



Annual Monitoring Report



2018



Foreword

The North Somerset Council Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is published each year. This AMR monitors the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

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

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

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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 emerging development plan documents are progressing;
- Show how well the policies in the adopted development 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 (2012/2017)
- Sites and Policies Plan Part 1: Development Management Policies (2016)
- Sites and Policies Plan Part 2: Site Allocations Plan (2018)
- West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy (2011)
- Backwell Neighbourhood Development Plan (2015)
- Long Ashton Neighbourhood Development Plan (2015)
- Claverham Neighbourhood Development Plan (2018)

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. The adoption of the Core Strategy was subsequently 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 conclusions on the housing requirement figure.

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 re-examination took place in two stages. Policy CS13 was re-adopted in 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 Core Strategy remitted policies were adopted by the council on 10 January 2017.

Further details are available at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/corestrategy

Sites and Policies Plan Part 1: Development Management Policies

This development plan document contains the detailed development management planning policies 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 plan was adopted by full council on 19 July 2016.

For further details please visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sitesandpolicies

Sites and Policies Plan Part 2: Site Allocations Plan

The Site Allocations Plan allocates housing and employment sites to deliver the Core Strategy requirements and defines the settlement boundaries for towns and villages identified in the Core Strategy in order to direct development to the most sustainable locations within North Somerset. The plan also contains allocations and policies that will protect the environment and provide additional facilities for leisure and social and community uses.

The plan was adopted on 10 April 2018.

Further details are available at 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 joint development plan document which was adopted in March 2011. The plan period runs until 2026. The strategy sets out the policies for the provision of waste management infrastructure across the sub region.

The document is available at <http://www.westofengland.org/waste-planning/adopted-joint-waste-core-strategy>.

Neighbourhood Development Plans

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

The plans can be viewed at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans

Emerging plans

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the programme for the preparation of the Council's suite of planning policy documents. It sets out details of which documents are being produced, in what order, and when. The LDS is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it reflects the anticipated programme accurately. The current LDS milestones are explained below.

Joint Spatial Plan

The four West of England unitary authorities of Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire are preparing a joint strategic development plan called the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP).

The JSP sets out the strategic policies for sustainable growth that will help the wider area meet its housing, employment and infrastructure needs for the next 20 years. Each local authority will produce their own detailed Local Plan to identify specific allocations and deliver the level of growth prescribed by the JSP.

The initial issues and options consultation took place from November 2015 to January 2016. A second phase of consultation, 'towards the emerging spatial strategy' took place in November/December 2016. The publication version of the plan was consulted upon in November 2017 and the plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in April 2018.

Two Inspectors have been appointed to examine the plan. A further phase of consultation on technical evidence that supports the JSP is taking place from November 2018-January 2019, and examination hearings are expected to take place in May 2019.

The LDS currently anticipates that the plan will be adopted by November 2019.

Further details on the JSP are available at www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk

Local Plan 2036

A new Local Plan is being prepared by the Council in parallel with the emerging Joint Spatial Plan. The Local Plan will cover the period 2018-2036.

The Local Plan will allocate sufficient housing and employment sites to deliver the JSP requirements and identify any associated necessary infrastructure. The Local Plan will also reassess, and update where appropriate, policies and designations for the protection of the natural and built environment and allocations for other land uses. It will also contain a full suite of development management policies relating to the use of land and buildings on topics such as retail, employment, residential uses, design, flooding and drainage, waste and minerals, community facilities, transport and other infrastructure.

A pre-commencement document was published in early 2016. As the plan proposes a number of strategic development locations an early consultation called 'generating ideas' was held for these areas in late 2017. The plan has now reached issues and options stage, and a three month consultation period took place from September-December 2018.

The LDS timetable for the production of the Local Plan is currently as follows:
Publication of consultation draft – October 2019
Publication of proposed submission plan – March 2020
Submission to Secretary of State – June 2020
Examination hearings – September-October 2020
Inspector's Report – January/February 2021
Adoption – March 2021.

The timetable is subject to change and dependent on the progress of the JSP.

Neighbourhood Development Plans

In addition to the three made plans for Backwell, Long Ashton and Claverham a further nine Neighbourhood Areas have also been designated. These are:

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

These 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 kept up to date at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

Supplementary Planning Documents

Whilst not formally part of the development plan, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) can provide more detail on certain aspects of the development plan and clarify the interpretation of a policy or approach. Once adopted, SPDs are material considerations in the planning process.

Current adopted SPDs:

- Accessible Housing Needs (2018)
- Affordable Housing (2013)
- Biodiversity and Trees (2005)
- Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places (2015)
- Development Contributions (2014)
- Employment Led Delivery in Weston-super-Mare (2014)
- Landscape Character Assessment (2018)
- North Somerset and Mendip Bats Special Area of Conservation (2018)
- Parking Standards (2013)
- Residential Design Guide part 1 (2013)
- Residential Design Guide part 2 (2014)
- Solar Photovoltaic Arrays (2013)
- Travel Plans (2010)
- Weston Villages (2012)
- Weston-super-Mare Town Centre Regeneration (2017)
- Wind turbines (2014)

Proposed SPDs:

- Horse related development

All adopted and emerging supplementary planning documents are available to download from www.n-somerset.gov.uk/spds

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge which developers have to pay per square metre of development towards the cost of infrastructure to support development. The charge which is payable varies according to the size, type and location of the development.

Our CIL charging schedule took effect on 18 January 2018.

Full details of the CIL are at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CIL

No monies were received from the CIL between the implementation date in January and the end of the monitoring year in March 2018. In future years, CIL income and expenditure will be monitored, and reported on in the Annual Monitoring Report.

Topic areas

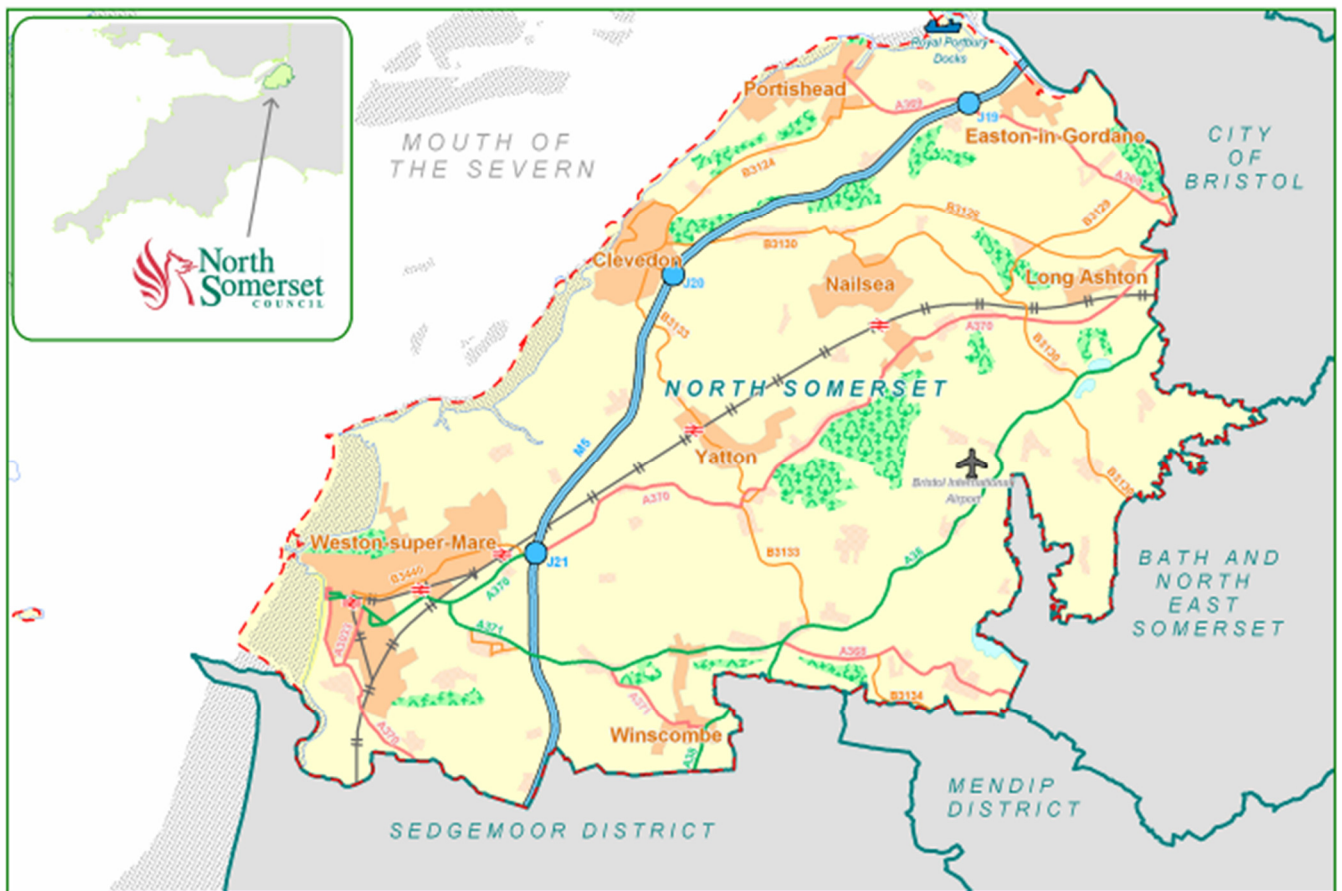
The Annual Monitoring Report is presented on a topic basis, for ease of reference. The topics have been set out to mirror the themes in the Core Strategy, which are:

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

Since 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 39,080 hectares (151 square miles) and has a population of 212,834 people¹. 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.

¹ 2017 Mid Year Population Estimate, Office for National Statistics

Demographic structure

Population size

- The population of North Somerset is 212,834, an increase of 1,155 over the past year.
- The age breakdown for North Somerset is:
 - Aged 0-15 years – 18.1%
 - Aged 16-64 years – 58.2%
 - Aged 65 years and over – 23.7%
- Currently the proportion of people in North Somerset aged 65+ is 23.7%, compared to 21.8% in the South West and 18.2% in England and Wales.

Source: 2017 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 14,521 crimes were recorded in North Somerset. This is an encouraging decrease on last year's figure of 15,711 recorded crimes.

Source: ONS

- 55% of North Somerset resident adults feel very safe or fairly safe when outside in their local area after dark. 86% of adults feel very safe or fairly safe when outside in their local area during the day. These figures are lower than the last time the measure was recorded in 2014.

Source: North Somerset Residents Survey, October 2016

Unemployment rates

- The unemployment rate of people aged 16-64 in North Somerset is 3.5% for the period April 2017 to March 2018. This is an increase on the previous year's figure of 2.5% and slightly higher than the unemployment rate of 3.4% across the South West.

Source: Annual Population Survey April 2017 to March 2018

Deprivation

- North Somerset Council is ranked as the 121st most deprived district out of 326 districts.
- North Somerset has the 3rd 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). A refresh of the document has been produced for 2018 and the council has committed to reducing carbon emissions by 50% by 2050. A copy of the refreshed Climate Local Commitment can be viewed at 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. Details of the scheme can be found at www.communityresilience-ns.org.uk.

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. below. Figures are available from 2005 to 2016 and show there is a significant reduction in North Somerset.

Year	Industry and Commercial	Domestic	Transport	N. LULUCF Net Emissions	Grand Total	Population ('000s, mid-year estimate)	Per Capita Emissions (t)
2005	460.4	471.0	582.8	10.5	1,524.7	194.7	7.8
2006	473.9	475.5	570.7	9.7	1,529.8	197.0	7.8
2007	453.5	459.0	591.8	8.5	1,512.8	199.5	7.6
2008	440.3	459.2	579.8	7.8	1,487.1	200.9	7.4
2009	383.6	417.8	556.2	7.0	1,364.6	201.7	6.8
2010	409.9	445.2	545.9	6.3	1,407.3	203.0	6.9
2011	377.7	389.4	534.3	5.6	1,306.8	203.1	6.4
2012	404.4	422.8	542.7	4.9	1,374.7	204.5	6.7
2013	386.4	411.7	540.3	4.5	1,343.0	206.2	6.5
2014	293.0	341.0	545.8	3.9	1,183.7	208.2	5.7
2015	331.4	333.6	551.0	3.1	1,219.1	209.9	5.8
2016	304.4	315.5	587.9	2.8	1,210.6	211.7	5.7

LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS

Sustainable design and construction

Renewable energy

Large renewable energy and microgeneration schemes are supported by the council. Renewable electricity produced in North Somerset, as at the end of 2017, is detailed in the table below.

	Number of sites	Capacity (MW)	Generation (MWh) (2015)
Photovoltaic	6,621	79.213	74,319
Onshore Wind	5	0.034	76
Hydro	2	0.023	73
Anaerobic Digestion	2	1.099	6,065
Landfill Gas	2	2.349	6,912
Total	6,632	82.719	87,445

Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industry

Carbon Reduction

North Somerset have reduced their carbon emissions from 7.8 tonnes per capita in 2005 to 5.7 tonnes per capita in 2016. The transport sector is one of the major sources of carbon dioxide emissions. The West of England Joint Spatial Plan promotes improved sustainable travel options at a sub-regional level and focuses on an increase in walking, cycling and public transport over the use of the private car.

New planning policy is currently in development for the new Local Plan to support reduced carbon emissions. Work has been undertaken with other local authorities in the West of England to evaluate the cost of zero carbon developments. The report can be found at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/climatechange.

There is an active community sector within the district. Local community groups have formed in Clevedon, Nailsea, Failand & Long Ashton, Backwell, Winscombe & Sandford, Pill and Portishead. The focus of the groups is to pledge practical local action on climate change. A new community initiative has formed called Zero West. This aims to bring together community groups, renewable developers, local authorities and other interested parties to work collaboratively towards a zero carbon West of England.

The council has taken the following actions to reduce carbon emissions:

- **Delivering sustainable development:** Climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements are set in policies CS1 and CS2 of the Core Strategy. Energy efficiency in the housing stock is required alongside renewable energy generation on new build properties.
- **Sustainable transport schemes:** investment in schemes such as MetroBus, encouraging sustainable travel choices and a policy requiring travel

assessments/plans must be submitted with all major (>10 dwellings) developments.

- **NSC travel plan:** a travel hierarchy is implemented where no travel is given preference, and sets out carbon reduction targets.
- **Waste minimisation:** increase in recycling rates to approximately 60% of residual waste. Waste minimisation and reuse of raw materials reduces energy use plus reduces GHG emissions associated with landfill.
- **Domestic renewable energy:** ECO funding and energy efficiency/fuel poverty support. Increased efficiency leads to reduced energy use which in turn reduces emissions.
- **Street Lighting:** where previously contributed approximately 25% of the councils CO₂ emissions, part night and dimming projects has reduced energy use/CO₂ emissions.

The council have also taken the following action to reduce the risks associated with a changing climate:

- **Flood risk management schemes:** tackling the increase in flood risk from extreme weather events and a changing climate.
- **Biodiversity and green infrastructure planning policy:** reducing the threats posed to biodiversity by climate change. GI leads to cooling, carbon storage and provides shading, increasingly required through increased temperatures.
- **Community resilience** – providing support for communities to cope in extreme weather events.

Supplementary Planning Documents

The Creating Sustainable Buildings and Places SPD, Wind Turbines SPD and the Solar Photovoltaic Array SPD are all adopted and available to view at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/spds

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. An update to the SFRA Level 1 has been commissioned and is expected in 2019.

Improved modelling by the Environment Agency (EA) has resulted in changes to the mapping of flood risk in a number of areas, principally Bleadon/Loxton/Winscombe, Weston-super-Mare, Puxton/Congresbury/Yatton, Wrington, Clevedon and along the coast. These have been incorporated into the SFRA.

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. The LFRMS can be viewed at <http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/local-flood-risk-management-strategy-summary-document.pdf>

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Screening opinions

The council has a specific role within the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 to provide screening opinions on development proposals. This is to determine whether a proposed project falls within the remit of the Regulations, by whether it is likely to have any significant effects on the environment. Screening should take place at an early stage in the decision of a project, but can occur after a planning application has been made.

There are two schedules within the Regulations which list the types of development that may be subject to EIA. All projects listed in schedule one of the Regulations will be subject to EIA and an environmental statement will be required with a planning application.

It is for the council, as local planning authority, to determine whether a proposal listed in schedule 2 of the regulations should be subject to EIA. The council may receive a screening opinion request directly from a developer. Alternatively, a screening assessment will be done which involves determining whether schedule two type developments are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The first part of the assessment is to determine whether the applicable thresholds and criteria listed in the Regulations are met or exceeded. Those which are not may be determined as not likely to have significant effects on the environment and therefore

not subject to EIA. Conversely those proposals that meet or exceed the thresholds will need to undergo further assessment to identify whether their effects on the environment are likely to be significant. This is done through the completion of a screening checklist.

Scoping opinions

Once it has been determined that a proposal is subject to EIA and an Environmental Statement (ES) is required, the developer can apply to the council in writing for a Scoping Opinion. Scoping is guidance on the issues that will need to be addressed within the ES.

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). These 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)
- 1,012 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 2017 mid-year population estimates from the Office for National Statistics gives the population of North Somerset as 212,834. This provides a ratio of 1 hectare of LNR per 730 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.

Development Management

The natural environment policies in the Core Strategy seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity through:

- meeting Biodiversity Action Plan targets,
- implementation of new Green infrastructure,
- safeguarding and enhancing through new development,
- protecting designated sites and important habitats, and
- promoting native tree planting.

Ecological consultation responses provided to Development Management ensure that the above aims are implemented within submitted ecological reports and landscaping plans. Policies CS4 and DM8 support the negotiation of reasonable avoidance and mitigation of harm to site biodiversity (prioritising protected sites and species; and Section 41 habitats and species) and the pursuit of opportunities to enhance site biodiversity.

Within the ecological assessment, it is considered essential to secure locally appropriate ecological landscaping and management of retained open spaces (subject to other required designated use constraints, e.g. play areas), particularly for major application sites; and to negotiate sufficient habitat on the boundaries of sites (proportionate to size of site) to retain sufficient wildlife corridor network.

A sufficient boundary buffer habitat is essential for bats and other wildlife that needs to migrate and interbreed with other populations for genetic exchange. A significant proportion of native planting is required within landscaping plans to increase the likelihood of provision of essential specific larval food plants for insects; and other ornamental planting required to have some recognised wildlife benefit (nectar, seeds, berries). External lighting conditions are also secured to avoid harm to light sensitive species of bats and other nocturnal wildlife.

Projects

National priority species Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*)

There are successful volunteer projects that seek to reduce the numbers of the NERC Act (2006) Priority Species Common Toad being killed on roads during their nocturnal late winter/early spring breeding migrations from hibernation sites to breeding ponds. These are located at Winscombe Hill, Abbots Leigh, Portishead, Pill and Clevedon. The 'Toad Patrols' assist hundreds of toads and other amphibians across the roads each year including aiding them escape from highways gully pots. The toad migration routes have been provided with folding toad warning signs in previous years by NSC.

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. In 2016 the trust was awarded

funding to focus on more comprehensive soil testing and soil structure analysis along with nutrient planning, ditch management and, if applicable, parasite analysis and livestock management at 15 priority farms.

Portishead Ecology Park and Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve

The Portishead Ecology Park provides flood storage capacity for the Port Marine development in the form of an attenuation pond and scrapes. It's also designed to provide recreational public open space as well as an ecological corridor in combination with the designated Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve, wider area of the Severn Estuary and open countryside including the Gordano Valley. Together these sites comprise a mosaic of valuable wetland habitats (including ponds, scrapes and rhynes), grazing marsh, meadows, and hedgerows - supporting a variety of protected and notable species including amphibians (including great crested newts), schedule 1 birds (including barn owl) nesting birds, wading birds and wildfowl, bats, reptiles, water vole, otter and invertebrates.

In September 2017 the council hosted three volunteer days at the nature reserve lead by the reserve warden. Vegetation was removed from the North Pool island in preparation for winter visiting birds and to provide nesting opportunities over the spring and summer.

LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS

Landscape and the historic environment

Heritage sites

North Somerset has:

- **37** Conservation Areas
- **1,100** Listed Buildings
- **68** Scheduled Monuments
- **8** Registered parks and gardens
- **58** Unregistered parks and gardens.

Source: Historic England / 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.

Historic England 'Heritage At Risk' Register

Ten sites within the district are on the Heritage at Risk Register 2018. Four of these sites are Conservation Areas, four 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 four 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)
- Christ Church, Montpelier, Weston-super-Mare (Grade II listed – place of worship)

The two Scheduled Monuments at risk are:

- Elms Colliery, Nailsea (the buildings are also Grade II listed)
- Worlebury Camp, Weston-super-Mare

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 as '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%).

Barrow Gurney Conservation Area

Barrow Gurney was adopted at the meeting of the Executive Councillors on 31st July 2018. This was the first conservation area to be adopted in North Somerset for 20 years and was a great conclusion after 12 years of work by local residents.

Listed Buildings

Ashton Court at Long Ashton is a large country house with a Grade I listing with the Registered Park 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. 80% of the building is unused and derelict and is subject to ongoing decay. Preliminary meetings are being held with Bristol Civic Society and Bristol City Council over the future of the site with the aim to secure its restoration and long-term future.

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 but demolition is yet to take place.

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. The Trust has applied for a Resilient Heritage grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The grant would provide financial assistance to build the Trust's capacity, and help expand the management and knowledge of the organisation.

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 are major structural voids in the aisle wall and further funding was applied for from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2016.

Christ Church, Montpelier, Weston-super-Mare is a grade II Listed Place of Worship and was a 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

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 new-build dwellings are under construction with some completions, and the main listed building has now been converted to one dwelling.

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. A planning application for this work was approved in July 2017. Work to restore the walk ways is currently underway. The replacement of the toll booths is expected to be complete by the end of 2018. Recent work has been carried out to repair the footway.

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 affecting most of the remaining interior. The property has now been fully restored and will open again as a bed and breakfast within the coming year.

Cleeve Court Grade II listed building, which was a retirement home, is now being sensitively converted in to luxury flats, retaining all of the historic detailing. Work commenced in 2018.

Weston Old Library Grade II listed building design by the famous architect Hans Price, work has now commenced on the sensitive conversion of the original museum, and library in to flats. Work commence in 2018

Scheduled Monuments

Middle Engine Pit

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.

A number of health and safety issues within the site have been addressed, including making safe the perimeter with Heras fencing and the installation of a new gate into the site. Work has commenced on producing a management plan for the site and on funding bids for the repairs to the built heritage within this important heritage asset.

Worlebury Hillfort

Worlebury Camp is a large Iron Age hillfort located on a limestone promontory to the north of Weston-super-Mare. It sits at the western spur of Worlebury Hill covering an area of approximately 10 hectares, within the larger Weston Woods (130 hectares). The land within which the hillfort sits is owned and managed by North Somerset Council. It is afforded the highest protection for a heritage asset in England, as a Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List for England number: 1011260).

We were successful in gaining funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to commission independent archaeological consultants to undertake a comprehensive condition survey of the hillfort in early 2018. The results of this survey have fed into a Conservation Management Plan (produced by the council's archaeologist) which sets out the aims and objectives for the preservation and removal of risks and threats to this nationally important hillfort.

The management plan was put to public consultation in October/November, and feedback was encouragingly positive.

Congresbury Cross

The excavation undertaken by the former archaeologist in 2016 was carried out to assess the extent of the medieval stone cross under the road. It was discovered that the lower step was originally double height, and made up of two courses of stones. The lower one had become buried as road levels increased. Beneath this are large, flat foundation stones. There is no extra step, and a temporary measure is now in place to prevent further damage from traffic.

NSC highways team have agreed a street design with Historic England and NSC heritage officers which will both work for the road system and for the protection of the asset. A costed plan for the works was sent to the Parish Council to aid in any funding bids they wish to put forward.

Heritage Projects

Heritage Action Zone (HAZ)

Weston-super-Mare was awarded Heritage Action Zone status by Historic England in March 2017. The project has been working on the adoption of the new Great Weston Conservation Area which was adopted at the executive meeting on 4th December 2018, along with the support conservation area appraisals and management plans, however these do not come into force until January 2019.

The project has also produced a Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Weston-super-Mare and the surrounding areas, as well as an Aerial Photography and Mapping project. The information from these projects are publicly available on the North Somerset Historic Environment Record (online).

Heritage Forum

The second heritage forum was run on 15th June at Nailsea Tithe Barn and was attended by 25 representatives of 16 local groups. The third forum was held on 22nd November at Clevedon Pier and was attended by 26 representatives of 17 local groups. The next forum is to be held in June 2019 at Barrow Gurney Village Hall.

Discussions took place around a number of topics including Know Your Place, heritage promotion, training opportunities and national heritage events, as well as regional research frameworks, current projects and enhancement of the historic environment record. Some great ideas for future collaborations were discussed between the groups themselves, and also with the council's heritage officers.

Know Your Place

North Somerset is part of the Know Your Place project, established in Bristol in 2011. Know Your Place North Somerset went live in May 2017, and there has been some great community participation. 2018 saw several training workshops put on as a collaboration between heritage officers and the Libraries service, which travelled around the district. Further promotion of the resource, and a potential project related to the Heritage Action Zone, will help enthuse local communities to share their archives and local stories.

Know Your Place was recognised at the Historic England Angel Awards, and won the Best Heritage Research, Interpretation or Recording Award in November 2018.

Heritage Open Days

In September, the former Magistrates' Court was opened to the public through events run by the HAZ Project Officer. The Conservation & Heritage Officer, among others, volunteered to help open the building on the day and show visitors around. Nearly 300 people visited this heritage asset over the two Saturdays it was open, with over 2000 visitors to the other heritage assets open to the public in North Somerset.

Young Archaeologists' Club (Rusty Club)

North Somerset Heritage officers helped the museum to launch the Rusty Club (Young Archaeologists' Club) in April 2018. Events have been run by the officers at Worlebury hillfort and St John's church in Weston-super-Mare. Plans for future events are in the pipeline.

Joint Spatial Plan (JSP)

The Archaeologist and Conservation & Heritage Officer were involved at the earliest stages of plan-making for the JSP, ensuring that heritage and archaeology will be taken into consideration at the proposed sites. This work will be ongoing, ensuring comments are made and appropriate investigations and mitigation is in place.

Heritage Service Plan

The heritage officers continue to update the Heritage Service Plan which is now part of the Team Plan for Strategic Developments. This is due for review in early 2019, and sets out the main objectives for the heritage officers in terms of development management, enhancement of the historic

environment record, current and ongoing projects, tourism links and involving local communities in heritage in North Somerset.

Historic Environment Record

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

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
- Events (e.g. excavation & survey reports)
- Listed Buildings

A five-year Action Plan was implemented in 2017, to significantly enhance the HER, including procedures and policies, as well as streamlining the service by offering an online request form.

In the last year, a catalogue has been compiled of all reports held by the HER (approx. 1600), and work has begun to reduce the backlog by putting those reports into the database. An upgrade of the HER software was also implemented in August 2018.

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, which covers 40% of the district. There has been no change to the Green Belt during the monitoring period.



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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. Five major applications were approved in the Green Belt during the monitoring year. All the proposals were on previously developed land; four residential applications (two full applications at the former Barrow Hospital site, one reserved matters application at Winford High Street and an outline application at Tickenham Garden Centre) and one application to extend a hotel at the motorway service station.

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 2017/18. A copy of the adopted JWCS document is available to view at

www.westofengland.org

Recycling/Composting

Unitary Authority	Capacity of applications approved during 2017/18 (tonnes)	Capacity lost during 2017/18 (tonnes)	Capacity operational at 31/03/2018 (tonnes)	Capacity permitted but not operational at 31/03/2018 (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 2017/18 (tonnes)	Capacity lost during 2017/18 (tonnes)	Capacity operational at 31/03/2018 (tonnes)	Capacity permitted but not operational at 31/03/2018 (tonnes)	Electricity and/or heat output from operational recovery facility (MW)
A~390,000tpa	0	0	5,000	0	0
E~100,000tpa	0	0	15,000	0	1.1
Total for North Somerset	0	0	20,000	0	1.1

Hazardous/Non-Hazardous Landfill – N/A

Inert Landfill

Unitary Authority	Site Name	Capacity of applications approved during 2017/18 (tonnes)	Landfill capacity which became unavailable during 2017/18 (tonnes)	Landfill operational at 31/03/2018 (tonnes)	Landfill permitted but not started at 31/03/2018 (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	Unspecified quantity of restoration material and finishing top soils to be imported to allow for restoration of quarry to Nov 2021	0

Commentary

There has been no change from the 2016/17 situation regarding extant planning permissions for waste facilities in North Somerset, taking account of all the above waste categories: recycling and composting, recovery, hazardous/non-hazardous landfill and inert landfill.

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 2017/18, 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.

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 2017 motor vehicle traffic in North Somerset was **2,493** million kilometres, an increase from **2,472** million kilometres in 2016. Department for Transport figures show traffic growth of 25.97% on North Somerset roads between 2000 and 2017.

Source: Department for Transport Road Traffic Statistics

In 2017 there were 53 reported killed and seriously injured casualties on North Somerset roads. This is an increase on the 2016 figure of 46.

Source: Department for Transport Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2017 Annual Report

Joint Local Transport Plan

The West of England Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP3), prepared in 2011, set out a 15 year vision for transport across the region. It focussed on reducing carbon emissions, supporting economic growth, and improving accessibility, safety and security, health, and quality of life. The region has made significant achievements during the seven years of JTLTP3, spending over £500m on the delivery of transport projects.

The previous Joint Local Transport Plan, JLTP3, has become out of date due to numerous national and regional planning and transport changes. In the West of England these include the emerging Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and the Joint Transport Study (JTS). For the wider region this includes the emerging Sub-National Transport Body. National announcements from the Department for Transport (DfT) will continue to have an effect on North Somerset and the wider West of England, such as removal of the Severn Tolls, proposals for a Major Road Network and the need to embrace technological advances in the transport sector (including electric and autonomous vehicles).

A new Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP4) has been drafted to cover the period 2019 to 2036. It is a joint plan prepared with North Somerset Council's West of England partners, consisting of Bath & North-East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council and the West of England Combined Authority (WECA). Consultation is programmed to take place in 2019 and a copy of the draft can be viewed at: <http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/docs/doc29276.pdf>.

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 number of passengers using the rail service in North Somerset.

On a single selected survey day in November 2017, 4,484 passengers boarded trains using the five stations in North Somerset and 4,433 passengers disembarked. Activity at the five stations across the district is summarised below.

Station	Passengers on	Passengers off
Nailsea & Backwell	962	1008
Yatton	911	886
Worle	843	834
Milton	205*	202*
Weston-super-Mare	1,563	1,503
TOTAL	4,484	4,433

* 2016 survey results used due to data collection issues

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 completed an application to the Department for Transport (DfT) to adopt Civil Parking Enforcement powers (CPE) and from April 2017 the council took responsibility for on-street parking enforcement from the police who were previously responsible. CPE enables improved enforcement of parking regulations which leads to better parking in areas where there are restrictions, as well as improved turnover of parking spaces – supporting town centres and shopping streets by making it easier for visitors and shoppers to park.

CPE helps to improve safety of pedestrians and road users. Other benefits include:

- ensures fair access to parking
- acts a deterrent to inconsiderate and dangerous parking

- alleviates congestion and pollution by keeping the highway open for the free flow of traffic
- reduces the abuse of disabled parking spaces, leaving them free for genuine blue badge holders
- increases access and response times for emergency vehicles
- improves safety outside schools

Further details are available at 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, pedestrian links and multi user routes.

Work has been ongoing developing the North Somerset section of the England Coast Path between the River Axe and the River Avon a distance of approximately 30 miles. There are many challenges creating a coast path at Woodspring Bay due to wildlife and agricultural considerations. It is now anticipated that reports will be submitted to the Secretary of State early in 2019.

The Public Rights of Way Team have resolved 458 maintenance and obstruction issues on the network in the last twelve months and has included 156 stiles removed and replaced with metal self-closing pedestrian gates and 41 bridge structures repaired or renewed. Work has also continued on the legal side dealing with numerous PRow diversion applications. Definitive Map Modification applications now have to adhere to deadlines directed by the Secretary of State.

Cycling

The council is committed to improving key cycle routes. The Brean Down Way, the first section of the Council's flagship North Somerset Coastal Towns Cycle Route, was completed in June 2017 to Uphill and recorded around 100,000 journeys in its first year. After a successful funding bid and obtaining planning permission, this is now being extended to continue to Weston-super-Mare Promenade. The new shared-use path alongside Uphill Road North is expected to be completed Summer 2019.

Planning permission for the crucial Tutshill section of the Weston to Clevedon section has now been obtained following detailed negotiations with landowners and other stakeholders. Following acceptance of an Expression of Interest to the Rural Payments Agency funding bids for this route are under way.

Together with the other West of England authorities our joint LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) continues to be developed and will be adopted as part of the Joint Local Transport Plan, summer 2019. This will identify and prioritise improvements to be made over the next 10 years.

During May 2016, we successfully bid for Department for Transport Bikeability funding and we now have a resourced delivery programme through to March 2020. During 2017/18, the following places were delivered:

	Number delivered	Number of schools	Course contents
Bikeability Balance (children in Reception)	276	4	Learning to ride
Bikeability Level 1 (children in Year 1)	549	14	Cycle control - off road
Bikeability Level 1/2 (children in Year 5/6)	1,360	33	On road cycle training
Bikeability Level 3	332	8	On road cycle training including a journey
Bikeability Fix	66	1 (plus individuals)	Cycle maintenance

School Travel Plans

On a termly basis we send a newsletter containing guidance and information about national and regional campaigns related to active and sustainable travel to school and road safety initiatives.

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.

Our annual monitoring and reporting of mode of travel to school is held on an Excel dashboard. Schools are provided with summary documents showing analysis of their pupils' travel and comparison to similar schools as well as mapping information. School Mode of Travel Data is also accessible to council officers via a mapping system which shows recommended walking and cycling zones, likely routes and the frequency they are used.

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. Major planning applications that were decided during 2017/18 secured 4 residential travel plans and 5 travel plans relating to business, through conditions.

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/businesses) - such as the popular Annual Big Commuter

Challenge and Travel to Work Survey jointly organised by the four local authorities that make up the West of England Partnership. All initiatives are recognised at the yearly Travel Awards ceremony.

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 – The first services started operating in September 2018 on this route which is part of the wider new, modern public transport service for the area. metrobus offers faster, more frequent and more reliable services with direct routes to key destinations.
- 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 and will provide access to the development from either side. Construction work commenced in November 2018 and is due to be completed by January 2021.
- Cross Airfield Link Road (CAL) – Opened April 2018 with a dual purpose to provide access for the Haywood Village development but also to help take pressure off Herluin Way and Winterstoke Road. The specification of the road has a width reservation for dual carriageway ready for when further capacity may be needed.
- M5 Junction 21 – The final phase of planned improvements at J21 are being prepared for anticipated delivery in 2019/20 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.
- M5 Junction 19 – Funding has been granted by the Department for Transport to deliver interim improvements around junction 19. Some of the money is earmarked to widen a section of the A369 at Wyndham Way. This scheme will reduce the evening peak time queues that currently build up for traffic heading towards Portishead. Reducing those queues is key to facilitate any further improvements at J19 itself. Consultation has taken place and improvements to the scheme design made as a result of the comments received. Construction is expected to start in 2019.

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 2018 Operations Monitoring Report provides information on the activity at the airport over 2017. Some key figures are:

- There was a total of 76,212 aircraft movements, an increase of 3% over the past year.
- The number of passengers increased by 8% to a total of 8,232,628.
- Over 805,500 passengers used the Bristol Flyer Airport Express bus service to Bristol.
- An estimated 12.5% 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 3,459, up from 3,070 on the previous year. The number of companies operating at the airport is 54.

Bristol Airport is planning on expanding its capacity to 12 million passengers a year. Further details are available at www.bristolairportfuture.com

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. 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 Core Strategy housing requirement is 20,985 dwellings for the period 2006-2026, equivalent to 1,049 dwellings per annum.

Upon adoption of the Joint Spatial Plan this housing requirement will be superseded. Future Annual Monitoring Reports will monitor housing completions against the new requirement.

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 council publishes regular land supply position statements, the most recent of which has a base date of April 2018. These documents are available to view on our website at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/planningpolicy.

DELIVERING STRONG AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Distribution of new housing

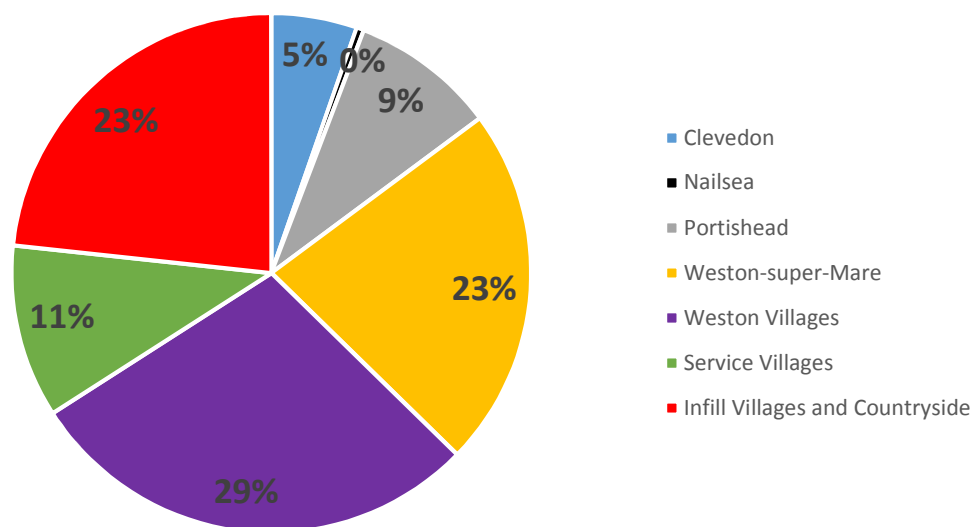
Net completions by area 2017/18

Area	Completions
Clevedon	46
Nailsea	4
Portishead	78
Weston-super-Mare	194
Weston Villages	247
Service Villages	93
Infill Villages, smaller settlements and countryside	201
Total	863

Location of housing completions

This year 66% of dwelling completions were recorded within the four towns or on the major Weston Villages strategic site. A further 11% are within Service Villages as per the Core Strategy settlement hierarchy.

Net completions by area 2017/18



Housing allocations

Following adoption of the Site Allocations Plan, sufficient residential allocations exist to deliver the Core Strategy housing requirement. Full details of the allocations can be found in Schedule 1 of the plan at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sitesandpolicies

DELIVERING STRONG AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Mixed and balanced communities

Completions by type of dwelling

The Council's policies seek to maintain mixed and balanced communities by ensuring new build developments and conversions provide a suitable range of dwelling types. 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 2017/18 was as follows:

	Number	%		Number	%
TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES	606	70%	TOTAL NUMBER OF FLATS*	257	30%

* Includes 7 caravans for permanent residential use

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 220 licenced HMOs within North Somerset. Whilst this is an increase on last year's figure of 184, it is not necessarily reflective of an increase in the number of properties of this type, as a number have retrospectively regularised their licencing arrangements.

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 is 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 owns 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.

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.

Our adopted development management policies plan offers general support for custom and self build projects. Our emerging Local Plan 2036 Issues and Options document included questions on how best we can ensure the delivery of self and custom build housing in future.

The council now has a self build register where people can register their interest in plots which come available. There are currently 28 individuals and 76 couples or groups on the Council's self build register.

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 council target is for 150 affordable homes to be provided per annum.

Affordable Housing Completions

During the period 2017/18, 155 new affordable housing units were provided. The plan period average to date is 139 dwellings per annum.

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
2016/17	48	28	62	0	0	0	138
2017/18	57	69	26	0	0	3	155

DELIVERING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

Supporting a successful economy

Economic activity

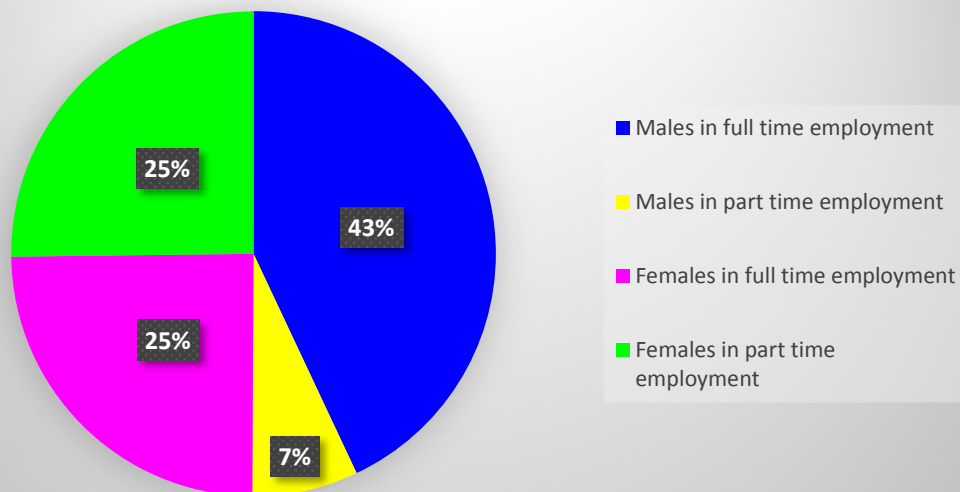
81.5% of North Somerset residents aged 16 to 64 are economically active, this is a decrease of 1.7% on the previous year. This compares to 80.8% in the South West and 78.1% in England and Wales.

Source: Annual Population Survey April 2017 - March 2018

Employment structure

- **67.8%** of 16-64 year olds in North Somerset work full time and **32%** work part time. In England and Wales, 74.8% work full time and 25% work part time.
- **85.9%** of the economically active males work full time and **14.1%** work part time. In England and Wales, 88.5% of the economically active males work full time and 11.2% work part time.
- **49.4%** of the economically active females work full time and **50.3%** work part time. Nationally, 59.4% of the economically active females work full time and 40.4% work part time.

Employment Structure in North Somerset 2018



Source: Annual Population Survey April 2017 - March 2018

Income

- In 2018 the average gross annual pay for full time employees **working** in North Somerset was **£25,871**, a decrease on the previous year. Currently average earnings for employees across the South West are £27,969 per annum.

- The average full time gross pay for the **residents** of North Somerset in 2018 was **£30,245**, a decrease of £699 since 2017. This is higher than the average figure for England and Wales which was £29,706.

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2018

Productivity

Region	Enterprise Births	Enterprise Deaths	Active Enterprises
England and Wales	353,465	331,535	2,683,395
South West	25,235	30,040	239,150
North Somerset	905	1,045	9,295

Business Demography 2017, 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	0	25,441	0	25,441
Large site losses (sqm)	1,538	5,054	1,000	1,647	1,064	10,303
Small site gains (sqm)	427	0	40	1,699	430	2,596
Small site losses (sqm)	2,970	0	931	0	890	4,791
Net gain (sqm)	-4,081	-5,054	-1,931	25,493	-1,524	12,943

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 2017/18 monitoring period three large employment site was developed resulting in a gain of employment floorspace and six sites were developed resulting in a loss. A total of 25,441sqm has been gained and there has been a loss of 10,303sqm.

The completed developments are summarised below.

- A water storage building was completed at a cider brewery in Sandford in the manufacturing area providing additional B2 floorspace. This is part of ongoing expansion of the brewery.
- An existing manufacturing company in Yatton has completed the third phase of its expansion providing an extra 20,195 square metres on B2 floorspace.
- A change of use from a B1b use to a B2 use was completed on a 5,054 square metre unit on Hutton Moor Lane, Weston-super-Mare.
- An office, located at a converted house in a residential area of Easton-in-Gordano, has been converted back to residential use resulting in a loss of 1,538 square metres of B1a floorspace.

- Three industrial units have been converted into D1/D2 uses located at Tweed Road Industrial Estate, Clevedon; Coker Road, Weston-super-Mare and Harbourmead, Portishead. There was a combined loss of 2,647 square metres.
- A 1,064 square metre unit at Red Lodge Business Park, Weston-super-Mare changed use from a B8 use to a Sui Generis use. However, the unit is being used as maintenance depot with an ancillary office so still remains in an employment related use.

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	0	25,441	0	25,441
Gross sqm completed on PDL	0	0	0	5,246	0	5,246
% completed on PDL	~	~	~	21%	~	21%

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 adopted Sites and Policies Plan Part 2 allocates new employment sites to be developed.

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. The Economic Development team have refreshed the Economic Plan for the district covering the period from 2017 to 2036. 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.

Since the end of the monitoring period a second LDO has been adopted. The Food Enterprise Zone Local Development Order was adopted in May 2018 for a period of five years and covers 7.5 hectares of land within Weston Business Quarter. The LDO grants outline planning permission for new units of B1, B2 or B8 use class for use by food businesses. This will hopefully encourage food and drink businesses to the area and provide opportunities for existing businesses to expand. Following on from the LDO adoption work on a food and drink innovation centre, to be known as FoodWorksSW began in December 2018 with an expected opening date in Spring 2020. The centre will include 12 food grade business units to lease, four product development areas, workshop space and meeting rooms.

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.

Work is continuing 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.

Out of a total of 105,600 business and domestic premises in North Somerset a total of 95,200 premises now have the capability to connect to superfast broadband. This has been provided through both the commercial sector and the Connecting Devon and Somerset project. There is a commitment to provide a further 5,100 premises with connectivity. The Connecting Devon and Somerset project is focusing on providing connectivity to harder to reach rural communities where the commercial sector is unable to provide a connection.

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	Total
Town Centre Gross Gains	145	0	0	145
Town Centre Losses	591	67	1,049	1,707
Town Centre Net Gains	-446	-67	-1,049	-1,562

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

	A1 Retail	A2 Financial and Professional	B1a Office	Total
North Somerset Gains	1,043	375	427	1,845
North Somerset Losses	1,226	893	5,423	7,542
North Somerset Net Gain	-183	-518	-4,996	-5,697

This monitoring period has seen a decrease in the amount of A1 floorspace in town centres and throughout North Somerset. Office floorspace has also declined in the town centres with losses recorded in the past 10 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 Cribbs Causeway, Bristol City Centre and Taunton. Retail areas throughout the district are monitored annually to record any changes in occupancy and vacancy rates.

Towns	Weston- super- Mare	Portishead	Clevedon	Nailsea
Total units	622	136	153	170
Vacant units	90	7	14	26
% of vacant units	14%	5%	9%	15%
Total PRF units	156	76	63	46
Vacant PRF units	18	5	6	8
% of vacant PRF units	12%	7%	10%	17%
% of total units in A1 use	42%	53%	45%	49%
% of total PRF units in A1 use	63%	59%	65%	74%

April 2018

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%.

Portishead and Clevedon have vacancy rates which do not exceed 10% in the PRF. This year Weston-super-Mare's PRF has seen an increase in vacant units. Nailsea has a significantly higher vacancy rate than the other towns in the district. However, Nailsea is the only town currently meeting the target of units in retail use, exceeding the 70% target in the PRF.

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

	Number of Units	A1 Use	Vacant
District Centre			
Locking Castle, WsM	14	5	0
Queensway, WsM	14	9	1
Worle High Street, WsM	108	56	10
Hill Road, Clevedon	79	42	5
Local Centre			
Backwell	47	18	2
Banwell	14	3	3
Churchill	3	3	0
Congresbury	41	26	0
Easton-in-Gordano/Pill	24	7	2
Long Ashton	22	10	2
Winscombe	62	30	2
Wrington	24	10	5
Yatton	51	26	1
Bournville, WsM	9	3	3
Castle Batch, WsM	9	4	1
Coronation, WsM	7	4	1
Locking Road, WsM	12	6	0
Milton Hill, WsM	11	5	1
Milton Road, WsM	34	22	2
Oldmixon, WsM	13	8	1
Whitecross Road, WsM	28	17	1
West Hill, Portishead	16	7	2

A1 uses in the local and district centres can be significantly lower than in the primary retail areas of the four towns. This can 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

An exciting and ambitious programme of placemaking and regeneration for Weston-super-Mare is well underway. This focuses 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 programme of ambitious projects includes those lead by the council directly and projects led by partner organisations. These include the following;

- Homes England in conjunction with the council, are developing exciting new contemporary housing schemes for Dolphin Square, Sunnyside Road and Locking Road. 600 high quality contemporary homes including both apartments and houses will be built on the sites. Homes England are currently preparing outline planning applications.
- Walliscote Place, which includes the council owned former Magistrates' Court and Old Police station, will offer contemporary apartments in the town centre. Demolition work on the Police Station is beginning on the 26th November.
- The town centre's £18m leisure and retail development site, Dolphin Square, is continuing to new businesses. The latest edition is the recently opened Clip n' Climb – Weston's only climbing centre. This joins a cinema, gym and a variety of restaurants and cafes.
- The Weston Town Centre Transport Enhancement Scheme is a programme of works which will improve the local infrastructure and public realm as well as helping enable the wider placemaking activity taking place in the town centre. £4.5m from the Local Growth Fund has been allocated to these enhancements. The first phase improves the welcome to Weston from the railway station by improving pavements, junctions and planting trees in Station Road. Currently plans are being developed for the second phase which will focus on Alexandra Parade.
- The proposed Great Weston Conservation Area, which unites Weston's multiple existing conservation areas and adds a previously unprotected area around the town centre, will go to the Executive on the 4th December for approval. If approved this will assist the council to conserve and enhance the heritage of Weston-super-Mare.
- The council is applying for £500k of grant money from Historic England's Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas (PSiCA) which will be used to fund shop front enhancements within the town centre. Shop owners will be able to apply for grant funding to cover 50% of costs to help restore their shopfronts and signage whilst maintaining or enhancing the historic interest or character of their buildings. Shopfront design guides are also being developed to support the enhancement of shopfronts in the town centre.
- The first phase of the Italian Gardens refurbishment has been completed. The next phase includes work to improve South Parade, which will realign the road outside of Weston College, in order to

make the road more attractive and safer. This phase is being funded by a cash injection of £700k from the Local Growth Fund.

A bid for the Tropicana of £1m to the Coastal Communities Fund has successfully made it to the second round. This money would go towards undertaking the physical works required to make the Tropicana capable of hosting a 9,000 seat arena.

DELIVERING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

Tourism

Tourism Activity

- Altogether there were 8.29 million visitors to North Somerset in 2017.
- There were 7,779,000 day visitors to North Somerset in 2017.
- There were 511,000 staying visitor trips to North Somerset spending a total of 1,661,000 nights in 2017.
- Staying visitors from the UK stayed an average of 2.93 nights and overseas visitors stayed an average of 5.89 nights.
- The total value of tourism in 2017 was £383,259,000.
- The number of people employed directly and indirectly by tourism in North Somerset is estimated to be 5,366 full time equivalents.

Source: The Economic Impact of North Somerset's Visitor Economy 2017

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 following table shows the number of tourist bed spaces, pitches, units and berths in North Somerset based on information from SWRTB and North Somerset.

Accommodation supply	Number	Measure
Hotels	4176	bedspaces
Guesthouses	732	bedspaces
Inns	109	bedspaces
B&B	327	bedspaces
Farms	21	bedspaces
Self-catering	245	units
Touring caravans/tents	825	pitches
Static vans	316	pitches
Holiday centres	363	units
Group accommodation	0	bedspaces
Campus	0	bedspaces
Second homes	374	units
Marinas	250	berths

Source: SWRTB and North Somerset Council 2017

DELIVERING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

Bristol Airport

Expansion

Long term plans for the airport are set out in the Bristol International Airport Master Plan to 2030. This can be viewed at www.bristolairportfuture.com

The first and second phases 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. In June 2017 a refurbished immigration hall was opened providing improved facilities including 10 ePassport gates, two extra interview rooms and a new drug testing lab. A new 201 room hotel has also opened at the airport as well as a new reception and expanded car park at the Silver Zone parking facility.

A new multi-storey car park opposite the terminal is currently under construction and is due to open in spring 2019.

An outline planning application will be submitted to the council for the development of the airport to expand the capacity to 12 million terminal passengers a year. The proposal will include terminal extensions, an expansion of the parking provision and improvements to the local road network to improve transport links and traffic.

Employment

The Bristol Airport 2018 Operations Monitoring Report states that the number of people working at the airport in summer 2017 was 3,459 full time equivalents, up from 3,070 in 2016.

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.

Planning permission was granted in November 2016 at land to the west of Court House Farm, an 8 hectare site adjacent to the docks, for development for port related uses. The site will be used for storage of cargo in transit, mainly motor vehicles.

ENSURING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Children, young people and education

Education

Key Stage 2

To raise standards in primary education the Government implemented a new set of tests for key stage 2 children in 2016. The tests assess maths, reading and spelling, grammar and punctuation with writing being assessed separately by teacher evaluation. The new method of assessment replaces the previous 'level' system with pupils either reaching the expected standard or being below the expected standard.

The new system is now in its second year, so we are able to compare 2017 and 2016 results.

Key Stage 2 Results: Percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard in reading	2016	2017
North Somerset LA	71	71
South West Region	68	73
England	66	72
Key Stage 2 Results: Percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard in mathematics	2016	2017
North Somerset LA	70	73
South West Region	68	73
England	70	75
Key Stage 2 Results: Percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard in grammar, punctuation and spelling	2016	2017
North Somerset LA	73	75
South West Region	71	75
England	73	77

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

GCSE results

In 2017 GCSEs in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics were reformed and a new grading system was introduced. The new scale marks achievement from level 9 (set above the previous A* level) down to a grade 1. By 2019 all GCSEs will be graded using the new system. The percentage of pupils in North Somerset achieving level 9 – 5 (equivalent to a strong C or above) in English and Maths in 2017 was 43.9%, this is higher than the England average of 39.6%.

Source: Department for Education

A Levels (Level 3 qualifications)

A level results in North Somerset show the average point score per entry in 2017 was 30.48. This is an Improvement on last year's figure of 29.56. North Somerset is below the national average with the average point score per entry for England being 32.39.

Source: Department for Education

Educational Qualifications

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

North Somerset	47,041	28.4%
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:

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

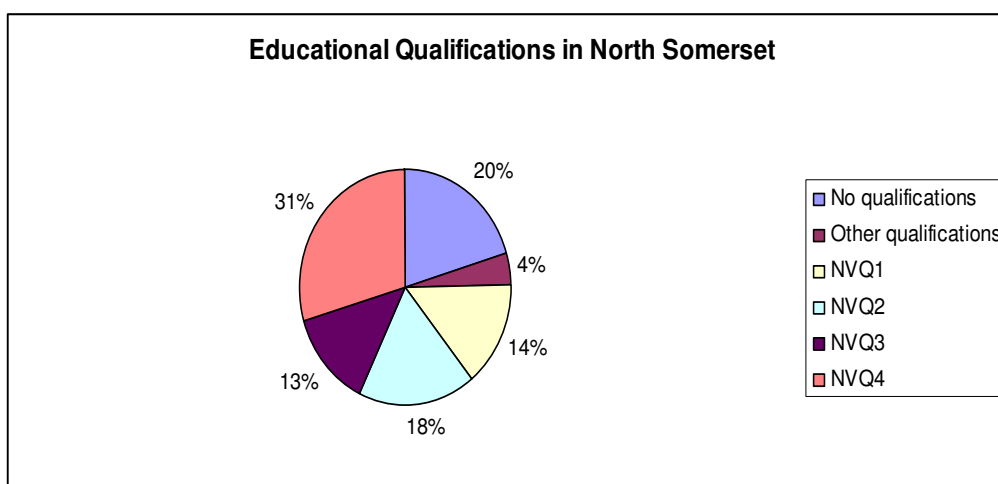
The population aged 16-64 with NVQ1 and 2 is:

North Somerset	51,294	30.9%
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:

North Somerset	32,539	19.6%
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:

- 63 primary schools
- 11 secondary schools
- 3 special schools
- 4 independent schools

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; Loxton Campus, the town centre Knightstone Campus and the South West Skills Campus. There is also the modern university building at the Winter Gardens in the town centre and a number of satellite centres.

The Loxton Campus 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 and the University of the West of England.

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 has undergone a recent redevelopment and now includes the Construction and Engineering Centre of Excellence, the Automotive Technology Centre Sustainability Centre (including an eco-house) and the Future Technology Centre.

University Centre Weston

Weston College's multimillion pound redevelopment of the Winter Gardens in Weston's town centre opened in September 2017. The building now houses the Law and Professional Services Academy. A wide variety of university courses are now offered in partnership with Bath Spa university and the University of the West of England.

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, there have also been three extra places funded at Winford Primary.

	Number of school places		Additional places	s106 funded places	Location of funded places
	Sep-2016	Sep-2017			
Primary	18,071	18,181	110	63	Haywood Village (60), Winford (3)
Secondary	12,316	12,396	70	70	NSETC
TOTAL	30,387	30,567	180	133	

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 15 centres throughout North Somerset:

- Ashcombe Children's Centre
- Banwell, Winscombe and Sandford Children's Centre
- Castle Batch Children's Centre
- Clevedon Children's Centre
- Locking Castle and Locking Children's Centre
- Long Ashton Children's Centre
- Nailsea and Backwell Children's Centre
- Oldmixon Family Centre
- Pill Library and Children's Centre
- Portishead Children's Centre
- South Weston Children's Centre
- Weston Central Children's Centre
- Worle Library and Children's Centre
- Yatton Library and Children's Centre
- Yeo Valley and Rural Outreach Children's Centre

Phase one of the Community Access Review has now been implemented. This has resulted in some children's centres co-locating with libraries and a saving of £500,000 in this financial year. Over the next two years a further £435,000 will need to be saved across the children centres and library services.

Full details are on our website at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CAR

ENSURING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Health

Life expectancy

The average female life expectancy in North Somerset is 83.5 years and the average male life expectancy is 80.3 years. In England the average life expectancies are currently 83.1 years for females and 79.5 years for males.

Source: North Somerset Health Profile 2017, 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 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.

ENSURING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Sport, recreation and community facilities

Sport and recreation

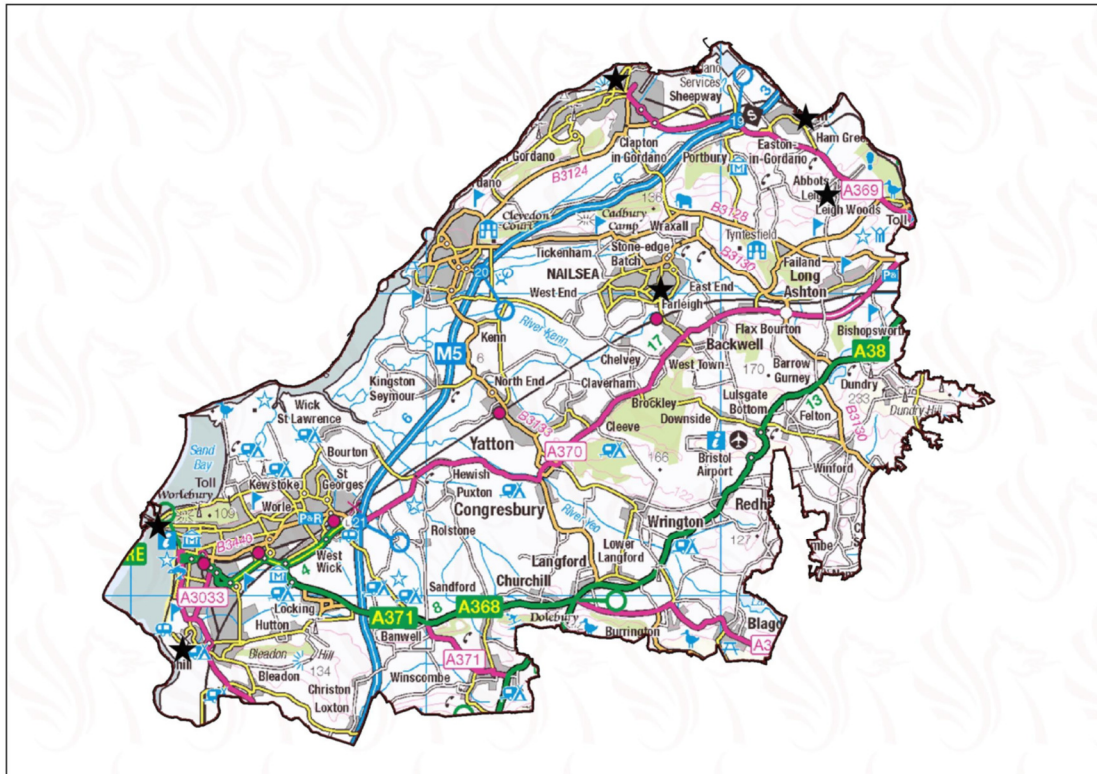
Policy CS27 of the Core Strategy aims to ensure that for all residents of North Somerset there is safe and convenient access to sport, recreation and community facilities. Policies DM68 (Protection of sporting, cultural and community facilities) and DM69 (Location of sporting, cultural and community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

A planning application was approved in February 2017 to extend the council owned Hutton Moor Leisure Centre. In September 2017 the new fitness suite opened comprising a 155 station gym plus two new studios for group exercise classes. Internal remodelling has also been completed to add an additional 25 bike studio and a dedicated dance studio and additional pitches have been provided outdoors.

Open spaces

There are over 40 parks, public open spaces and nature reserves in the authority. During the monitoring period, there were seven areas of open space in North Somerset that were managed to Green Flag Award standard. The sites are shown on the map below and are:

- 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.

There are currently 12 libraries and a mobile library service which serve the district. Following the Community Access Review several changes have been made to the service on offer. The purpose of the Community Access Review was to look into whether the services offered to the community were fit for purpose and located in the most appropriate locations. The review incorporated 12 libraries and 14 children's centres across the district. Further details of the review are available at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CAR.

Following phase one the review three libraries have now co-located with children's centres, Yatton and Pill libraries now host the children's centre and Worle library moved from its original premises to combine with the existing children's centre. Other changes to libraries include Congresbury library transferring to the Parish Council who now run the facility and increased opening hours at Long Ashton and Winscombe libraries made possible by the introduction of self-service systems. Throughout the monitoring period £500,000 of savings have been made in operating costs.

Due to budget constraints further savings need to be made over the next financial year. To achieve this, proposals include relocating one or both of the libraries in Nailsea and Clevedon to smaller premises and closing Long Ashton library permanently at the end of 2018 and replacing it with a twice weekly mobile service.

Further details of the libraries are available on our website at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/.

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.

During 2017/18, the authorities have undertaken the following work to articulate their shared issues and priorities and to demonstrate their continued commitment to joint working:

Joint Spatial Plan

The four West of England authorities are working together to prepare a [Joint Spatial Plan](#) (JSP) and supporting technical evidence base. The JSP is a strategic statutory development plan document (DPD) for the West of England.

The JSP has been developed in accordance with statutory plan-making requirements. Information about the stages of preparing the JSP, particularly around public consultation and engagement, can be viewed [online](#).

The JSP will provide the joint framework to ensure development requirements come forward across the West of England up to 2036 in a planned and co-ordinated manner. Whilst the JSP does not allocate new sites, it does identify new Strategic Development Locations (SDLs) and requirements for non-strategic growth and urban living, which will in turn be brought forward as allocations through each authority’s new Local Plan. New site specific allocations and policy designations in Local Plans will need to be in conformity with the JSP. This method of approach demonstrates that the legal obligation of co-operation across the West of England sub-region, with adjoining local planning authorities, prescribed bodies and other key partners on strategic matters is satisfied.

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) has informed future development proposals and the development of future strategic transport proposals up to 2036.

The JSP was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination (in line with Regulation 22 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012)) on 13 April 2018. Examination in public (EiP) hearing session are anticipated to commence in May 2019.

As part of preparing the Joint Spatial Plan, a number of key evidence base documents have also been prepared. These include:

- Strategic Housing Market Assessment
- Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)
- Infrastructure Position Statement

These documents and other submission documents can be viewed on the JSP Examination webpage, in the [JSP Submission Document Library](#).

Minerals Planning

The National Planning Policy Framework requires Minerals Planning Authorities (such as the West of England unitary authorities) to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates by participating in the operation of an Aggregate Working Party (AWP) and taking its advice into account when preparing their Local Aggregate Assessment. The South West AWP meets quarterly and membership includes representatives from central Government, Mineral Planning Authorities, the Mineral Products Association, the British Aggregates Association, and such other representatives as appropriate.

Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA)

A Local Aggregate Assessment is an annual assessment of the demand for and supply of aggregates in a mineral planning authority's area. A Local Aggregates Assessment 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 UAs Local Plans and covers the period 2006-2015.

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 (JaPDoG). JaPDoG 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 data collection and monitoring procedures 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), the Joint Spatial Plan and responding to government consultations/ technical papers.

Sedgemoor Local Plan

North Somerset and Sedgemoor District Council have undertaken cross-border liaison on the potential for bringing forward a proposed strategic option for new housing development and transport infrastructure improvements at Burnham-on-Sea. This has resulted in a potential option in the Sedgemoor Local Plan to support growth in North Somerset proposed through the Joint Spatial Plan.