



# Authority Monitoring Report



2019



## Foreword

The North Somerset Council Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) is published each year. This AMR monitors the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

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

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

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

## For further information please contact:

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

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

Tel: 01934 426 665

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## **Introduction**

The production of an Authority 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 (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)
- Yatton Neighbourhood Development Plan (2019)
- Congresbury Neighbourhood Development Plan (2019)

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sitesandpolicies)

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

The four unitary authorities in the West of England area worked together to produce this 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 five areas within North Somerset; Backwell, Claverham, Congresbury, Long Ashton and Yatton. As they are adopted, these form part of the local development plan.

Plans are being prepared for a number of other neighbourhood areas within the district.

The adopted plans and further information on those that are being prepared can be viewed at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans](http://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 LDS is currently being revised. The last published version is dated December 2018.

### *Joint Spatial Plan*

The four West of England unitary authorities of Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire prepared a joint strategic development plan called the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP). The JSP set out the strategic policies for sustainable growth for the next 20 years.

The plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in April 2018. In September 2019 the Inspectors appointed to examine the plan wrote to the four authorities following an initial set of hearings, voicing concerns with the strategy. The Council has subsequently resolved to withdraw from the Joint Spatial Plan examination and will proceed with a new Local Plan.

### *Local Plan*

A new Local Plan is being prepared by the Council.

The Local Plan will allocate sufficient housing and employment 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.

An initial 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 reached issues and options stage, and a three month consultation period took place from September-December 2018.

Following the withdrawal from the Joint Spatial Plan, the Council will be publishing an updated Local Development Scheme and starting work on a new Local Plan afresh. This will begin with a pre-commencement document consultation in January 2020, followed by an issues and options consultation during the spring.

### Neighbourhood Development Plans

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

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

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](http://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)
- Shopfront Design Guide (2019)
- Solar Photovoltaic Arrays (2013)
- Travel Plans (2010)
- Weston Villages (2012)
- Weston-super-Mare Town Centre Regeneration (2017)
- Wind turbines (2014)

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

## **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 will that is payable varies according to the size, type and location of the development.

Our CIL charging schedule took effect on 18 January 2018 and since its adoption £95,856.58 of CIL income has been received.

Full details of the CIL, including the monitoring report, are available at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CIL](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CIL).

## **Topic areas**

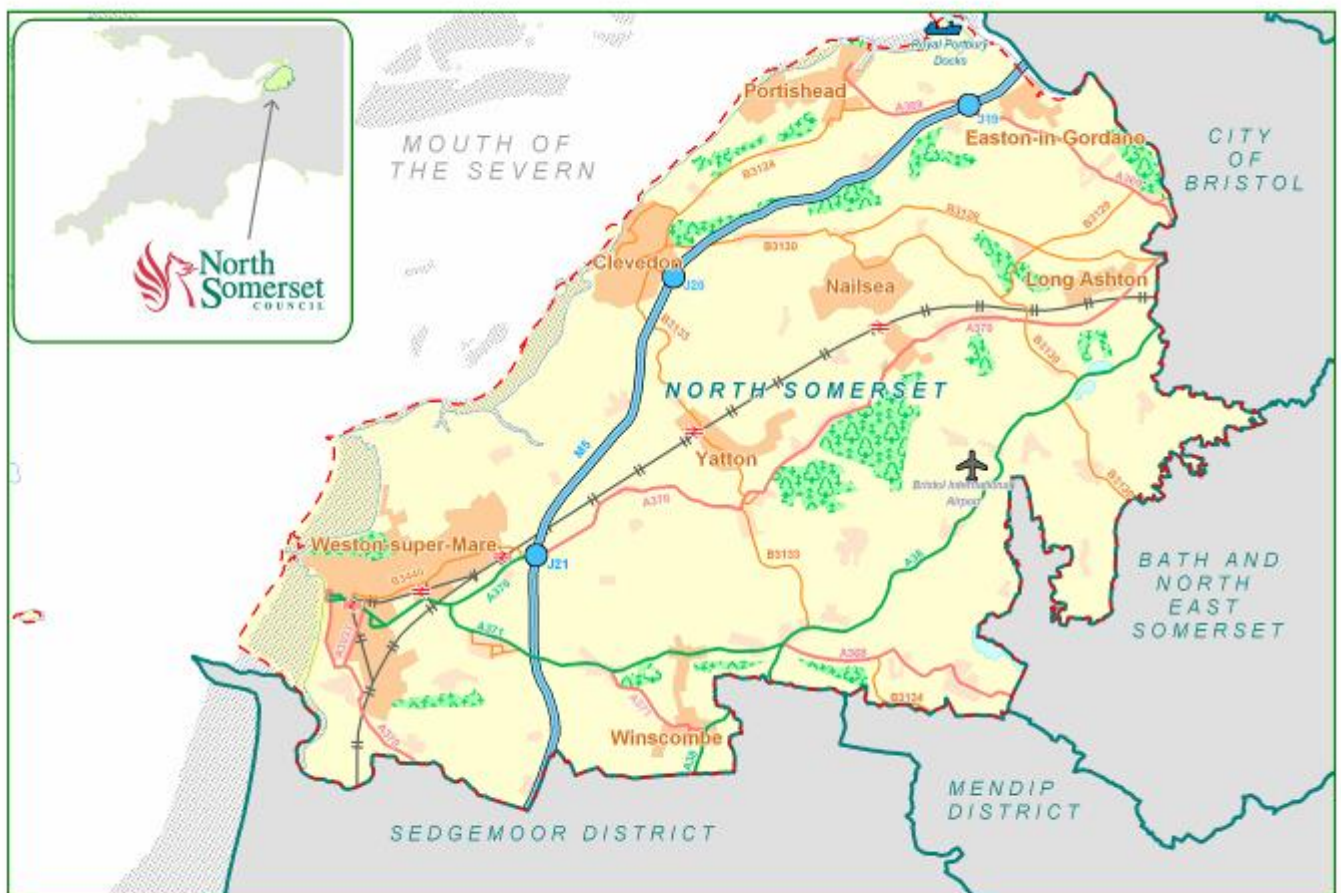
The Authority Monitoring Report is presented on a topic basis, for ease of reference. The topics have been set out to mirror the themes in the Core Strategy, which are:

- 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 213,919 people<sup>1</sup>. The district contains an international airport, a deep-sea west coast port, part of the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a large area of Green Belt stretching south west from the edge of Bristol, as well as areas of low-lying levels and moors. The main settlements include the strategically significant town of Weston-super-Mare and the three smaller towns of Portishead, Clevedon and Nailsea. The M5 runs from north to south through the district and the mainline railway from Bristol to the South West also crosses North Somerset stopping at five stations along its route.

<sup>1</sup> 2018 Mid Year Population Estimate, Office for National Statistics

## Demographic structure

### Population size

- The population of North Somerset is 213,919, an increase of 1,085 over the past year.
- The age breakdown for North Somerset is:
  - Aged 0-15 years – 18.2%
  - Aged 16-64 years – 58%
  - Aged 65 years and over – 23.8%
- Currently the proportion of people in North Somerset aged 65+ is 23.8%, compared to 22% in the South West and 18.3% in England and Wales.

Source: 2018 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 15,452 crimes were recorded in North Somerset. This is an increase on last year's figure of 14,518 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 2.8% for the period April 2018 to March 2019. This is a decrease on the previous year's figure of 3.6% and lower than the unemployment rate of 3.1% across the South West.

Source: Annual Population Survey April 2018 to March 2019

### **Deprivation**

- Within the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 the local authority district with a rank of 1 is the most deprived, and the area ranked 317 is the least deprived. North Somerset is ranked at 221.
- North Somerset has 5 LSOAs within the most deprived 5% in England, all within South and Central wards of Weston-super-Mare.
- There are 12 LSOAs within the least deprived 5% in England, these are spread across the district.

Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019

## LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS

### Climate Change

#### Climate Emergency

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 February 2019 the council declared a Climate Emergency. A target to be carbon neutral has been set by 2030 for both the organisation and the authority area. A Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan has been produced to assist in achieving these targets. Seven key principles have been identified aimed at addressing the causes and consequences of climate change:

- Become a net zero carbon council
- An energy efficient built environment
- Replenish our carbon stores
- Adapting to climate change
- Renewable energy regeneration
- Reduce emissions from transport
- Repair, reuse, reduce and recycle

The report is available on our website at <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/climatechange>.

Work has been undertaken to identify possible rewilding sites throughout the district. Once we have identified suitable sites, we will plant trees or let the grass grow longer. This will enhance the natural environment and create new habitats for wildlife and increase stored carbon.

#### Climate Local Commitment

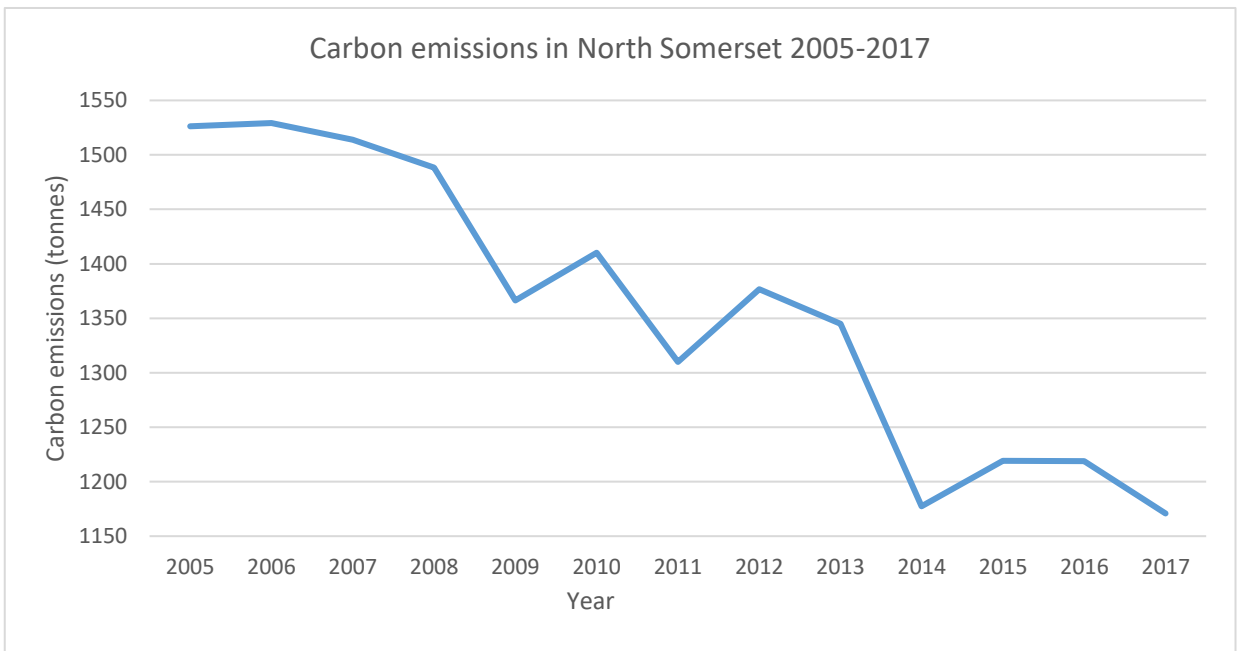
In June 2013 the council signed up to the Climate Local Commitment. This was an initiative to support carbon reduction and climate resilience led by the Local Government Association (LGA). This scheme ceased in 2018.

#### Carbon Emissions

The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy provide data at local authority level measuring industry/commercial, domestic and road transport carbon emissions in tonnes. Figures are available from 2005 to 2017 and show there has been 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	460.7	471.0	581.2	13.4	<b>1,526.3</b>	194.7	7.8
2006	474.0	475.3	567.7	12.2	<b>1,529.2</b>	197.0	7.8
2007	453.7	458.8	590.0	11.3	<b>1,513.8</b>	199.5	7.6
2008	440.2	458.9	578.8	10.5	<b>1,488.4</b>	200.9	7.4

2009	383.4	416.9	556.0	10.0	<b>1,366.4</b>	201.7	6.8
2010	409.9	444.5	546.5	9.2	<b>1,410.1</b>	203.0	6.9
2011	377.8	388.8	534.8	8.5	<b>1,309.9</b>	203.1	6.5
2012	404.7	422.5	541.4	8.0	<b>1,376.7</b>	204.5	6.7
2013	386.9	411.8	539.2	7.1	<b>1,345.0</b>	206.2	6.5
2014	283.5	343.2	543.8	6.8	<b>1,177.3</b>	208.2	5.7
2015	330.0	334.7	548.4	6.0	<b>1,219.2</b>	209.9	5.8
2016	307.4	320.7	584.9	5.9	<b>1,218.9</b>	211.7	5.8
2017	293.5	299.3	573.0	5.0	<b>1,170.9</b>	212.8	5.5



The most significant reduction in carbon emissions has come from electricity production. Both domestic and industrial & commercial sectors have reduced carbon emissions from electricity by around 55% since 2005 with around 250 tonnes of carbon being saved.

## 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 2018, is detailed in the table below.

	Number of sites	Capacity (MW)	Generation (MWh) (2015)
Photovoltaic	6,777	80.0	79,233
Onshore Wind	5	0.034	71
Hydro	2	0.023	68
Anaerobic Digestion	2	1.099	6,065
Landfill Gas	2	2.349	5,858
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,788</b>	<b>83.496</b>	<b>91,295</b>

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 5.5 tonnes per capita in 2017. The transport sector is one of the major sources of carbon dioxide emissions.

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 which will inform policy creation.

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 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, part night and dimming projects has reduced energy use/CO<sub>2</sub> 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](http://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](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sfra). An update to the SFRA Level 1 has been commissioned and the council expects to take delivery in late 2019, after which it will be published on the website. The flood risk mapping produced will supersede the original Level 1 mapping and its partial updates.

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 development 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 development but can occur after a planning application has been made.

The EIA Regulations list the types of development that may be subject to EIA within 2 separate Schedules. All projects listed in Schedule One will be subject to EIA and an Environmental Statement will be required with a planning application. The council is required to determine whether a proposal listed in Schedule Two of the Regulations should be subject to EIA. An assessment is undertaken to determine whether these projects are likely or unlikely to have significant effects on the environment. Where significant effects are judged to be likely, a positive screening opinion is provided and when significant effects are judged to be unlikely- a negative screening opinion is provided.

##### **Scoping opinions**

If it is 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. This is guidance on the issues that will need to be addressed within the submitted 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)
- 1,024 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 2018 mid-year population estimates from the Office for National Statistics gives the population of North Somerset as 213,919. This provides a ratio of 1 hectare of LNR per 734 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**

### North Somerset Levels and Moors Restoration Project

The North Somerset Levels and Moors Restoration Project 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. The Avon Wildlife Trust is continuing to work with partners including Natural England, Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board and the council and so far five kilometres of ditches have been restored, providing an improved wildlife habitat.

In April 2018 the Avon Wildlife Trust received funding from the Biffa Award to contribute to a project encouraging lapwings back to the Gordano valley.

The grant will go towards work across 80 hectares of land between Clevedon and Portishead to create suitable habitats for breeding pairs.

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.

## LIVING WITHIN ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS

### Landscape and the historic environment

#### Heritage sites

North Somerset has:

- **32** 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

Six sites within the district are on the Heritage at Risk Register 2019. Three of these sites are Listed Buildings and three are Scheduled Monuments.

The three 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)

The three Scheduled Monuments at risk are:

- Elms Colliery, Nailsea (the buildings are also Grade II listed)
- Worlebury Camp: a large multivallate hillfort on Worlebury Hill, Weston-super-Mare
- Long barrow 350m south west of Cornerpool Farm, Wrington

#### Conservation Areas

There are currently no Conservation Areas on the Heritage at Risk Register.

Congresbury Conservation Area's Appraisal and Management Plan was adopted on 23/10/2019.

A proposed new conservation area for Churchill is due to be adopted in January 2020.

#### Heritage Projects

##### Great Weston Heritage Action Zone (HAZ)

Weston-super-Mare was awarded Heritage Action Zone status by Historic England in March 2017.

The project has produced a Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Weston-super-Mare and the surrounding areas, as well as aerial photography and mapping. The information from these projects are publicly available on the North Somerset Historic Environment Record. Other

projects include the designation of a new Conservation Area for Weston-super-Mare (an amalgamation of existing conservation areas plus a new designation for the High Street). This work included the creation of Appraisals and Management Plans for each of the character areas, and the Conservation Area was adopted in January 2019. A Shopfront Design Guide (Supplementary Planning Document) was subsequently adopted, in September 2019.

Weston-super-Mare has also been awarded a second HAZ grant from the High Street HAZ scheme of £1.2m and will focus on southern High Street around Oxford Street and North Walliscote Road. Projects will look to transform disused historic buildings into shops, houses and community centres. The funding will also help traditional businesses adapt to better compete with online outlets.

### **Historic Environment Record**

The North Somerset Historic Environment Record (NSHER) is published on the council's website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/HER](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/HER).

Layers available to view 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 July 2019 a 'priority' service was introduced, meaning that customers can access information from the NSHER within 5 working days.

Over the last year work has progressed on adding information to the HER database, as well as adding specific datasets such as the Northern Mendip Hills National Mapping Programme project.

### **Local Plan policies**

Heritage and Policy officers will review the current heritage policies for the new Local Plan, to ensure they are in line with national legislation and frameworks.



## 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. An application for a 47 bedroom hotel was approved in Felton, however, the proposal is on previously developed land and was not considered to affect openness.

## 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, against key indicators, for 2018/19. A copy of the adopted JWCS document is available to view at [www.westofengland.org](http://www.westofengland.org)

#### Recycling/Composting

Unitary Authority	Capacity of applications approved during 2018/19 (tonnes)	Capacity lost during 2018/19 (tonnes)	Capacity operational at 31/03/2019 (tonnes)	Capacity permitted but not operational at 31/03/2019 (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 2018/19 (tonnes)	Capacity lost during 2018/19 (tonnes)	Capacity operational at 31/03/2019 (tonnes)	Capacity permitted but not operational at 31/03/2019 (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 2018/19 (tonnes)	Landfill capacity which became unavailable during 2018/19 (tonnes)	Landfill operational at 31/03/2019 (tonnes)	Landfill permitted but not started at 31/03/2019 (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 2017/18 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 2018, the latest year for which figures have been obtained, 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 2018 motor vehicle traffic in North Somerset was **1,600** million miles, an increase from **1,549** million kilometres in 2017. Department for Transport figures show traffic growth of 30% on North Somerset roads between 2000 and 2018.

Source: Department for Transport Road Traffic Statistics

In 2017 there were 56 reported killed and seriously injured casualties on North Somerset roads. This is an increase on the 2017 figure of 53.

Source: Department for Transport Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2018 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 eight years of JTLTP3, spending over £500m on the delivery of transport projects.

The JLTP3 is now largely out of date due to numerous national and regional planning and transport changes. In the West of England these include the emerging regional planning for residential and employment growth and the Joint Transport Study (JTS). For the wider region this includes the emerging Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body. National announcements from the Department for Transport (DfT) will continue to influence 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). Regional announcements and policy shifts such as the need

for Clean Air Zones (CAZ) in Bristol and Bath and increased momentum behind long-heralded Mass Transit network for the Greater Bristol area, as well as local announcements such as the Climate Emergency Motion and subsequent Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan by North Somerset Council, have increased the need for an updated JLTP.

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 took place in February & March 2019 and all the necessary updates to the plan, including those from the consultation, are being finalised. The plan is due to be adopted by North Somerset Council and the West of England early in 2020.

A copy of the consultation draft can be viewed at: <https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/travelwest/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Full-Draft-JLTP4.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 Station Usage

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.

Estimates of station usage, entries and exits, for each station in North Somerset are detailed in the table below. All stations saw an increase in patronage except Weston-super-Mare which saw a slight decline.

Station Name	2017/18 Entries & Exits	2016/17 Entries & Exits	% Change
Nailsea & Backwell	507,296	504,048	0.6%
Weston Milton	71,900	68,594	4.8%
Weston-Super-Mare	1,145,068	1,147,588	-0.2%
Worle	322,548	321,306	0.4%
Yatton	469,210	443,806	5.7%

Estimates of Station Usage 2017-18, Office of Road and Rail

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](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/parking)

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

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

The England Coast Path Reports were published in the summer and following the consultation stage with stakeholders and landowners were submitted to the Secretary of State for determination. It is anticipated that the Secretary of State will approve the NSC chapters in early 2020 after which works can be tendered and consents obtained where required.

The Public Rights of Way Team resolved 392 maintenance and obstruction issues on the network in the last twelve months. This has included 127 stiles removed and replaced with metal self-closing pedestrian gates and 22 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 - part of our ambitious Coastal Towns Cycle Route (CTCR) - records around 70,000 - 100,000 journeys per year. It is currently being extended to Weston-super-Mare alongside Uphill Road North and will be open Summer 2020.

Now that planning permission and all other permissions have been secured for the crucial Tutshill section of the Weston to Clevedon section of the CTCR has now been obtained we have secured £640K from the Rural Payments Agency for this route. A

bid for a further £1.3M has been received very favourably by Highways England. We hope to have all the funding in place to deliver this long awaited scheme by 2021.

Together with the other West of England authorities our joint LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan) has been submitted to the DfT and consultation is imminent. We also have also prepared a comprehensive draft Active Travel Strategy which we expect to have adopted by Spring 2020.

We have continued to offer free Bikeability training, using DfT Bikeability grant-funding with some match-funding provided by North Somerset Council. Over 40 schools have engaged with the training. During 2018/19, the following places were delivered:

	Number delivered	Course contents
Bikeability Balance (children in Reception)	120	Learning to ride
Bikeability Level 1 (children in Year 4)	691	Cycle control - off road
Bikeability Level 1/2 (children in Year 5/6)	1352	On road cycle training
Bikeability Level 3 (Years 7-9)	425	On road cycle training including a journey
Bikeability Fix	38	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 in a dashboard format. 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 2018/19 secured 3 residential travel plans and 1 travel plan relating to business.

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](http://www.travelwest.info/businesses)) - such as the Travelwest Challenge and the 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.

### **Transport improvement schemes**

The Council aims to improve transport connectivity by encouraging sustainable transport choices wherever possible and to promote accessibility by developing the transport network for all travel modes.

Work has progressed on the following major transport schemes:

- MetroWest Phase 1: Portishead to Bristol Railway Line – the reopening of the disused Portishead branch line to Bristol, with new stations at Portishead and Pill, is North Somerset’s key rail priority. Funded by the Department for Transport, the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership’s Local Growth Fund and contributions from the five West of England authorities, this major transport enhancement package will support economic growth, improve transport resilience, increase accessibility to the rail network, and improve quality of life. A major milestone was reached in November 2019 with the submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate for review.
- Banwell Bypass – in October 2019 the Council won funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government through the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to build a bypass to the north of the historic village of Banwell. A long-standing aspiration for both the Council and the residents of Banwell, the bypass will provide numerous benefits, including providing significant improvements to air quality and public realm in the centre of the village, improved access to residential and employment growth to the north-west of the village, supporting the delivery of Weston Villages; and improving local and regional connectivity for longer trips. The bypass will also allow the reallocation of road space in the centre of the village to more sustainable modes of transport wherever possible, to improve accessibility and quality of life for Banwell residents. Construction is planned to begin in 2023 and be complete by the end of 2024.
- Weston Town Centre Transport Enhancements Scheme – the design for this important town centre public realm and sustainable transport

improvements scheme has been finalised and construction is due to start in early 2020. The works, which include the creation of a centralised bus interchange at the east end of Alexandra Parade, will support the regeneration and rebranding of the town, improve the arrival experience to visitors of the town in this key gateway area and encourage modal shift through improved pedestrian, cycle and bus interchange facilities.

- 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, has continued through 2019 and is due to be completed by January 2021.
- Tutshill Sluice – the delivery of an attractive ‘pier to pier’ cycle route between Weston and Clevedon, as part of the North Somerset Coastal Towns Cycle Route, has been a long-held Council ambition. This strategic cycle scheme, which will generate tourism, provide for commuters and encourage leisure cycling, won funding from the European Rural Growth Fund in early 2019 to fund part of the works. The Council is engaging with Highways England to fund the rest of the works and so far the signs are positive to secure the capital to implement what will be a flagship commuter & leisure route for the West of England.
- M5 Junction 19 – Funding has been granted by the Department for Transport & Highways England 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 facilitating 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 December 2019.
- Uphill Road North – The Coastal Towns Cycle Route has been completed between Uphill village and Brean (The Bean Down Way) and this already generates 75,000 trips cycling and walking per annum. This next phase will deliver a 3m wide shared use path for walking and cycling between Uphill and Weston Seafront (for onward connection to Weston Town Centre). It is needed for local usage as well as school, commuting, leisure and tourism journeys. Major progress has been made this year with finalising design and moving badger sets from the nearby golf course. Construction is due to begin early in 2020 with the aim of opening the route in the summer (also 2020).

### **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](http://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](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/SPDs). Other guidance has been produced to aid high quality design including a Development Management Advice Note on recycling and waste (September 2013) and a Highways Development Design Guide (December 2015).

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

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

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

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

## **DELIVERING STRONG AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES**

### **Scale of new housing**

#### **Housing provision**

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

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

#### **Housing completions and plan period capacity**

During the 2018/19 monitoring year 729 dwelling completions were recorded. During the plan period so far (2006 – 2019) a total of 10,439 homes have been delivered. This leaves a residual requirement of 10,546 units to be provided between 2019 and 2026 to fulfil the adopted housing requirement.

Total supply currently available (comprising sites with permission, allocated sites and a modest windfall allowance) equates to 12,693 dwellings. When added to the 10,439 units already completed the total provision could reach 23,132 by 2026. This is comfortably in excess of the housing 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 2019 and concludes that we can currently demonstrate 4.4 years supply.

The full 2019 Residential Land Survey and Five Year Supply Position Statement and associated trajectories are available to view on our website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/planningpolicy).

## DELIVERING STRONG AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

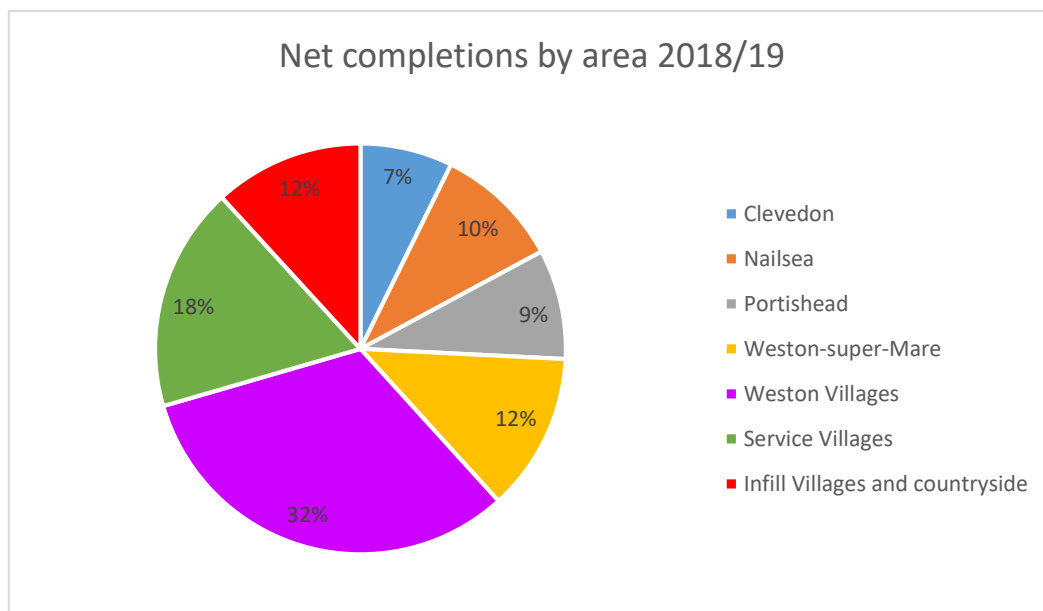
### Distribution of new housing

#### Net completions by area 2018/19

Area	Completions
Clevedon	53
Nailsea	72
Portishead	63
Weston-super-Mare	91
Weston Villages	235
Service Villages	129
Infill Villages, smaller settlements and countryside	86
<b>Total</b>	<b>729</b>

#### Location of housing completions

This year 71% of dwelling completions were recorded within the four towns or on the major Weston Villages strategic site. A further 18% were at Service Villages as per the Core Strategy settlement hierarchy.

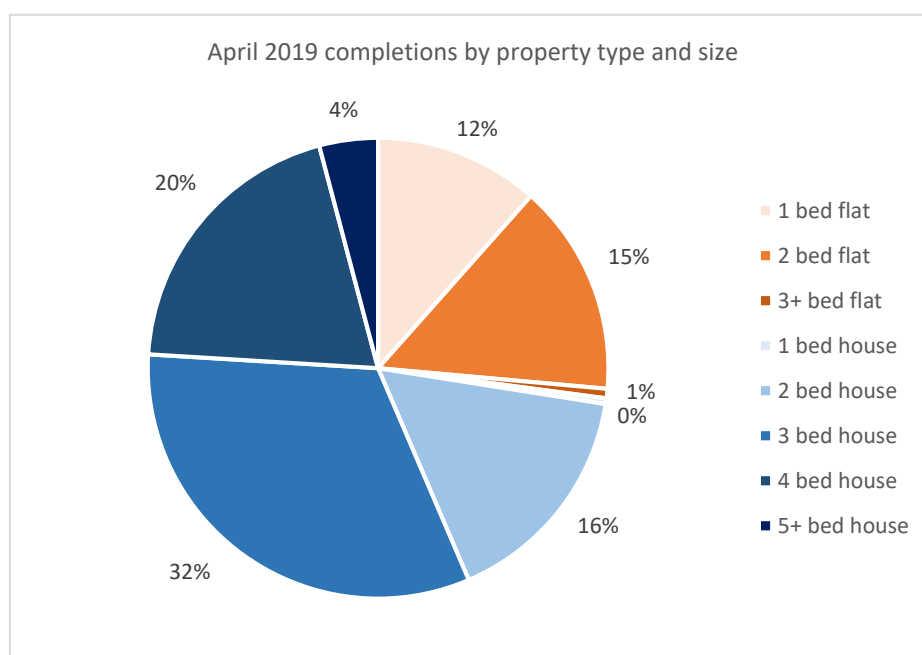


## DELIVERING STRONG AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

### 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. This year, 28% of dwellings completed were flats and 72% were houses. This compares to 30%/70% last year. The mix of dwellings completed during 2018/19 was as follows:



#### 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 235 licenced HMOs within North Somerset. This is a small increase on last year's figure, however it is not necessarily reflective of an actual 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. 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.

A piece of work will be undertaken to form part of the evidence base for the emerging local plan, to assess what provision exists currently, and what may be needed during the next plan period.

## **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 and available to view on the policies map at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/planningpolicy)

## **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 and our new Local Plan will consider how best we can ensure the delivery of self and custom build housing in future.

The council has a self build register where people can register their interest in plots which may become available. This also enables the council to assess the level of demand within the area. As at October 2019 there were 190 records on the register, comprising 44 individuals, 113 couples, 30 households and 3 associations. In the coming months the council intends to contact all of those registered to find out more about their circumstances and aspirations, to help shape the future policy position.

## 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, including the type and tenure of the housing delivered. Overall delivery will be assessed in 5 year tranches, and the policy approach reviewed as appropriate.

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

#### Affordable Housing Completions

During the period 2018/19, 96 new affordable housing units were provided. The plan period total delivery now stands at 1,760 units over thirteen years, an average of 135 dwellings per annum. This equates to 90% of the total required so far being delivered.

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
2018/19	30	30	36	0	0	0	96

## DELIVERING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

### Supporting a successful economy

#### Economic activity

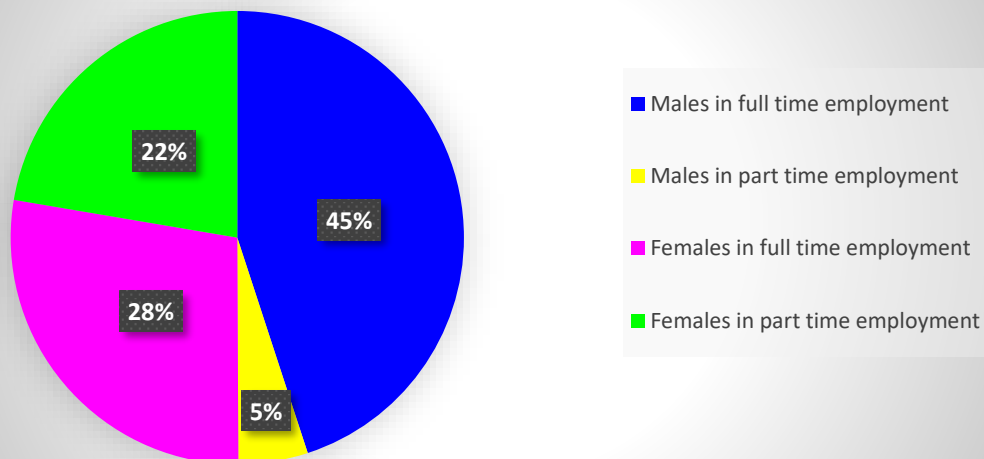
**83%** of North Somerset residents aged 16 to 64 are economically active, this is an increase of 1.5% on the previous year. This compares to 81.4% in the South West and 78.8% in England and Wales.

Source: Annual Population Survey April 2018 - March 2019

#### Employment structure

- **72.4%** of 16-64 year olds in North Somerset work full time and **27.4%** work part time. In England and Wales, 75.3% work full time and 24.6% work part time.
- **89.8%** of the economically active males work full time and **9.9%** work part time. In England and Wales, 88.7% of the economically active males work full time and 11.1% work part time.
- **55.4%** of the economically active females work full time and **44.6%** work part time. Nationally, 60.1% of the economically active females work full time and 39.7% work part time.

#### Employment Structure in North Somerset 2019



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 **£25,920**, a decrease on the previous year. Currently average earnings for employees across the South West are £27,956 per annum.
- The average full time gross pay for the **residents** of North Somerset in 2018 was **£30,246**, a decrease of £698 since 2017. This is higher than the average figure for England and Wales which was £29,684.

Source: ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2018

## Productivity

Region	Enterprise Births	Enterprise Deaths	Active Enterprises
England and Wales	354,090	308,845	2,692,005
South West	24,100	22,050	232,415
North Somerset	1,005	925	9,260

Business Demography 2018, Office for National Statistics

## Total amount of additional employment floorspace – by type

	B1a Office	B1b Research and Development	B1c Light Industry	B2 General Industry	B8 Storage and Warehouse	Total
Large site gains (sqm)	0	0	1,608	4,555	0	<b>6,163</b>
Large site losses (sqm)	1,630	0	1,150	0	0	<b>2,780</b>
Small site gains (sqm)	453	0	742	478	514	<b>2,187</b>
Small site losses (sqm)	1,553	0	462	0	787	<b>2,802</b>
<b>Net gain (sqm)</b>	<b>-2,730</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>5,033</b>	<b>-273</b>	<b>2,768</b>

Large sites are those that are allocated for employment use in the Sites and Policies 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 2018/19 monitoring period three large employment sites were developed resulting in a gain of employment floorspace and four sites were developed resulting in a loss. A total of 6,163sqm has been gained and there has been a loss of 2,780sqm resulting in a net gain of 3,383sqm of employment floorspace on large sites.

The completed developments are summarised below.

- Further development has been completed at a cider brewery in Sandford in the manufacturing area providing an additional 670 square metres of floorspace. This is part of ongoing expansion of the brewery.

- An existing manufacturing company in Yatton has completed the next stage of their expansion providing an extra 3,885 square metres on B2 floorspace.
- A new development at an allocated employment site at Weston Gateway was completed providing new B1c units totalling 1,608 square metres of floorspace.
- Three sites were completed resulting in a loss of employment floorspace due to residential developments. 530 square metres of office space was lost at Banwell, office units in Congresbury were converted resulting in a loss of 630 square metres and a redundant garage site with 520 square metres of floorspace in Weston-super-Mare was redeveloped into housing.
- Part of a business centre in Clevedon was converted to provide hotel rooms was completed resulting in a loss of 1,100 square metres of office floorspace.

#### **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	1608	4,555	0	<b>6,163</b>
Gross sqm completed on PDL	0	0	0	670	0	<b>670</b>
% completed on PDL	~	~	0%	15%	~	<b>11%</b>

#### **Employment land**

The adopted Core Strategy focuses on supporting a successful economy and seeks to provide an additional 10,100 jobs by 2026 by allocating around 114 hectares of land for B class uses. This will help address the issue of out-commuting and will increase self-containment, particularly in Weston-super-Mare. The 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*

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. Work began on the development in December 2018 and is expected to be completed in early 2020. The centre will be known as FoodWorksSW will include 12 food grade business units to lease, four product development areas, workshop space and meeting rooms.

#### **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. However, the final completion date is expected to be rolled back due to significant delays by the contractor implementing the infrastructure.

At the end of March 2018 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	221	0	0	<b>221</b>
Town Centre Losses	688	273	899	<b>1,860</b>
Town Centre Net Gains	-447	-273	-899	<b>-1,639</b>

#### 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	691	31	453	<b>1,175</b>
North Somerset Losses	1,096	453	3,183	<b>4,732</b>
North Somerset Net Gain	-405	-422	-2,730	<b>-3,557</b>

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.

<b>Towns</b>	<b>Weston- super- Mare</b>	<b>Portishead</b>	<b>Clevedon</b>	<b>Nailsea</b>
Total units	632	135	151	167
Vacant units	106	7	14	27
<b>% of vacant units</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>16%</b>
Total PRF units	157	76	62	46
Vacant PRF units	18	5	6	11
<b>% of vacant PRF units</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>24%</b>
% of total units in A1 use	39%	53%	44%	46%
% of total PRF units in A1 use	63%	58%	65%	67%

April 2019

*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 a slight decrease in vacant units. Nailsea has a significantly higher vacancy rate in the PRF than the other towns in the district. However, no towns are currently meeting the target of over 70% of units in retail use 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
<b>District Centre</b>			
Locking Castle, WsM	14	5	0
Queensway, WsM	14	10	0
Worle High Street, WsM	108	43	9
Hill Road, Clevedon	78	40	5
<b>Local Centre</b>			
Backwell	46	16	2
Banwell	13	3	2
Churchill	3	3	0
Congresbury	41	25	1
Easton-in-Gordano/Pill	24	8	0
Long Ashton	22	11	1
Winscombe	64	34	1
Wrington	22	11	4
Yatton	50	25	2
Bournville, WsM	9	3	2
Castle Batch, WsM	9	4	2
Coronation, WsM	7	3	2
Locking Road, WsM	12	6	0
Milton Hill, WsM	10	5	0
Milton Road, WsM	33	21	1
Oldmixon, WsM	13	5	4
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. Approximately 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 Magistrates' Court, Police Station site, Walliscote East Car Park, Roselawns/Central Chambers, and Victoria Methodist Hall has been earmarked for regeneration. The council will be commissioning a design team to explore options for the site.
- Weston Town Centre Transport Enhancement Scheme is a programme of works which will improve the local infrastructure and public realm as well as helping to enable the wider placemaking activity taking place in the town centre. This scheme improves the welcome to Weston via Station Road and creates an easier to use central bus hub in Alexandra Parade.
- The Great Weston Conservation Area was adopted in December 2018 and is assisting the council to conserve and enhance the heritage of Weston-super-Mare. Having a conservation area also opens the door to further funding. The Management Plans drawn up as part of the adoption process are being used to feed into and guide other town centre works.
- The council adopted a new Shopfront Design Guide funded through the Great Weston HAZ. This guide encourages sympathetic and appropriate shopfronts and will support planning officers to improve the quality of shopfront proposals in Weston-super-Mare and across North Somerset.
- With funding from Historic England's Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas (PSiCA) the council is running a Shopfront Enhancement Grant Scheme. Shop owners within the footprint are

able to apply for grant funding to cover 75% of the costs to help restore their shopfronts and signage whilst maintain or enhancing the historic interest or character of their buildings.

- The council successfully submitted an Expression of Interest to Historic England for a High Street Heritage Action Zone. A Programme Design is currently being developed ahead of delivery of the programme in 2020. This is a £1.2m scheme, including shopfront enhancement, restoration of architectural features, public realm improvements, community engagement, heritage skills training, and supporting a cultural company for Weston.
- The Italian Gardens won the Pedestrian Environment category of the Street Design Awards 2019, run by Local Government News. The Italian Gardens was praised for taking a previously cluttered and stagnant space, and transforming it into vibrant and versatile events space. In early 2020 the final aspect of the Italian Gardens – Spider Lane – will be paved.
- The council have issued a repairs notice to the owners of Birnbeck Pier, specifying the repairs which are urgently needed to save the pier. The pier is much loved, and of significant historic interest, therefore the council is interested in encouraging the regeneration of the pier.

## DELIVERING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

### Tourism

#### Tourism Activity

- Altogether there were 8 million visitors to North Somerset in 2018.
- There were 7,467,000 day visitors to North Somerset in 2018.
- There were 528,000 staying visitor trips to North Somerset spending a total of 1,813,000 nights in 2018.
- The total visitor related spend in 2018 was £373,722,000.
- The number of people employed directly and indirectly by tourism in North Somerset is estimated to be 5,226 full time equivalents.

Source: The Economic Impact of North Somerset's Visitor Economy 2018

#### 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	4378	bedspaces
Guesthouses	641	bedspaces
Inns	129	bedspaces
B&B	312	bedspaces
Farms	19	bedspaces
Self-catering	354	units
Touring caravans/tents	1030	pitches
Static vans	405	pitches
Holiday centres	508	units
Group accommodation	0	bedspaces
Campus	0	bedspaces
Second homes	374	units
Marinas	250	berths

Source: SWRTB and North Somerset Council 2018

## DELIVERING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

### Bristol Airport

#### Expansion

Long term plans for the airport are currently being developed. The master plan will set out any intended future developments until 2050. Details of this can be viewed at <https://www.bristolairport.co.uk/about-us/who-we-are/our-future/master-plan>.

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 opened in summer 2018.

An outline planning application was submitted to the council in December 2018 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. Due to the size and complexity of the application it will take a significant amount of time to determine, therefore, an update will be provided in next year's AMR.

#### 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. Work is currently underway at this site.

## 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.

	North Somerset	South West	England
<b>% achieving Key Stage 2 Reading Expected Standard</b>			
<b>2019</b>	74%	73%	73%
<b>2018</b>	76%	75%	75%
<b>2017</b>	71%	73%	72%
<b>% achieving Key Stage 2 Writing Expected Standard</b>			
<b>2019</b>	80%	78%	78%
<b>2018</b>	79%	77%	78%
<b>2017</b>	76%	76%	76%
<b>% achieving Key Stage 2 Maths Expected Standard</b>			
<b>2019</b>	78%	77%	79%
<b>2018</b>	74%	74%	76%
<b>2017</b>	73%	73%	75%
<b>% achieving Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing and Maths Expected Standard</b>			
<b>2019</b>	64%	63%	65%
<b>2018</b>	64%	63%	64%
<b>2017</b>	59%	60%	61%

Source: North Somerset Council and 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. In 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 2019 was 41.9%, this is higher than the England average of 39.8%.

Source: North Somerset Council and Department for Education

##### A Levels (Level 3 qualifications)

A level results in North Somerset show the average point score per entry in 2018 was 32.83. This is an improvement on last year's figure of 30.48. North Somerset is below the national average with the average point score per entry for England being 33.13.

Source: North Somerset Council and Department for Education

## Educational Qualifications

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

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

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

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

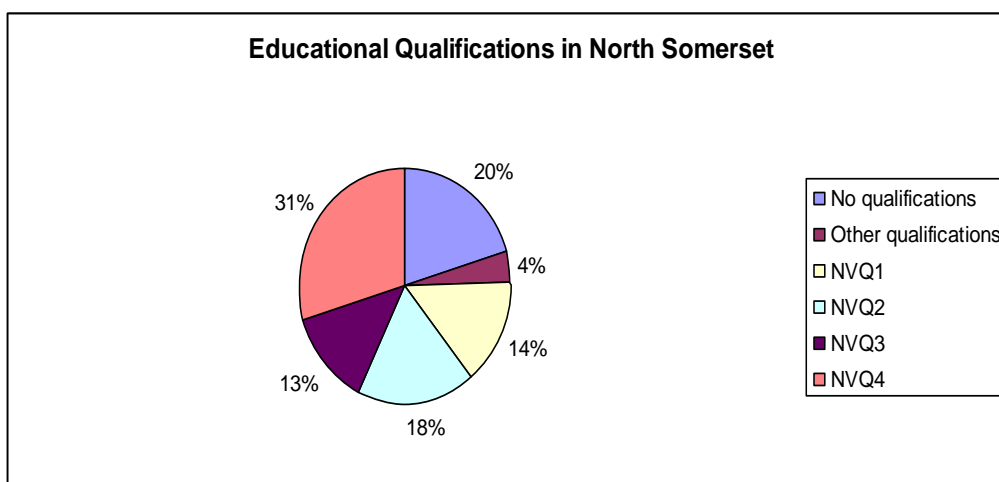
The population aged 16-64 with NVQ1 and 2 is:

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

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

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

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



Source: Census 2011 Qualifications

## **Schools**

North Somerset has:

- 63 primary schools
- 11 secondary schools
- 3 special schools
- 4 independent schools
- 1 pupil referral unit and tuition

A new primary school, Parklands Educate Together, opened at the Weston Villages development in September 2018. This is the second new primary school at this development with Haywood Village Academy opening in September 2016. It is expected that further schools will be provided as residential development continues.

The North Somerset Enterprise and Technical College on Weston Airfield opened in 2014 and is part of the Inspirational Futures Trust. From September 2020 the college will operate as a secondary school as well as offering post 16 courses. The establishment will be known as the Winterstoke Hundred Academy.

A new primary school at the Arnolds Way development in Yatton is currently under construction, Chestnut Park Primary School is expected to open in September 2020.

### **Weston College**

The College offers around 550 courses at various levels and has approximately 30,000 enrolments. Weston College offers a range of course including A Levels, Diplomas, BTEC, City and Guilds and apprenticeships. Courses are provided for school leavers and adults and individuals can study at the college or by distance learning.

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.

Knightstone Campus is the colleges main site for vocational training and is where business, hospitality, hair and beauty, early years, public services, and performing arts courses are based. The Loxton Campus is the dedicated sixth form centre providing the teaching facilities for A Level students and also those who are studying creative arts. The South West Skills Campus is home to technology, construction and engineering.

Other facilities include the Winter Gardens which is home to University Centre Weston which provides some accounting and law courses. The Construction Training Centre, which opened in April 2019, offers a variety of construction related courses developed around employers need to provide suitably skilled individuals. The Health and Active Living Skills Centre (adjacent to the Loxton campus), which is another new addition which opened in 2019, provides a modern learning environment for sport and



health and social care students. There is also a residential training centre for students on the autism spectrum at Weston Bay, this facility provides the opportunity for students to learn essential life skills to become more independent.

Weston College also has the contract to deliver the education services in 19 prisons providing learning opportunities to thousands of offenders.

### 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, Hartpury 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	Notes
	Sep-2018	Sep-2019				
Primary	18,267	18,375	108	98	Hayward Village (60) Parklands Educate Together (35)  All Saints East Clevedon (3)	For September 2019, 90 additional places were created at Parklands Educate Together Primary. The remaining 55 places were funded by Basic Need funding. 15 additional places were also created at Flax Bourton Primary School, the places were funded by Basic Need funding. The ending of a breach class of 30 places at Portishead Primary School, and the completion of transitional arrangements at Mendip Green Primary School (to move the school from a first to a primary school that necessitated an additional 1 class (30 places) for 1 year only above their agreed 21 classes) also contribute to the overall total.
Secondary	12,432	12,487	55	10	Priory Community School Academy (6) Gordano School (4)	For September 2019 a total of 44 additional places were created at Priory and 28 at Gordano, funded by a combination of S106 and Basic Need. A breach class of 30 places has been put in place at Priory School and a breach class of 28 places has been put in place at Gordano School. In addition, the South West Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) agreed the re-brokerage of NSETC to a new MAT and no new admissions for the 2019/2020 academic year were agreed by the RSC.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,699</b>	<b>30,862</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>108</b>		

### **Children's Centres**

Children's centres provide services for families with children under five. They host drop-in advice clinics, parenting workshops, parent and toddler groups and even speech and language services. Many also host regular activities for children under five. 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

The Community Access Review 2016/2018 was implemented resulting in some children's centres co-locating with libraries making significant savings. Further savings have been identified for the 2018/2020 period including re-modelling of some children's centres and local authority nurseries.

Full details are on our website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CAR](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CAR)

## ENSURING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### Health

#### **Life expectancy**

The average female life expectancy in North Somerset is 83.6 years and the average male life expectancy is 79.9 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 2018, 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](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/jsna).

## ENSURING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### Sport, recreation and community facilities

#### Sport and recreation

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

#### Open spaces

There are over 40 parks, public open spaces and nature reserves in the authority. During the monitoring period, there were six 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. There is also a library access point at the Oldmixon Family Centre. Further details of the libraries are available on our website at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/).

The Community Access Review implemented many changes to the library service seeing some libraries combined with Children's Centres. Due to budget constraints further savings need to be made. To achieve this, proposals include relocating one or both of the libraries in Nailsea and Clevedon to smaller premises are being considered. Long Ashton library closed permanently at the end of 2018 and was replaced with a twice weekly mobile service.

Further details of the review are available at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CAR](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/CAR).

## **Duty to co-operate**

The requirement for local planning authorities to work under the Duty to Cooperate on strategic planning issues is set out in section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as inserted by section 110 of the Localism Act (2011). This requires authorities to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in relation to a number of activities including the preparation of development plan documents, other local development documents and marine plans. 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 2018/19, the authorities have undertaken the following activities in relation to the duty to co-operate, including:

### **Joint Spatial Plan**

Preparation of a Joint Spatial Plan covering the four authorities of Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. The Joint Spatial Plan sets out strategic policies for the West of England area and was submitted for examination in April 2018. As such, the Duty to Co-operate between neighbouring LPAs and with other prescribed bodies was discharged in earlier monitoring periods as detailed in the DtC statement submitted with the Plan. Whilst outside the AMR period and following the first round of hearings in July 2019, the Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State wrote to the four Councils in August and September. In the letters the Inspectors concluded that there were very substantial soundness problems with the plan and were of the view that withdrawal of the plan from examination was likely to be the most appropriate option. In the light of the issues raised by the Inspectors, the four authorities are currently considering how they can continue to actively pursue strategic joint working. Further details including a response to the Inspectors' letters, any formal decisions required by the councils and any required revisions to the Council's local development schemes will be set out in due course.

### **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. Within the West of England, Local Aggregates Assessments are prepared jointly by the four unitary authorities (UAs) within the sub region. The LAA forms part of the evidence base to inform the UAs' Local Plans. The most recent published LAA covers the period 2007-2016. The LAA for 2008-2017 is currently in preparation.

**Joint Planning Data Group**

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

**Sedgemoor Local Plan**

North Somerset and Sedgemoor District Council have continued to collaborate on strategic planning issues and to ensure alignment on their respective development plan documents. This includes the potential opportunity to meet unmet need arising from North Somerset in Sedgemoor as set out in the Sedgemoor Local Plan (2011-2032) adopted in February 2019.