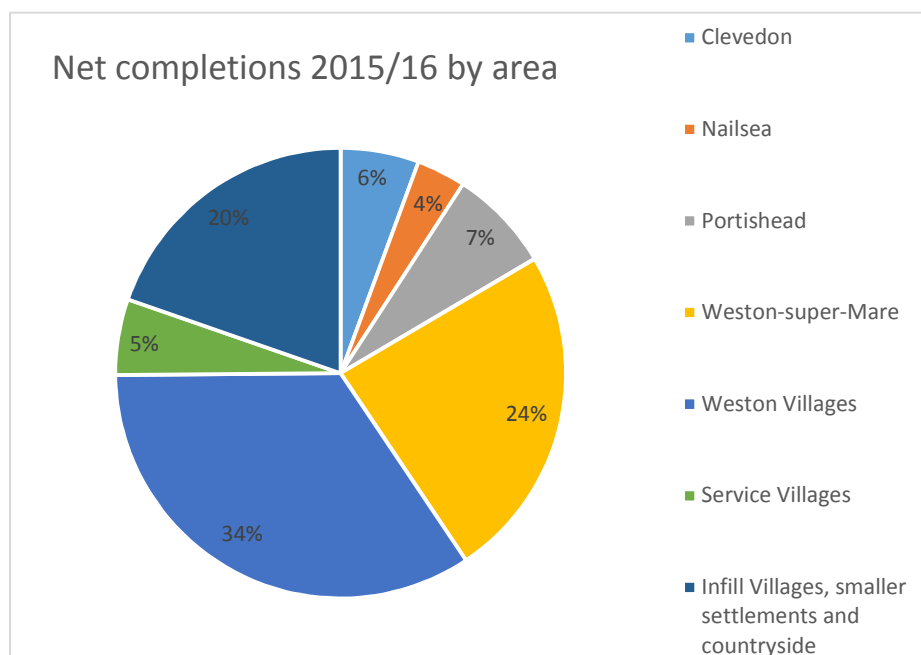
#### Net completions by area

Area	Completions
Clevedon	32
Nailsea	20
Portishead	42
Weston-super-Mare	137
Weston Villages	195
Service Villages	31
Infill Villages, smaller settlements and countryside	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>569</b>

#### Location of housing completions

This year 75% of dwelling completions were recorded within the four towns or on the major Weston Villages strategic site. A further 5% are within Service Villages as per the Core Strategy settlement hierarchy.

#### Net completions by area



#### Proposed housing allocations

Progress has been made on the Sites and Policies Plan Part 2: Site Allocations. The document had been through public consultation and a publication version has been prepared. This document carries forward a number of housing allocations from the Replacement Local Plan and identifies new sites that are suitable for housing or mixed use schemes, in line with the Core Strategy settlement hierarchy. Further details are available to view at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sitesandpolicies](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sitesandpolicies)

## DELIVERING STRONG AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

### Mixed and balanced communities

#### Strategic Housing Market Assessment

Along with the other authorities across the West of England, North Somerset has undertaken a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to form part of the evidence base for the Joint Spatial Plan. The document was published in July 2015 and is available to view at

<https://www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk>

#### Vacant housing

North Somerset Council have an empty property delivery plan that sets out the approach to bringing long term empty properties (empty and unfurnished for more than six months) back into use. From 2011-2016 the total number of empty homes has been reduced by 17% from 1,744 to 1,460 properties and the number of long term empty homes has reduced from 287 to 237.

#### Completions by size of dwelling

One of the North Somerset Replacement Local Plan general development principles is to maintain mixed and balanced communities by ensuring new build developments and conversions provide a suitable range of dwelling types and bed spaces. Providing a wide range of dwellings is an important aspect of improving access and choice in housing and meeting the existing and future housing needs of the area. The mix of dwellings completed during 2015/16 was as follows:

	Number	%		Number	%
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES	438	77.0	TOTAL NUMBER OF FLATS	131	23.0

#### Houses in Multiple Occupation

Core Strategy Policy CS15 relates to ensuring mixed and balanced communities across the district. One of the indicators is to monitor the change in the number of licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) as ongoing monitoring will assess the effectiveness of the policy approach.

HMOs must be licenced if they are rented to five or more people, are three or more storeys high and tenants share toilet, bathroom or kitchen facilities.

The council have also introduced a scheme that requires all types of HMOs to be licenced within part of central Weston-super-Mare because of the high number of complaints previously received in this area.

There are currently 166 licenced HMOs within North Somerset.

## **Housing provision for older people**

In North Somerset the council provides a range of services to help older people live independently:

- Care homes provide accommodation and personal care, with some providing nursing care for older people who can no longer live independently.
- West of England Care and Repair, a not-for-profit organisation whose purpose is to enable older and disabled people to live independently. A range of services are offered from minor home repairs to home adaptations.
- Extra-care housing offers more care and support to residents than sheltered housing does. It allows residents to live in their own properties on specially developed sites, with a 24-hour professional support team on site.
- The council own a number of private retirement properties throughout North Somerset which people aged over 55 can buy.
- Sheltered properties are designed and managed with retired and elderly people in mind. They are grouped together, creating a community, which helps to promote friendship and a feeling of security.
- Telecare is the term used to describe a range of discreet devices and wireless sensors that can assist in preventing or identifying events that might put an elderly person at risk.

The adopted Sites and Policies Plan Part 1 contains policies relating to care homes, care provision and ensuring new homes are built to a standard that allows people to maintain independence in later life.

## **Family housing**

Local research has shown that within Weston-super-Mare there are issues around the provision of family housing within certain small areas where a high number of properties have been converted into flats. Policy DM39 of the Sites and Policies Plan Part 1, adopted July 2016, details the restriction of the sub-division of properties in certain areas in Weston-super-Mare. Detailed boundaries are allocated in the plan. The performance of this policy will be reported on in future AMRs.

## **Self build opportunities**

The self build market is growing and the council recognises the importance of allowing opportunities for this sector. We are committed to supporting self-build development for local people wishing to access market or affordable housing. The National Custom and Self Build Association website and the Self Build Portal website bring together a range of information and support for those wanting to get involved in a self build project. The ongoing SHMA work will assess demand for self build plots, and future AMRs will report on any known self build or community build projects.

A scheme is currently under construction at Lawrence Road, Worle for the development of 14 residential flats. The scheme is a flagship train and build opportunity for ex-services personnel. Assistance is given from the Community Self Build Agency and the contractor will provide onsite training. Participants will have the opportunity to attend a bespoke training program at Weston Technical College. All units will be affordable rent tenure and personnel who have taken part in the scheme will have the opportunity to live in one of the units they helped build.

### **Starter Homes**

The council have successfully secured a grant from the Starter Homes Land Fund. Delivery of all new homes supported by the money secured must be delivered within 3-5 years. Future AMRs will report completions supported by the Starter Homes programme.



## DELIVERING STRONG AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

### Affordable housing

#### Affordable Housing Targets

Policy CS16 of the Core Strategy states that affordable housing completions should be monitored on an annual basis in terms of permissions, commitments and completions, and the type and tenure of housing delivered. Overall delivery will be assessed in 5 year tranches, and the policy approach reviewed as appropriate.

The policy intention is that on all sites of 10 or more dwellings at least 30% on site affordable housing provision should be made. On sites of 5-9 dwellings the council will seek to negotiate either on site provision or a financial contribution towards the provision of affordable housing. The council target is for 150 affordable homes to be provided per annum.

#### Affordable Housing Completions

During the period 2015/16, 126 new affordable housing units were provided.

Year	Social rent	Affordable rent	Shared ownership	Intermediate rent	Re-provision (additional units)	Shared Equity	TOTAL
2006/07	92	n/a	34	0	0	0	126
2007/08	119	n/a	62	0	0	0	181
2008/09	189	n/a	67	0	0	0	256
2009/10	143	n/a	6	0	0	0	149
2010/11	64	n/a	2	1	0	0	67
2011/12	1	0	21	4	0	0	26
2012/13	51	52	17	17	1	0	138
2013/14	24	107	16	2	0	0	149
2014/15	10	132	11	0	0	0	153
2015/16	33	48	24	7	0	14	126

## DELIVERING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

### Supporting a successful economy

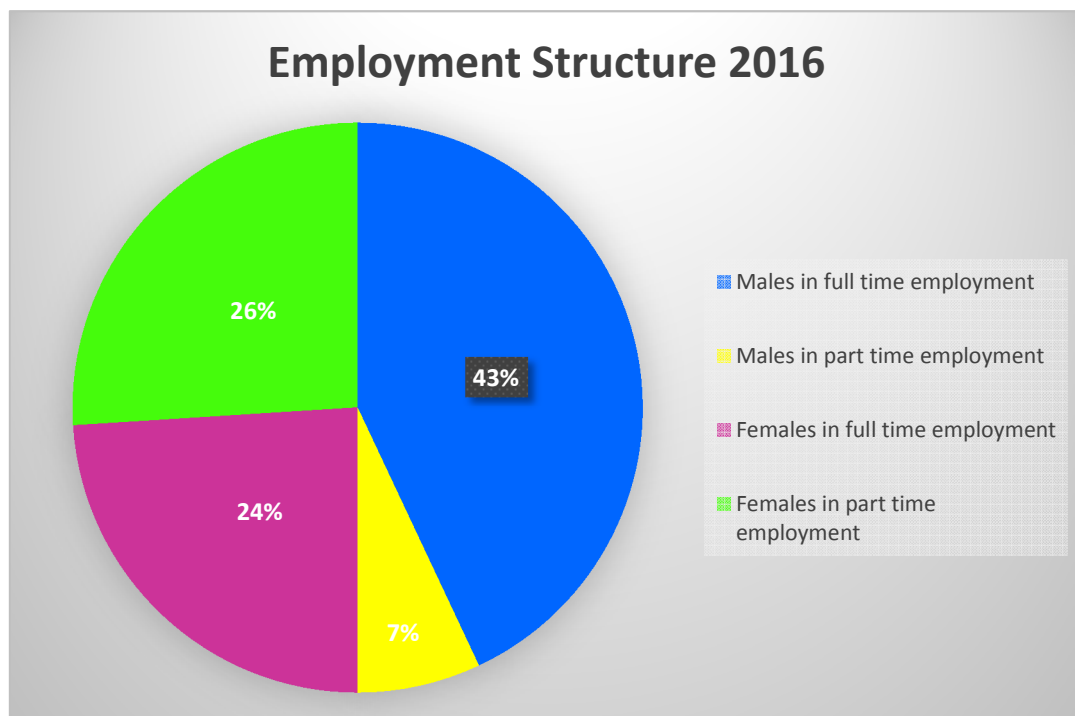
#### Economic activity

**80.7%** of North Somerset residents aged 16 to 64 are economically active, this is an increase of 0.4% on the previous year. This compares to 80.8% in the South West and 77.9% in England and Wales.

Source: Annual Population Survey April 2015 - March 2016

#### Employment structure

- **67.5%** of 16-64 year olds in North Somerset work full time and **32.5%** work part time. In England and Wales, 74.4% work full time and 25.3% work part time.
- **86.7%** of the economically active males work full time and **13.3%** work part time. In England and Wales, 88.4% of the economically active males work full time and 11.3% work part time.
- **48.4%** of the economically active females work full time and **51.6%** work part time. Nationally, 58.5% of the economically active females work full time and 41.2% work part time.



Source: Annual Population Survey April 2015 - March 2016

## Income

- In 2016 the average gross annual pay for full time employees **working** in North Somerset was **£26,943**, an increase on the previous year. Currently average earnings for employees across the South West are £26,348 per annum.
- The average full time gross pay for the **residents** of North Somerset in 2016 was **£29,933**, an increase of £447 since 2015. This is higher than the average figure for England and Wales which was £28,353.

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2016

## Productivity

Region	Enterprise Births	Enterprise Deaths	Active Enterprises
England and Wales	339,620	203,980	2,201,605
South West	24,405	16,405	194,245
North Somerset	1,070	740	7,970

Business Demography 2015, Office for National Statistics

## Total amount of additional employment floorspace – by type

	B1a Office	B1b Research and Development	B1c Light Industry	B2 General Industry	B8 Storage and Warehouse	Total
Large site gains (sqm)	0	0	1,888	19,366	1,490	<b>22,744</b>
Large site losses (sqm)	0	0	2,879	550	0	<b>3,429</b>
Small site gains (sqm)	575	0	476	949	400	<b>2,400</b>
Small site losses (sqm)	1,639	0	421	0	1,421	<b>3,481</b>
<b>Net gain (sqm)</b>	<b>-1,064</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-936</b>	<b>19,765</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>18,234</b>

Large sites are those that are allocated for employment use in the Replacement Local Plan or windfall sites with a floorspace of 500 square metres or more. Small sites are monitored separately, and cover all of the employment sites that do not meet the threshold of a large site.

During the 2015/16 monitoring period seven large employment sites were developed resulting in a gain of employment floorspace and three sites were developed resulting in a loss. A total of 22,744sqm has been gained and there has been a loss of 3,429sqm.

The completed developments are summarised below.

- Five light industrial units were completed at Beaufighter Road, Weston-super-Mare located in the Junction 21 Enterprise Area totalling a floorspace of 960 square metres. Another building, providing 998 square metres of floorspace, on the same site was

also completed. This building has provided a combined factory and office space.

- Newly built units have also been completed at an established industrial site at Windmill Road, Kenn. Six industrial units were completed totalling 928 square metres of floorspace.
- A significantly large extension to an existing site in Yatton resulted in an additional 18,315 square metres of B2 floorspace.
- Changes of use of agricultural buildings located in Hewish and Redhill have increased the amount of B8 storage space. Development has also been undertaken at the Thatchers site in Sandford.
- Three large employment sites were lost during the monitoring period. A unit at Hither Green, Clevedon has been refurbished to create a new food retail store, a unit on Old Mill Road, Portishead has been converted into a leisure facility and a unit on Tweed Road, Clevedon changed use to a soft play centre. All three developments will still provide non B use class employment opportunities.

**Total amount of large site employment floorspace gain on previously developed land – by type**

	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
Gross sqm completed	0	0	1,888	19,366	1,490	<b>22,744</b>
Gross sqm completed on PDL	0	0	960	1,051	1,490	<b>3,501</b>
% completed on PDL	~	~	51%	5%	100%	<b>15%</b>

**Employment land**

The adopted Core Strategy focuses on supporting a successful economy and seeks to provide an additional 10,100 jobs by 2026, by allocating around 114 hectares of land for B class uses. This will help address the issue of out-commuting and will increase self-containment, particularly in Weston-super-Mare. The emerging Sites and Policies Plan Part 2 will allocate new employment sites as well as protecting existing ones.

**Supporting the local economy**

Employment led development within North Somerset is key in ensuring that there is a balance between new homes and local job opportunities. We are working closely with key landowners, developers and agents to make sure that there is a focus on creating a range of new jobs as part of the developments coming forward within the Junction 21 Enterprise Area. As such, a range of services exist to assist with the delivery of business proposals which have significant economic benefits. These are detailed below.

*Simplified Planning*

We offer various forms of support to assist with the planning phase, including free pre-application advice for proposals for employment generating developments within the business use classes in the Junction 21

Enterprise Area. We also try to shorten the time it takes to make decisions on key applications and can use planning performance agreements to assist with project management and resources.

#### *Local Development Order*

A Local Development Order (LDO) covering a selection of sites within the Junction 21 Enterprise Area to encourage and support economic growth came into effect in June 2014. The LDO comprises three parts which have the effect of permitting alterations, changes of use and alternative buildings without the need for a further planning consent. A second LDO is currently being prepared to support the development of a food and drink centre on the former Weston Airfield site as part of the Weston Villages development. The document has been consulted on with adoption expected in 2017.

#### *Local Economic Development Protocol*

We seek to support the timely delivery of development that will have significant local economic benefits. Schemes under the protocol are given a single point of contact, a nominated senior officer, dedicated planning officer and benefit from early councillor engagement. Support is also offered after permission has been granted to help resolve any delivery and implementation issues.

### **Transport and infrastructure**

Progress has been made on a number of highway and transport schemes this year, as detailed within the transport and movement section of the environment chapter.

We are also continuing to work with other local authorities as part of the Connecting Devon and Somerset project, which encompasses the six areas of Devon, Torbay, Plymouth, Somerset, North Somerset and Bath and North East Somerset. The project aims to deliver superfast broadband (over 24Mbps) to 100% of premises within the allocated area by 2020 and will be delivered in two phases.

Phase 1 is nearing completion providing superfast broadband to residents and businesses using fibre optic technology to upgrade the existing infrastructure. Further details can be found on the projects website

[www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk](http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk).

## DELIVERING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

### Retail

#### Total amount of floorspace (sqm) completed for town centre uses within the town centres

	A1 Retail	A2 Financial and Professional	B1a Office	D2 Leisure	Total
Town Centre Gross Gains	102	156	48	550	<b>856</b>
Town Centre Losses	798	0	952	366	<b>2,116</b>
Town Centre Net Gains	-696	156	-904	184	<b>-1,260</b>

#### Total amount of floorspace (sqm) completed for town centre uses within whole local authority area

	A1 Retail	A2 Financial and Professional	B1a Office	D2 Leisure	Total
North Somerset Gains	3,075	156	575	1,909	<b>5,715</b>
North Somerset Losses	1,378	259	1,639	407	<b>3,683</b>
North Somerset Net Gain	1,697	-103	-1,064	1,502	<b>2,032</b>

This monitoring period has seen a decrease in the amount of A1 floorspace in town centres. Overall, throughout North Somerset, there has been a net increase in A1 floorspace. Office floorspace has also declined in the town centres with losses recorded in the past nine years.

### Retail Centres

North Somerset is served by four towns, four district centres, 18 local centres and various out of centre retail areas. There are also significant retail offerings in close proximity to North Somerset at Cribs Causeway, Bristol City Centre and Taunton. Retail areas throughout the district are monitored annually to record any changes in occupancy and vacancy rates.

<b>Towns</b>	<b>Weston- super- Mare</b>	<b>Portishead</b>	<b>Clevedon</b>	<b>Nailsea</b>
Total units	621	132	153	173
Vacant units	90	2	9	29
<b>% of vacant units</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>17%</b>
Total PRF units	156	77	63	46
Vacant PRF units	17	2	3	6
<b>% of vacant PRF units</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>13%</b>
% of total units in A1 use	41%	51%	48%	48%
% of total PRF units in A1 use	65%	61%	70%	76%

April 2016

*PRF – Primary Retail Frontage*

In defined town centres, policy indicators and targets state that the proportion of primary retail frontage (PRF) units in a non-retail use should not exceed 30% and vacant units should not exceed 10%.

Both Clevedon and Portishead have vacancy rates under 10% in both the wider town centre and the PRF. At present, Weston-super-Mare and Nailsea are not achieving these targets. Clevedon and Nailsea are meeting the target of at least 70% of PRF units in A1 use with the other two towns not reaching the target.

The vacancy rates at the following district and local retail centres are also monitored, as set out in the following table.

	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>A1 Use</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>District Centre</b>			
Locking Castle, WsM	14	5	0
Queensway, WsM	14	10	0
Worle High Street, WsM	108	48	2
Hill Road, Clevedon	79	44	6
<b>Local Centre</b>			
Backwell	48	20	1
Banwell	14	3	2
Churchill	3	3	0
Congresbury	41	26	1
Easton-in-Gordano/Pill	24	8	3
Long Ashton	22	9	3
Winscombe	60	29	1
Wrington	24	10	2
Yatton	50	25	4
Bournville, WsM	9	4	1
Castle Batch, WsM	9	4	0
Coronation, WsM	7	4	2
Locking Road, WsM	12	6	0
Milton Hill, WsM	12	6	2
Milton Road, WsM	34	22	5
Oldmixon, WsM	13	8	1
Whitecross Road, WsM	30	16	5
West Hill, Portishead	15	8	0

A1 uses in the local and district centres can be significantly lower than in the primary retail areas of the four towns. This may be explained by the smaller size of the centres and the fact that they must serve a community as well as a retail function.

## **Weston Town Centre**

A major program of regeneration for Weston-super-Mare is well underway. It is focused on developing quality living, learning and lifestyle opportunities in the town centre. Economic growth will be underpinned by attracting more people to live in the town centre and creating a residential environment that will help to inject new life into the centre, boosting the demand for shops and services.

The broad program of ambitious projects includes those led by the council directly and projects led by partner organisations. These include the following;

- The Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document was drafted, based on the masterplanning work undertaken earlier in 2015/6 and underwent public consultation at the end of 2016, with amendments leading to final adoption, expected in February 2017.
- The Council has purchased the former magistrates court and police station, to develop modern urban apartments on the site now known as Walliscote Place. Work is underway on a planning application for the site, due to be submitted in summer 2017.
- The HCA purchased significant sites in the town centre for further residential developments, including Locking Road car park, Dolphin Square phase 4, former Sands nightclub site and Oxford Corner restaurant and the Weston Links site adjacent to Herluin way.
- The council worked with the owners and occupiers of the 17 properties at The Centre to refurbish the external façade, create a pocket park on the wide pavement at the front and seek to address problems with waste collection at the rear of the properties.
- Work on the Legal and Professional Services Academy at the Winter Gardens is well underway and due to open in September 2017.
- Building works are also now well under way on the £18m third phase of McLaren Life's development at Dolphin Square. This will include an 8-screen cinema, well-known restaurants and leisure operators and is due to open in summer 2017.
- The cultural and creative sector also have an important role in drawing new interest in the town and contributing to the local economy. The council has secured funding for the development of a creative hub to provide business start-up space and support for creative sector micro-businesses and entrepreneurs. This will be located in Wadham Street and is due to open in spring 2017.
- Heritage Action Zone status has been awarded by Historic England, to Weston town centre, the only such designation in the South West. Funding for a 3 year programme of activities to celebrate and enhance the town's heritage is currently being agreed with Historic England.



The town centre is also benefitting from additional projects:

- Town Square – major refurbishment of the Town Square and Italian Gardens due to start January 2017, funded by the LEP, will be delivered in three phases during 2017/8.
- Great Places – this is a pilot project bringing together funding from Heritage Lottery, Arts Council and Historic England, to focus effort on enhancing the cultural offer of an area. We have been invited to bid for this as one of 12 national pilots and will know the result in March 2017.
- Starter Homes – Weston is one of 30 areas nationally selected as sites for significant funding for starter homes.

## DELIVERING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

### Tourism

#### Tourism Activity

- Altogether there were 8 million visitors to North Somerset in 2015.
- There were 7,453,000 day visitors to North Somerset in 2015.
- There were 540,000 staying visitor trips to North Somerset spending a total of 1,777,000 nights in 2015.
- The number of visitors using accommodation in the district was 540,000 people.
- Visitor expenditure in 2015 was £364,544,000.
- The number of people employed directly and indirectly by tourism in North Somerset is estimated to be 4,908 full time equivalents.

Source: The Economic Impact of North Somerset's Visitor Economy 2015

#### Tourist Accommodation

Core Strategy Policy CS22 has a clear intention to monitor the number of tourist accommodation bed spaces in Weston-super-Mare, and across the rest of the district. The increase in both the number of and quality of tourist bed spaces will be monitored on an annual basis. The following table shows the number of tourist bed spaces in North Somerset as known to North Somerset Council's Economic Development Department.

Accommodation Category	North Somerset 2014		North Somerset 2013	
	Establishments	Beds / Sleeping Spaces	Establishments	Beds / Sleeping Spaces
+30 room hotels	22	2,809	23	3,041
10-30 room hotels	26	902	27	950
<10 room hotels/others	102	1,119	105	1,126
<b>Serviced Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>5,117</b>
Self catering	69	1,016	73	1,028
Static caravans/chalets	0*	2,445	0*	1,904
Touring caravans/camping	39	2,427	35	2,310
Youth Hostels	0	0	0	0
<b>Non-Serviced Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>5,888</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>5,242</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>10,718</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>10,359</b>

\* The number of establishments in this category cannot be reported, as some sites have both touring and static pitches, and therefore double counting would occur.

Source: North Somerset Council Steam Report 2014

## DELIVERING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

### Bristol Airport

#### **Expansion**

Planning permission was granted in February 2011 for a comprehensive expansion of the airport. This includes a new office building for the airport and airline staff, new underground storage facility for aviation fuel, a new public transport interchange to provide pick up and drop off facilities for buses and coaches, additional car parking and expansion of the existing terminal building which will double in size with increased security and improve passenger comfort levels.

The first phase of the terminal expansion opened to passengers in July 2016. This provided a 9,000 square metre structure housing improved facilities for passengers boarding flights including a larger pre boarding area with an increased number of security lanes. Further development will be undertaken in 2017 to provide better facilities for arriving passengers.

#### **Employment**

The Bristol Airport 2015 Operations Monitoring Report states that the number of people working at the airport in the summer was 2,818 full time equivalents, up from 2,696 in 2014.

## **DELIVERING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY**

### **Royal Portbury Dock**

Within the Core Strategy, Policy CS24 provides that the role of Royal Portbury Dock will be maintained and enhanced, and that land will continue to be safeguarded for port uses within the Sites and Policies Plan. Any significant development which is permitted will be reported on in future AMRs.

## ENSURING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### Children, young people and education

#### Education

##### Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 Results: Percentage of Pupils achieving Level 4 or above in Reading	2012	2013	2014	2015
North Somerset LA	88	89	92	92
South West Region	87	87	89	90
England	87	86	89	90
Key Stage 2 Results: Percentage of Pupils achieving Level 4 or above in Mathematics	2012	2013	2014	2015
North Somerset LA	85	88	88	89
South West Region	85	86	86	87
England	84	86	86	87

Source: Department for Education – National curriculum assessments: key stage 2

#### GCSE results

The percentage of pupils in North Somerset achieving 5 or more A\* to C grades including English and Maths in 2014 was 57.8%, a slightly lower figure on the previous year of 58.5%. The percentage of pupils gaining 5 or more GCSEs at grade A\* to C (any subject) is 68.2%.

Source: Department for Education

#### A Levels (Level 3 qualifications)

A level results in North Somerset are above those for England as a whole with the pass rate for A\* to E for the district 98.4% compared with 98.1% nationally in 2015.

Source: Department for Education

#### Educational Qualifications

The population aged 16-64 with NVQ4 (HND, Degree level or equivalent) or higher is:

<b>North Somerset</b>	<b>47,041</b>	<b>28.4%</b>
South West	1,193,337	27.4%
England and Wales	12,383,477	27.2%

The population aged 16-64 with NVQ3 (A' levels or equivalent) is:

<b>North Somerset</b>	<b>21,012</b>	<b>12.7%</b>
South West	575,085	13.2%
England and Wales	5,617,802	12.3%

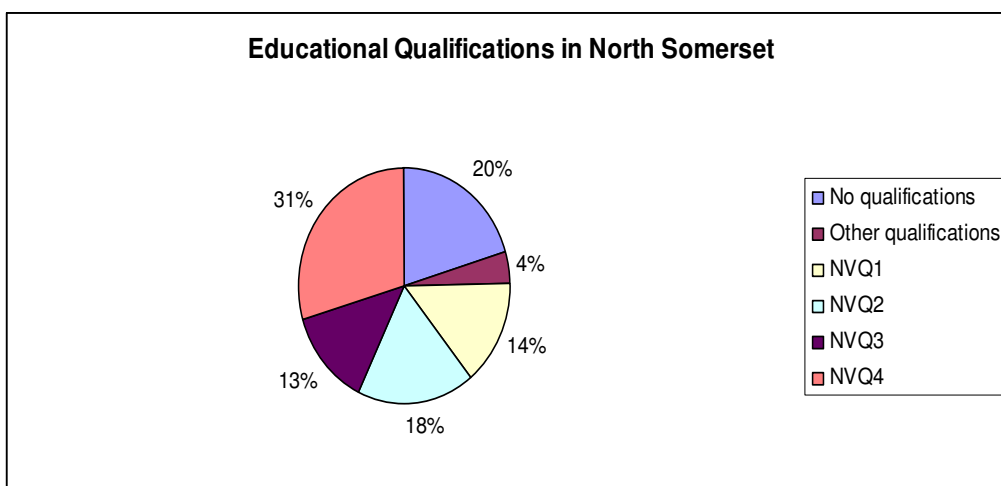
The population aged 16-64 with NVQ1 and 2 is:

<b>North Somerset</b>	<b>51,294</b>	<b>30.9%</b>
South West	1,306,946	30%
England and Wales	12,985,817	28.6%

The population aged 16-64 who do not have any qualifications is:

<b>North Somerset</b>	<b>32,539</b>	<b>19.6%</b>
South West	902,561	20.7%
England and Wales	10,307,327	22.7%

NVQ1 equivalent = fewer than 5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C, GNVQ or NVQ level 1  
NVQ2 equivalent = 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C, intermediate GNVQ or NVQ level 2  
NVQ3 equivalent = 2 or more A levels, advanced GNVQ or NVQ level 3  
NVQ4 equivalent = HND, Degree, Higher Degree Level qualification or equivalent



Source: Census 2011 Qualifications

## Schools

North Somerset has:

	Start of the 2014/15 School Year
Community Primary Schools	17
Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools	14
Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary Schools	13
Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School	3
Anglican/Methodist (Baptist) Voluntary Aided Primary Schools	2
Community Infant Schools	2
Voluntary Controlled Infant School	1
Community Co-operative Trust	5
Community Junior Schools (Years 3-6)	2
Voluntary Controlled Junior Schools (Years 3-6)	1
4-11 academies	5
Community Secondary Schools (all holding Specialist Status)	1
Special Schools (one of which has Foundation/Trust status)	3
Foundation/Trust	2
11-16 academies	2
11-19 academies	5
14 – 25 ETC	1
Totals	79

In the new development at Winterstoke Village, Weston-super-Mare Haywood Village Academy (primary) opened in September 2016 and there are proposals for 3 further primary schools with planning consent. The North Somerset Enterprise and Technical College on Weston Airfield opened in 2014 and is part of the Inspirational Futures Trust. The college offers a full curriculum but specialises in science, technology, engineering and maths.

## Weston College

The College offers a range of courses from entry level to degree level. There are three main campuses at present; the modern University Campus, the town centre Knightstone Campus and the South West Skills Campus.

The University Campus is a landmark building for the town and accommodates more than 800 students and is home to Creative Arts together with the Sixth Form Centre and houses most of the degree level education in partnership with Bath Spa University.

Knightstone Campus is just a few minutes' walk from the town centre and has recently been refurbished to provide high quality facilities for students including a fitness suite and gym, kitchen and restaurant and a Higher Education Centre.

The South West Skills Campus is split into the following areas; the Construction and Engineering Centre of Excellence; the Automotive Technology Centre; the Business Enterprise Centre; the Lord Baker Innovation Centre and the Sustainability Centre.

Work is being undertaken on the Winter Gardens, a prominent building in the town centre located on the seafront. The building will be transformed into a teaching facility for legal and professional services.

## School places

Core Strategy Policy CS25 has an indicator in place to monitor the number of extra school places and those funded through development. The table shows the number of school places throughout the district and the additional spaces created. Spaces funded through Section 106 contributions are located in Winterstoke Village providing new educational facilities to families moving to the development.

	Number of school places		Additional places	s106 funded places	Location of funded places
	Sep-2015	Sep-2016			
Primary	17,966	18,071	105	60	Haywood Village Primary
Secondary	12,241	12,316	75	75	NSETC
TOTAL	30,207	30,387	180	135	

## Children's Centres

The main purpose of Children's Centres is to improve the outcomes for all young children with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged children. They offer a number of core services that will bring together education and childcare, family support and health services in an accessible way for young children and their families. There are currently 14 centres throughout North Somerset, although the location and services of the Children's Centres are currently subject to a Community Access Review. Details are on our website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CAR](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CAR)



## ENSURING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### Health

#### **Life expectancy**

The average female life expectancy in North Somerset is 83.4 years and the average male life expectancy is 80.1 years. In England and Wales the average life expectancies are currently 83.1 years for females and 79.4 years for males.

Source: North Somerset Health Profile 2015, Department of Health

#### **Limiting Long Term Illnesses**

38,740 people in North Somerset describe themselves as having a limiting long term illness of some form, 19.2% of the population. This is an increase from the 18.5% ten years ago. The national average has decreased, from 18.2% in 2001 to 17.9% in 2011.

Source: 2011 Census

#### **General health**

81.1% of people consider themselves to be in good or very good health, and a further 13.7% describe their general health as fair. This accounts for 94.8% of the total population, higher than the 91.4% that described their health as fair or better ten years ago. 4.1% of our residents consider themselves to be in bad health, and a further 1.2% think they are in very bad health. Our current proportions are similar to the up to date national averages.

Source: 2011 Census

#### **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is subject to a continuous rolling update process. The JSNA aims to identify the current and future needs for health and social care services for all people in North Somerset. It contains a wealth of information and will be a useful tool in ensuring that development plan policies are effectively contributing to overall health and well-being across North Somerset. The JSNA is available to view on our website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/jsna](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/jsna)

## ENSURING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### Sport, recreation and community facilities

#### Sport and recreation

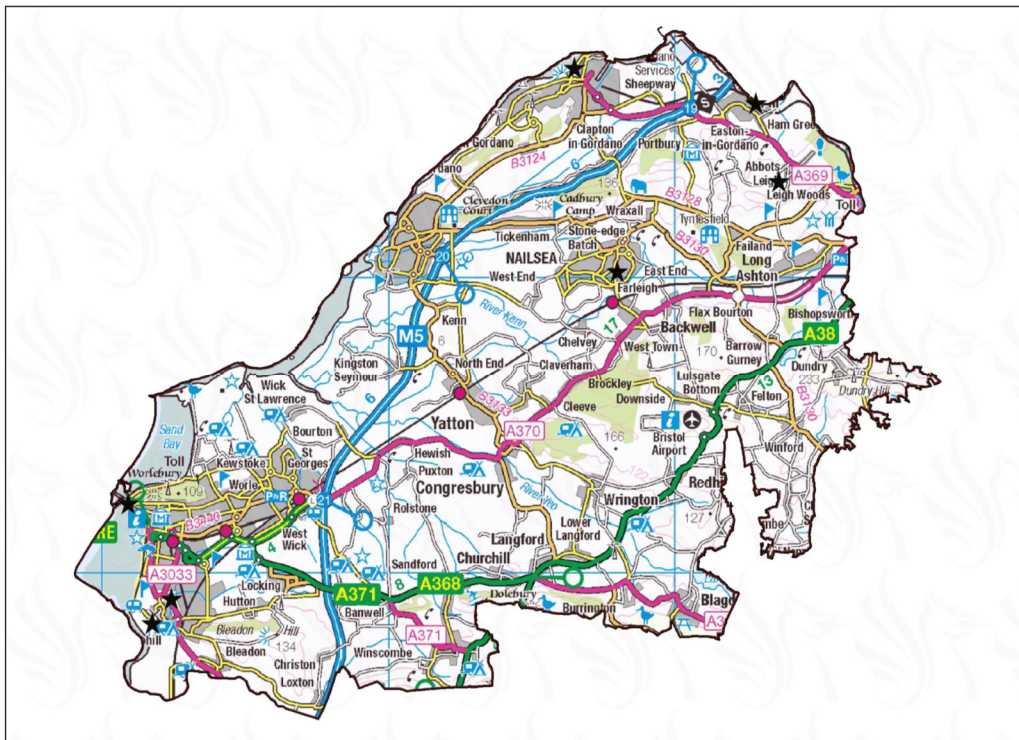
Policy CS27 of the Core Strategy aims to ensure that for all residents of North Somerset there is safe and convenient access to sport, recreation and community facilities. Policies DM68 (Protection of sporting, cultural and community facilities) and DM69 (Location of sporting, cultural and community facilities) of the Sites and Policies Plan Part 1 Development Management Policies seek to protect and enhance facilities.

Monitoring of the provision of sport, recreation and community facilities will be focused on delivery. This will be assisted by the adopted Development Contributions Supplementary Planning Document.

#### Open spaces

During the monitoring period, there were seven areas of open space in North Somerset that were managed to Green Flag Award standard, including two new additions. These seven sites are shown on the map below and are:

- Jubilee Park in Weston-super-Mare.
- Uphill Hill Local Nature Reserve in Uphill.
- Watchhouse Hill Public Open Space in Pill.
- Abbots Pool in Leigh Woods.
- Trendlewood Community Park, Nailsea.
- Portishead Lake Grounds.
- Prince Consort Gardens, Weston-super-Mare.



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Further information on the Green Flag Award criteria can be found at <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/>

## **Community facilities**

Our sport and leisure centres offer a range of facilities. The twelve centres are:

- @Worle
- Backwell Leisure Centre
- The Campus
- Churchill Sports Centre
- Clevedon School Sports Centre
- Gordano Community Trust Sports Centre
- Hans Price Sports Centre
- Hutton Moor Leisure Centre
- Parish Wharf Leisure Centre
- Portishead Open Air Pool
- Scotch Horn Leisure Centre
- Strode Leisure Centre

The council also maintain sports pitches which are hired out to clubs.

The council operates 12 libraries and a mobile library service. Visits to Weston library have increased significantly following the service being integrated within the Town Hall. Further details are available on our website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/)

## **Community Access Review**

The council is currently conducting a Community Access Review looking into whether the services offered to the community are fit for purposes and located in the most appropriate locations. This incorporates the 12 libraries and 14 children's centres across the district. The review is looking to improve and retain these services in challenging financial times, possibly by co-locating them and increasing self-service. The first phase of the project, reviewing seven localities, has gone through a public consultation. Further details are available at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CAR](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CAR)

## AREA POLICIES

### Core Strategy area policies

The Core Strategy contains six area based policies, which pull together the overall strategic policy requirements relating to specific geographies. These policies are:

- CS28: Weston-super-Mare
- CS29: Weston-super-Mare town centre
- CS30: Weston Villages
- CS31: Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead
- CS32: Service Villages
- CS33: Infill villages, smaller settlements and countryside

This hierarchy is also followed in the Sites and Policies Plan. This document will contain detailed policies that can be monitored at small geographic areas. Monitoring systems will be adjusted to collect all of the Annual Monitoring Report data for the area policies geographies wherever possible.

## AREA POLICIES

### Weston Villages

The Weston Villages development is a major strategic mixed use development, and subject to the employment led objectives and policies of the Core Strategy.

Monitoring and review processes to assess delivery of jobs in line with homes have been agreed with the developers involved at the Joint Delivery Review Board. This is the fourth annual report on the Weston Villages development.

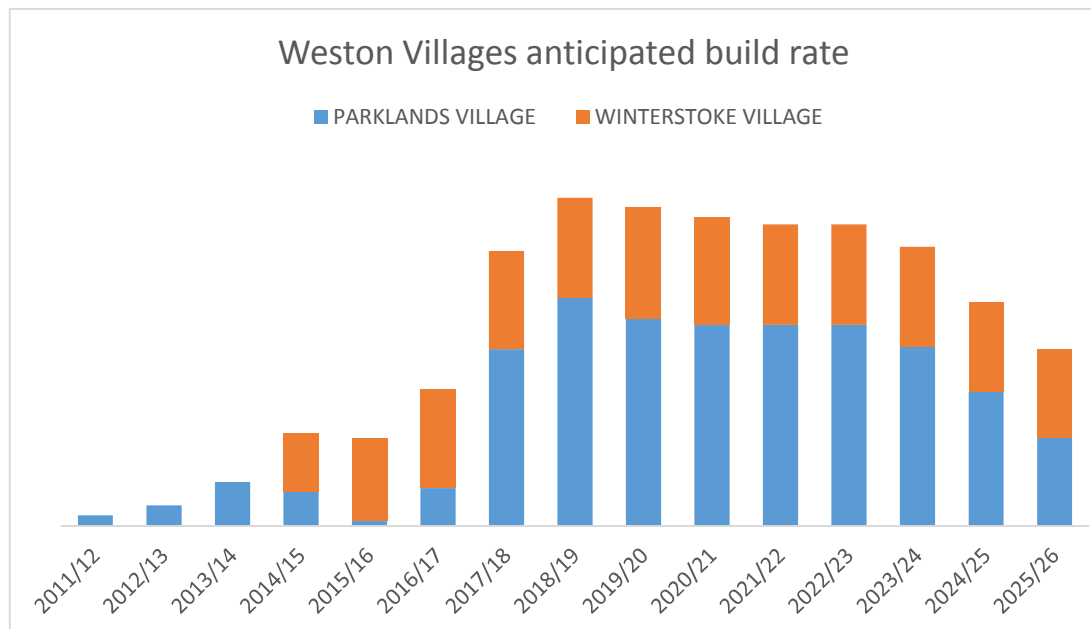
#### Total number of jobs and homes delivered at Weston Villages

Between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2016 there were a further 10 dwelling completions recorded at Locking Parklands. Phases 1 and 2 are now complete (250 dwellings in total) and work is underway on phase 3. The first speculative office build is also now occupied.

On Winterstoke Village there were 317 residential completions recorded at April 2016.

The first employment development 'The Hive' is complete and open, as is the Landing Light public house and the adjacent Travelodge hotel and employment site. The North Somerset Enterprise and Technical College (NSETC) is open, and the first primary school is due to open its doors to pupils from September 2016.

The trajectory charts below show the anticipated rate of delivery for the 6,500 total dwellings committed at Weston Villages over the plan period.



#### Types of jobs delivered on site

The first office build at Locking Parklands was a 558 square metre speculative build, which will generate up to 49 jobs once fully taken up.

At Winterstoke Village the first employment development, The Hive managed workspace facility, continues to exceed its phased occupation plan. Once fully occupied it is expected that this will deliver around 174 jobs. The Landing Light public house opened in the summer 2014, which provides another 25 employment opportunities. The Travelodge hotel is also now open, and the first of the light industrial units is complete, and occupied by SafeLab.

### **Off site jobs**

There are two types of off-site job credits applied to the Weston Villages:

- 1) Where jobs are delivered on off-site land in the control of one of the landowners within the Weston settlement boundary, these are credited to that landowner. In 2014/15 there were no jobs within this category to report.
- 2) Where jobs are created on off-site land not in control of any of the landowners and not already linked to an employment-led housing allocation, 30% of the jobs are credited and shared between those landowners who are members of the Junction 21 Enterprise Area marketing group. This recognises the joint work of the developers in attracting employment to the town. All off-site job credits relate to the gross increase in new jobs delivered on employment and mixed-use sites within the Weston settlement boundary, and retail and leisure sites within the town centre and defined out of town retail area, subject to agreed exclusions.

During 2012/13, 68 new jobs were created as a result of the first phase of the Dolphin Square development (Premier Inn Hotel and Brewers Fayre restaurant). These were credited to Persimmon Homes, St. Modwen and North Somerset Council, who each received 7 jobs.

During 2013/14 Oakwood Business Park on the Oldmixon industrial estate was completed, delivering 30 new jobs. Pure Offices at St Georges was also finished, providing 24 new employment opportunities. 14 new jobs were delivered in the town centre, as a result of changes of use of four separate vacant units to bring them back into use and create new employment opportunities. A further 7 credits were therefore made to Persimmon Homes, St Modwen and North Somerset Council.

During 2014/15 three small employment sites unrelated to the Weston Villages landowners were completed within Weston-super-Mare, an office on Whitecross Road, an extension to a business unit at Sunnyside Road and a workshop on Warne Road. These developments delivered a total of 9 new jobs between them. Within the town centre and out of town retail area one new shop unit was built, and four new businesses began operating from previous long term vacant units, delivering a total of 29 jobs. 12 credits are therefore made for this monitoring year, with 4 each awarded to Persimmon Homes, St Modwen and North Somerset Council.

2015/16 figures are to be confirmed.

### **Details of marketing and promotional strategies**

Details of employment sites and business opportunities across North Somerset (and in particular at J21EA) are promoted by the Economic Development Service through a range of activities including:

- the business focused website [www.innorthsomerset.co.uk](http://www.innorthsomerset.co.uk) (includes site profiles, town profiles, news items, J21EA zone and the Business Directory).
- twitter (@innorthsomerset) and linkedin.
- various editorials and advertisements in property press and general media.
- Business events throughout the year.
- Production of brochures and leaflets (including the North Somerset brochure, Weston brochure, simplified planning and Westonworks employment support).
- the business lounge at the Town Hall (which includes the display of property particulars and maps).
- contact with businesses and site tours.

### **Joint working**

In addition to the council's own marketing and promotional activities, a number of the developers have contributed to the joint marketing of the area. This joint promotional work includes advertisements and editorials (in both local and regional press and via a PR agency for national coverage), attendance at events, production of brochures and general marketing activities. The Economic Development Service also supports and uses a sub-regional online property database to list and promote available commercial premises across the area. This is available to view at [www.innorthsomerset.co.uk](http://www.innorthsomerset.co.uk) and is supported by the West of England Inward Investment Service.

### **Infrastructure delivery**

Progress on strategic infrastructure delivery during 2015/16 has included:

- Weston Package and J21 outbound works phase 1: complete. Bidding for match-funding for phase 2a (northbound merge) and Queensway improvements.
- West Wick roundabout improvements starting imminently.
- Strategic Flood Solution: Superpond South complete. Final works on River Banwell scheme delayed due to weather but due to recommence shortly for completion before summer.
- Cross Airfield Link: completion expected 2017.
- North South Link: delay due to resolving design but construction expected to start later this year.
- NSETC and Haywood Village Primary School and shared-use community facilities: opening Sept 2016.
- Cycle & footpath improvements delivered along A371.
- Campus improvements delivered; Locking Parklands chapel restoration starting imminently.

## **Duty to Co-operate**

Section 110 of the Localism Act sets out the duty to co-operate and requires authorities to “engage constructively, actively and on an on-going basis”. It seeks to ensure that local planning authorities lead strategic planning through their Local Plans, addressing social, environmental and economic issues that can only be addressed effectively by working with other local planning authorities beyond their own administrative boundaries. Local planning authorities must give details of what action they have taken under the duty to co-operate to their communities in their Authority’s Monitoring Reports.

The West of England authorities work in partnership to reflect the challenges faced on planning, housing, transport, environment, waste and other strategic issues. All four authorities have brought their Core Strategy and visions and priorities together and published the [West of England Strategic Framework](#). This single framework includes work to identify the infrastructure requirements to inform the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership’s work on the Revolving Infrastructure Programme and Growth Incentive element of the [City Deal](#).

During 2015/16, the authorities have undertaken the following work to articulate their shared issues and priorities and to demonstrate their continued commitment to joint working:

## **Duty to Co-operate Schedule**

The [duty to co-operate](#) schedule should be read alongside the [West of England Strategic Framework](#) and in the context with ongoing relationships with key agencies. The DtC schedule is updated as relevant cross boundary work is undertaken. Version 22, dated September 2015 was taken to the West of England [Planning, Housing and Communities Board](#) on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

The DtC schedule highlights those issues that the West of England authorities have cooperated on, or that they will cooperate on with neighbouring authorities and other statutory bodies (as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework). Intended to be a living document, the DtC schedule records how the authorities have achieved compliance with the duty to co-operate as part of fulfilling their strategic planning responsibilities in preparing and keeping under review their local plan delivery programmes.

The purpose of the schedule is:

- to identify the strategic planning issues affecting more than one unitary authority area in the West of England;
- to define the processes for taking these issues forward; and
- to document outcomes delivered.



The duty to co-operate schedule provides a framework to ensure effective co-operation throughout the plan making process. The schedule ensures that strategic issues are concisely and consistently recorded, regularly monitored and updated and reported upon. This will ensure that evidence base preparation is considered jointly to inform future Local Plan reviews. The following public bodies (or their subsequent successors) are the prescribed bodies in the Localism Act, relevant to the West of England:

Environment Agency; Historic England; Natural England; Civil Aviation Authority; Homes and Communities Agency; Clinical commissioning groups & NHS Commissioning Board; Office of the Rail Regulator; Highways England ; Highway Authorities and Marine Management Organisation.

The Localism Act also requires local planning authorities to have regard to Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships.

### **Joint Spatial Plan and Transport Study**

The four West of England authorities are working together to prepare a Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) which will be the statutory planning document for the West of England. The JSP is being developed in accordance with statutory requirements, particularly around public consultation and engagement. It will provide the joint framework to ensure development requirements come forward across the West of England authorities' area up to 2036 in a planned and co-ordinated manner. This co-operation on strategic planning matters is complemented by the approach being taken on future strategic transport issues. A review of strategic transport proposals through the Joint Transport Study (JTS) will inform future development proposals and develop future strategic transport proposals up to 2036. The Joint Transport Study work programme is co-ordinated with the Joint Spatial Plan programme and shares key milestones.

Consultation on the [issues and options](#) was undertaken between 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and the results reported to members in June 2016.

The [second consultation](#) stage on the emerging spatial strategy for the West of England, 'Towards the Emerging Spatial Strategy' and the 'Transport Vision Summary Document' took place between 7<sup>th</sup> November and 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The second consultation document presented the updated housing and jobs, together with a potential set of locations and indicative capacities, to accommodate the level of development up to 2036, with justification for their inclusion. The Transport Vision also took account of the views of stakeholders and the public during the previous consultation and includes an ambitious set of integrated packages to tackle current challenges on the network, as well as addressing the impacts of developments included in the JSP.

Further technical documents have been produced and made available to support the 'Towards the Emerging Spatial Strategy' consultation, including:

- Urban Living Topic Paper
- Establishing the Joint Spatial Plan Housing Target
- West of England Stage 1 and 2 Green Belt Assessment – 2<sup>nd</sup> stage

Further information is available [here](#). Progress on this work is reported at public meetings of the Joint Transport Board; Planning, Homes and Communities Board; Strategic Leaders Board and Joint Scrutiny Committee.

### **Sub-regional employment land requirements**

The four West of England authorities jointly commissioned Atkins to carry out an Economic Development Needs Assessment, which was reported to the [Planning Housing and Communities Board](#) on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and endorsed as part of the JSP evidence base. The EDNA will be reviewed alongside other evidence for the JSP following the consultation responses.

### **Strategic Housing Market Assessment**

The National Planning Policy Framework requires local authorities to prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) which is an objective assessment of local housing needs. These assessments should consider housing market areas and therefore need to be prepared jointly between neighbouring authorities.

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment is an important part of the evidence base; it informs the monitoring of core strategy policies and informs policy makers of how much housing is required, the type of housing that is required and where it should be developed to best meet the needs of our local communities now and in the future.

The West of England authorities with support from the West of England Office commenced work on undertaking a new SHMA to cover the period 2016-2036 in March 2013 and in December 2014, the Planning, Housing and Communities Board gave a steer for the SHMA to progress on the basis of a wider Bristol Housing Market Area (HMA), comprising of Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset. A Housing Market Reference Group (HMRG) was also set up in an advisory capacity to consider issues, assumptions and methodology at key stages of the SHMA review.

The Wider Bristol Strategic Housing Market Assessment Volume 1 Final Report was reported at the [PHCB](#) on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and following minor revisions was published in July 2015.

[Volume I](#) of the SHMA defined the functional housing market area(s) across the West of England. The analysis identified separate housing market areas for Bristol and Bath; and the “best fit” for Wider Bristol was based on the combined local authority areas of Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. The Volume I report also established the OAN for housing (both market and affordable) in the Wider Bristol HMA.

[Volume 2](#) was published in November 2015 and supplements the key outputs from the SHMA presented in volume 1, through providing further information about the needs for different types of housing, including the appropriate mix of market and affordable housing and the needs of all types of housing.

Consultation feedback received about the SHMA and the associated OAN for the Wider Bristol HMA was considered by the local authorities, and the issues raised were discussed with ORS. The evidence base has been reviewed and the Joint Spatial Plan will plan to meet the needs arising from both the Bristol and the Bath housing market areas to 2036. The Bath SHMA has been updated to provide consistent information to 2036 and the Wider Bristol SHMA has also been updated and takes account of the representations received to the Issues and Options consultation. Information on both these documents is available at: <https://www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk>

### **Sustainability Appraisal**

The four West of England authorities have prepared a [Sustainability Appraisal \(SA\) Scoping Report to support the preparation of the JSP](#). Government regulations require consultation with the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England on the scope of this Appraisal. Consultation on the draft Scoping Report was undertaken between 15<sup>th</sup> June and 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and an initial SA Report was published in November 2015, alongside the JSP Issues and Options. This provided an initial high-level appraisal of the plan, and comments were invited on both the methodology and the findings.

Work is continuing to refine analysis as more information emerges, to ensure that all locations have been assessed to a comparable level of detail and consistently between the four authorities. Further information has been made available as part of the consultation between 7<sup>th</sup> November and 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and a final Sustainability Appraisal Report will accompany the Submission Plan.

### **Green Belt Appraisal**

The preparation of the JSP requires an evidence base which assesses the role and function of the existing Green Belt, which, alongside other evidence, will help inform choices about the form and location of new development. The JSP approach to the assessment of Green Belt reflects national best practice.

A two stage approach was undertaken. The first stage (November 2015) examined the Green Belt in the West of England as a whole and determined whether identified cells served one or more of the purposes of Green Belt as set out in the NPPF. The second stage (September 2016) examined specific smaller parcels of land to determine their contribution to serving one or more of a selection of Green Belt purposes.

### **Joint Planning Data Group (JaPDoG)**

The West of England authorities take a joint approach to research and intelligence across the sub-region and there is a well-established joint working arrangement across a number of areas, through the Joint Planning Data Group, which meets quarterly to ensure consistency, best practice, share expertise and reduce duplication of effort across the sub-region.

To ensure consistency of approach to monitoring, colleagues are involved in co-ordinating the preparation of a methodology paper to support the review of Local Plans and to assist in the provision of an evidence base to support other work including bids, as well as informing strategic studies such as the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and the Joint Spatial Plan.

Further information on the all of the [duty to co-operate](#) and joint working is available via the [West of England](#) webpage.

### **Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA)**

As has been the case in previous years, the LAA has been prepared jointly by the four unitary authorities which together comprise the West of England (WoE) sub region. The LAA is part of the evidence base to inform the Local Plan of each of the four authorities and covers the period 2005-2014.