

Bath & North East Somerset Local Strategic Partnership

Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2026



Making Bath & North East Somerset an
even better place to live, work and visit.



Bath & North East Somerset in 2026

A Day in the Life

This Sustainable Community Strategy sets out a vision for Bath & North East Somerset in 2026. The following Day in the Life offers a guide to the aspirations in this strategy and paints a picture of what the area will look like if the aspirations are made a reality.

It is a warm July morning in 2026 and communities across Bath & North East Somerset are enjoying the summer. The area looks very different to 2009. Local schools are recognised as being the pride of the South West and parents know that their children will have the best start in life. The varied economy is thriving and local shops and businesses are succeeding.

The variety of local jobs means that people have new found opportunities to use their skills and to develop within the area. There are greater housing options, which are better for the environment and people's budgets. In our new homes affordable local food is enjoyed, helping keep the population healthy. People are more confident in their community because anti-social behaviour and crime has been greatly reduced. A large group of pensioners have gathered outside to begin the day with a cycle ride. The level of carbon usage is now at an all time low; the air is fresh for all to enjoy.

People are given the assistance to make the most of their lives but when in need there is always help available. All the residents of Bath & North East Somerset show a huge sense of satisfaction on their faces and it is clear that they are genuinely proud to live here.

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Welcome to the Bath & North East Somerset Sustainable Community Strategy. This document is about making things better for everyone in our community as well as setting out what sort of place we would like Bath & North East Somerset to be by 2026.

The word 'sustainable' is central to this document, and this word has many different meanings. Sustainability is usually defined as being about delivering improvements to quality of life now without compromising the quality of life of future generations. It is often described as a way of solving problems by keeping in balance the three aspects of economy, society and environment.

However, to be sustainable we have to overcome a number of challenges and think and plan in different ways. This strategy sets out six key issues that demonstrate why we need to do things differently as we look towards 2026. We acknowledge that in particular the challenge of climate change means that continuing as we have before is no longer an option. We are also very conscious of the inequalities that exist in our communities and the need to ensure that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, is given the same opportunities to achieve and do well in life.

This strategy has been created by a group of organisations working together as a partnership called the Bath & North East Somerset Local Strategic Partnership (and will be referred to in this strategy as the Partnership). Since the Partnership was established in 2002 a great deal has been achieved and we are keen to continue this by being innovative and doing things differently, whether that involves sharing resources or finding new solutions to solve problems.

Working together in partnership is an essential way of working and this strategy represents the Partnership's main business and will not be left on the bookshelf. Rather, this strategy will be the top level strategy that each of the organisations within the Partnership will be working towards. So although this strategy is aspirational and challenging, we also believe it is achievable.

We are at a crucial time and as I have outlined above there are many challenges ahead. Yet there are also many opportunities and this strategy is an important start in our journey to having a sustainable future for Bath & North East Somerset. I would like to thank all the partners and stakeholders who have worked so hard on the development of this strategy and I look forward to working with you in the future to turn the vision for a sustainable Bath & North East Somerset into a reality.

Cllr Francine Haerberling
Leader of Bath & North East Somerset Council
Chair of the Bath & North East Somerset Local Strategic Partnership
(September 2009)

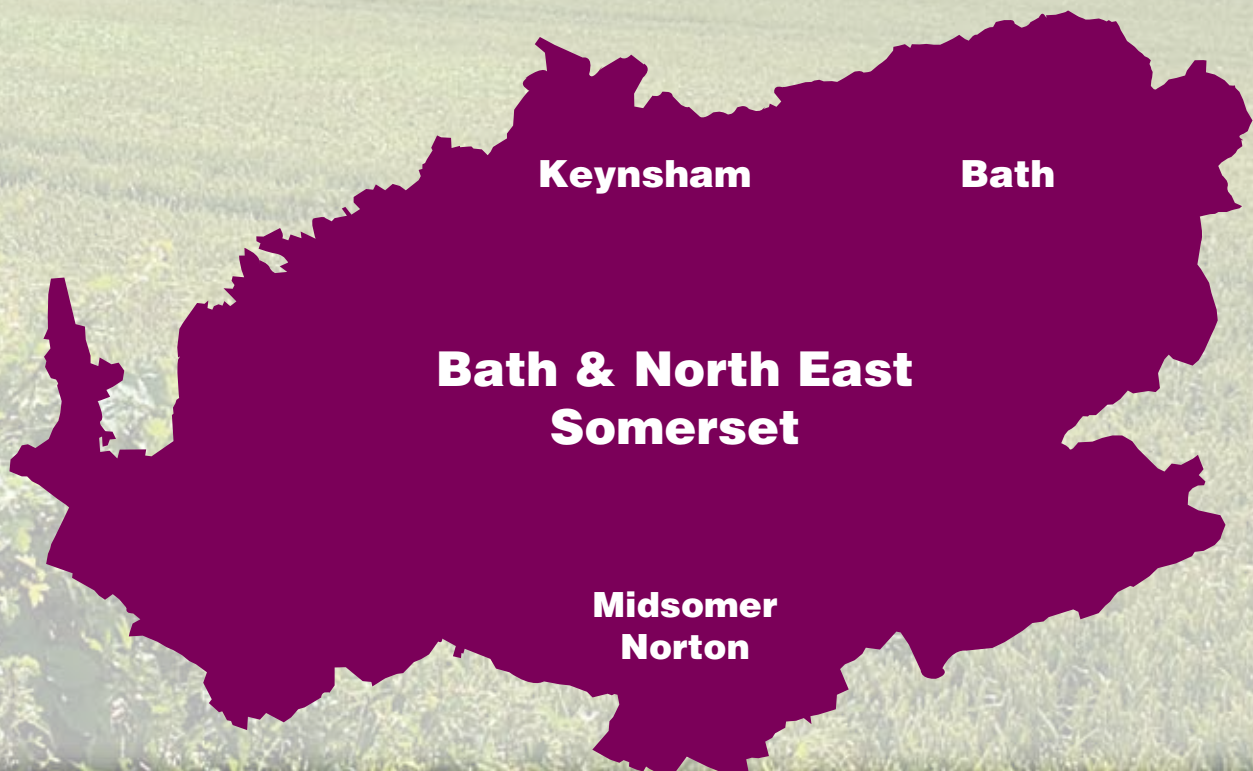
1.1 The Strategy

Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) stretches from the outskirts of Bristol, south into the Mendip Hills and east to the southern Cotswold Hills and Wiltshire border. It is located in an area of the country well known for its beautiful natural environment, high quality of life and outstanding built environment. The district encompasses a diverse range of places, each with their own distinctive history, identity and communities, including the City of Bath which is a designated World Heritage Site.

B&NES is one of the four local authority areas that make up the West of England, the others being Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset.

Working with these other local authorities is increasingly important as we try to respond to issues and challenges that affect the whole of the sub region. Some of these include: waste, transport, managing climate change through cutting carbon emissions, building resilience to unavoidable climate change, responding to the impact of peak oil, housing growth and the infrastructure requirements to support that growth.

B&NES is now at a crucial point in its development and it is critical that we address a number of important issues that will have an impact on how it develops over the next 20 or so years. To address these issues successfully it is essential that we work together. Our Partnership is a group which brings together partners from the business, public, community and third sectors from across B&NES. Together the Partnership has produced this Sustainable Community Strategy. This strategy outlines a long term vision for the area, until 2026, including an overview of the issues that we will need to overcome in order to achieve our aspirations.





“Making Bath & North East Somerset an even better place to live, work and visit”

1.2 Our Vision

In order to fully respond to the changes and issues identified in the area, the Partnership has agreed a long term Vision for the area to 2026.

This means that Bath & North East Somerset is a distinctive place with vibrant, sustainable communities where everyone fulfils their potential.

We are therefore working towards ensuring that we create:

A distinctive place that:

- Maintains and enhances its outstanding built and natural environment
- Has a dynamic, low carbon economy
- Achieves connectivity
- Has world class arts and culture

Vibrant sustainable communities:

- That are lively and inclusive
- Places where people feel safe, take responsibility and make a contribution
- That are carbon neutral
- Where the disadvantaged are supported
- Where the vulnerable are protected
- Where people feel proud to live

Communities where everyone fulfils their potential by having an equal opportunity to:

- Learn and develop skills
- Enjoy a healthy, low carbon lifestyle
- Influence the future of their area
- Contribute to the economy and society

This Vision will be delivered by the implementation of a vast number of plans and strategies created by all those organisations involved in the Partnership. These strategies include the Local Development Framework, including the Core Strategy, which sets out our policies for planning and land use across the area. The Local Area Agreement and the Infrastructure Delivery Planning strategy also contribute to delivery. See Section 4.2 for more details on these plans.

Sustainability is key to the development of B&NES and our work must meet the needs of the current population without compromising the needs of future generations. This Sustainable Community Strategy recognises the opportunities and challenges the area is facing and is flexible enough to adapt and respond to them.

1.3 Bath and North East Somerset - A snap shot

Demographics:

B&NES has a population of 178,300¹ (2007), of which 90% of people are classified as 'White British'. The largest Black and Minority Ethnic Groups are 'White Other', representing 3% of the total population and 'Chinese or Other Ethnic Group', representing 1.7% of the total population.

Districts:

B&NES is made up of a diverse mix of city, market towns, villages and rural hinterlands. Over two thirds of the area is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Green Belt. The area is home to a diverse range of wildlife of national and international acclaim, and the district is served by a network of footpaths and cycle-ways. We recognise that the different character and needs of each community presents a variety of challenges which must be carefully balanced in the interests of the entire area. However this mix of people and place, of urban and rural also represents enormous potential and opportunity for the future success, well-being and sustainability of the district.

Bath is the largest urban settlement within the B&NES area and forms the main urban conurbation, acting as the commercial and recreational heart of the district. It is home to approximately 89,000 or 50% of the population and is the main centre of economic and cultural activity. The city has two universities and is a major centre of sporting excellence.

It is one of the few entire cities in the world to be named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This recognises the cultural, historical and environmental importance of both the natural and built features that exist in Bath. These

include its landscape setting, its Roman archaeology, its Georgian architecture and town planning, its three hot springs and the remarkable cultural and social life which evolved around them. Today, Bath remains an important local and regional centre as well as a national and international visitor destination, attracting over four million visitors a year.

Keynsham lies to the west of Bath. A traditional market town with a thriving community, it has a population of almost 16,000 or 9%² of the total population. It is located between Bath and Bristol with good transport links. It has an interesting Roman and Saxon history and played an influential role in the development of Britain's brass manufacturing industry in the 18th century.

Midsomer Norton and **Radstock** are small historic market towns, located in the south of the district with approximately 22,500 or 12%³ of the total population split between them. They both have a strong heritage of mining and industry stemming from the North Somerset Coalfield. Radstock has been particularly influenced by the Somerset and Dorset and Great Western Railway companies that operated through the town.

The rest of the district consists of a diverse range of small rural communities of varying sizes and characteristics, including the line of villages along the foothills of the Mendips, the Chew Valley and the distinctive Cotswolds villages around Bath. Home to just under a third of the population, the communities have a diverse cultural heritage and over 30 villages have Conservation Area status. Many of the rural areas lie within designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Economy:

B&NES has a productive and relatively strong economy. Levels of unemployment are relatively low when compared nationally, and educational achievement in the area is high. There is a large and diverse voluntary and community sector which contributes approximately £50 million gross value added to the local economy. This also makes a substantial contribution to local communities, supporting volunteering and adding to the output of the local economy⁴.

The local economy does, however, face a number of significant issues, which present both challenges and opportunities. A heavy reliance on the public sector and tourism means that the B&NES economy is characterised to a great extent by lower-wage jobs. Higher-wage, “knowledge-based” employment provides 17% of the area’s jobs, but this level is below the West of England average. Given that the area actually contains a high-performing education sector including two Universities, and leading creative and technology firms, the right conditions (such as the provision of more workspace) should be created to help grow innovative businesses in B&NES⁵.

The City of Bath contributes the most to the economy of the area. However, within Bath there are also real pockets of disadvantage – the Twerton / Whiteway area of Bath for example falls within the top 20% most deprived wards in the country⁶.

The outlying areas, including the market towns, also make a significant contribution to the local economy, but demonstrate a reliance on certain sectors (for example, the public sector in Keynsham, and manufacturing in Radstock and Midsomer Norton).

With the UK economy currently in recession, we see evidence of this locally in the number of people claiming Job Seeker’s Allowance. This figure rose by 141% to 2379 people in the year to June 2009 and was alongside a reduction of more than 50% in unfilled job vacancies in

the same period. There was also a 10% rise in the number of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit claims⁷.

The impact on tourism is not as high, with numbers of visitors to museums and galleries remaining at similar levels in the 12 months to June 09, whilst visitors to the Roman Baths have reached their highest level since March 2007. This is partly due to the fall in value of Pound sterling against the Dollar and the Euro.

Once the recession is over, there is likely to be a significant reduction in public spending, with public services being forced to prioritise the areas where money is spent, and this will require a radical reshaping of local public services.

Housing:

House prices in the area over the last few years have followed national trends in rising disproportionately to earnings and the area is one of the least affordable places to buy in the country. The current economic climate has meant that house prices have fallen in recent times but average house prices in the South West region are still higher than the UK average. This coupled with relatively low wages, a severe shortage of affordable housing and a relatively large amount of low quality private homes means that affordable housing is an issue for the area.

Crime:

Overall crime levels are low, but the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour are key priorities for local people. 16% of the population have reported being a victim of crime but 33% are worried about becoming a victim of crime. 19% of people also report high levels of anti-social behaviour. This is low by national comparisons and contributes to the generally positive perception of living in the area. The new Police focus on ‘trust and confidence’⁸ means that there is even greater emphasis on promoting community confidence and involving people in local community safety work.

Transport and Public Realm:

The area has no direct link to the motorway and there is significant commuter congestion into Bath which needs to be addressed. Public transport links are limited and infrequent in some of the more rural parts of the District. Congestion is also affecting air quality, particularly in some areas of Bath City Centre. Linked to this is the need to enhance the public realm (the streets and public spaces between buildings) within our towns and city in order to create better places and spaces for people, increase economic activity, reduce fear of crime and foster health and wellbeing.

Life Expectancy:

The population is relatively healthy with life expectancy for residents being longer than regional and national trends. A boy born in 2005 can expect to live for nearly 80 years and a woman for over 82 years. The ages of people living in the area is slightly older than the national average. This overall picture does mask some inequalities across the district with males from the most deprived areas of the district having less life expectancy than those from the least deprived areas⁹.

Culture:

The population as a whole is fairly active with high levels of participation in physical recreation and also participation in the arts. There is also a very strong cultural heritage and the area benefits from an exceptional natural and built environment. However some areas of the district are in need of improvements to their open spaces, particularly in parts of Bath City Centre and some of the town centres across the district. Sport and active leisure plays an important part in contributing to the wellbeing and culture of our community. Sport and active leisure in the area has also helped community regeneration, community safety and the local economy.

Carbon Emissions:

Carbon emissions, pollution created by the use of fossil-fuel based energy, such as oil, gas and coal, which is the main cause of climate change, has been monitored by the Government over the last few years. The emissions from Bath and North East Somerset for 2006 were 1,072,000 tonnes¹⁰.

Of these, 437,000 tonnes was from energy use in homes, 384,000 tonnes from industry, business and commerce and 234,000 tonnes from road transport, with smaller amounts from rail transport and agriculture. By 2020, these emissions need to be reduced by 34% and by 80% by 2050 to meet the statutory national targets¹¹. It is clear from this that significant change in how we live; work and travel will need to take place during the timeframe of this strategy.

1.4 What our Communities are saying

As we set out our vision for the future of Bath & North East Somerset it is clear that local people are better informed on local issues than ever before and are keen to be included in the decision and policy making process. An increased level of engagement by local communities is being driven by the internet but also by resident groups and forums that are keen to have their say. We have seen levels of community engagement rising with 34% of people now feeling that they can influence decisions in their communities according to the Council's Voicebox survey¹². Listening to these groups and individuals in our communities has, and will continue to form an important part of ensuring that the work the Partnership carries out is addressing the things that are important to local people both in short and longer term.

We recognise that top priorities for local residents include traffic congestion, the need for activities for teenagers, affordable housing, the level of crime, public transport, cleanliness of streets and the level of pollution.

The top priorities for the business community are: the availability of more modern workspaces in city and town centres to support business growth locally and to attract new investment; the protection and support of the independent retail sector; reduced traffic congestion and the provision of more "green" transport facilities such as cycle paths and parking.

As this plan focuses on long term aspirations for the area we acknowledge that this strategy does not address all of the issues that have been raised by our local communities. In the shorter term, the more immediate concerns raised by our communities are acted on through the plans of individual agencies such as the Council, the Police or the Health Service and each organisational plan sets out the specific detail of how they are taking forward the concerns of our communities.

cleaner streets

more "green" transport facilities



1.5 What we have achieved so far

As a community and Partnership, we have a strong base from which to carry out the activities that will deliver our vision for the area. Partnership working is already well established and we have already achieved a number of successes since the first Community Strategy was published in 2004 such as:



- ✓ There are now 42 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and 18 Beat Managers who are working with local communities to build and maintain safer and stronger neighbourhoods¹³.
.....
- ✓ Partnership working has already helped to successfully reduce crime. For example, there was a 10% reduction in recorded criminal damage offences between: 2006-2007.
.....
- ✓ Eight parishes have produced parish plans since 2004 and a further nine are in the process of doing so.
.....
- ✓ A recent Mori poll shows that in B&NES 80% of people believe the local NHS is providing a good service and good patient experience. 77% believe that the local NHS is helping to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and families. The most recent national patient survey shows that in B&NES 90% of people have trust in their doctor and 98% believe they are treated by their doctor with dignity and respect.
.....
- ✓ Our Big Energy Challenge, a project rolled out mainly across Public Sector agencies in B&NES has succeeded in making employees more aware of how to reduce their carbon emissions in the workplace through energy efficient working practices. The target to cut energy consumption and therefore carbon emissions from buildings included in the project by 10% over the last three years has been met¹⁴.
.....
- ✓ The Council has produced and consulted upon more detailed visions and proposals for the revitalisation of the main urban centres of Bath, Keynsham, Radstock and Midsomer Norton, entitled 'The Future for Bath, Keynsham and the Somer Valley'. Some projects outlined within these have already started, most notably the development of SouthGate shopping centre in Bath.
.....
- ✓ The Council and NHS Bath & North East Somerset have integrated health and social care services to provide more efficient use of resources and to provide a better experience of care.
.....
- ✓ The Children's Service has recently established three Local Area Partnership Boards. These boards are helping to put the needs of children and young people first by working with communities to identify their needs and priorities.
.....
- ✓ Working with the West of England Road Safety Partnership the numbers of road accidents resulting in serious injury or fatality have been reduced by 52% since 2005 from 72 in 2005, to 34 in 2008¹⁵.
.....

2.1 The drivers for change

In November 2008, a wide range of partners, including all members of the Partnership, attended a conference to discuss the issues affecting our area in the years to come and set out key priorities for action up to 2026.

Some of the key issues that came out of the conference were 'locality' and in particular access to local services, local democracy and the importance of a sense of community. Concerns about climate change also featured highly and it was agreed that it was vital to adopt a sustainable approach to all future plans for B&NES.

Over the coming years B&NES will face a number of issues which we need to plan for to make sure that our communities continue to flourish and be successful.

At the conference it was agreed that tackling the key, long term issues facing the area cannot be the job of any single agency or sector, but the responsibility of a wide range of organisations working together in partnership.

Our Vision for B&NES (Section 1.2), along with the Local Development Framework will lead the development and commissioning of services and will help shape future planning and land use policies.

Some of the key drivers for change are:

2.2 Climate change

Climate change poses significant and urgent challenges for the area. Changing weather patterns and rising energy prices mean that we are all being forced to consider different choices about how we live our lives.

Working towards a low carbon economy and making sure that our area is resilient to climate change means changing how we think and act now. The expectation of growth in the area makes this more of a challenge and it is therefore increasingly important to include actions to tackle the causes and effects of climate change in every aspect of this strategy as quickly as possible.

The Partnership is committed to tackling the causes of climate change and to help manage the effects. The national, statutory carbon reduction target has recently been increased to 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 and so there is an increasing sense of urgency to reduce our carbon emissions.

Ensuring that we can cope with the changes to the climate that have already started is another major challenge for us. There is now more confidence about what we can expect in terms of changes to the weather, such as increasing volume of rain and more severe storms, making it possible to plan the adaptation needed.

Related to this, there is a growing consensus about that fact that we have either already reached or are very close to what is known as 'peak oil', which means that oil supply will dwindle and become increasingly expensive. Reducing our dependency on all fossil fuels, through plans to cut carbon emissions will help with this problem and our resilience planning needs to include the impact of peak oil on the supply of goods and services. This Strategy recognises that addressing the causes and effects of climate change cuts across all the themes and priorities.

2.3 Demographic change

If population trends continue, the total population of B&NES will increase by 18% by 2026 (from 178,300 to 210,070). The most significant increase will be to our very elderly population (the over 80s) where we are anticipating an increase of 16%¹⁷ (from 10347 to 12168). This increase will have a major impact on the way we plan and deliver services across the region over the coming years.

We are also anticipating that social trends and lifestyle changes will also affect the way we live. For example, the number of single person households is likely to increase; there may be changes in domestic arrangements including changes in employment and work practices and shifts in work/life balance. There will be an increase in the use of new technologies including digital media and recycling. Other environmentally friendly practices such as making homes more energy efficient, the uses of renewable energy, less inefficient car use and growing more local food will become the norm rather than the exception. As the population ages there will be older people with care needs and more pressure on carers with fewer carers available in the population to respond to this need. It's really important that we understand the impact of these changes in order to plan and deliver the services that our communities will need.

2.4 Growth

The need for growth in housing and employment due to population and lifestyle changes means that the district will change considerably over the coming years, with the anticipated level of growth equating to a new settlement the size of Keynsham and Radstock combined. This provides many opportunities as well as challenges.

The challenge is for us to grow and develop in a way that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable, with the necessary supporting infrastructure in place. Within existing towns, villages and communities, it is important that development is inspired by an understanding of the unique character and design values of each place. In all areas, it is vital that any development is a high standard of design that enhances the features that make B&NES such a distinctive district and protects the existing natural and built environment that serves the needs of the community. Opportunities will be possible with the creation of new housing and business developments that will also play a key part in helping us create a low carbon economy. This will be through zero carbon development and a shift to local sustainable energy production.



2.5 Inequalities

The population of B&NES is relatively prosperous and healthy but there are still a number of deprived communities in the district. Some of these communities are geographical in nature, whilst others relate to groups of people with particular needs such as some black and minority ethnic groups and people with learning difficulties. The gap in life expectancy between men in the most and the least prosperous parts of the area is as much as five years. Despite educational achievements which exceed national averages, and those of our neighbouring areas, one of our geographical areas is within the most deprived 5% for Education and Skills Deprivation¹⁸. It is essential that we begin to address these inequalities immediately.

2.6 Locality

We are committed to the concept of locality and 'thinking local'. This includes making sure that we are providing accessible services to all our communities, developing local supply chains, enabling more local food production and sustainable local energy production.

Our local services have been ranked highly; with the area ranking 39th out of 354 areas in England (where 1 has the greatest standard)¹⁹. However some of the rural areas in the South West of our district, and on the outskirts of Bath, have been identified as being isolated with poor access to services²⁰.

Locality is also about encouraging and helping communities to flourish and thrive, giving everyone the opportunity to have a say about what happens in their community. This is our aim whether their community is a network of people, a group of organisations or the neighbourhood town or city in which they live. Thinking "local" is seen as a key way of delivering our Vision for the area and how we achieve this over the coming years is set out throughout the strategy.

2.7 The Economy

Finally, it is important to recognise that this strategy has been developed as the country enters a global economic downturn, the impacts of which are not yet fully understood. The length and depth of the recession is a source of much speculation and different sectors of the economy will see different effects. Latest predictions are that economic recovery will begin in 2010, but that significant public spending constraints will be imposed over a much longer term.

The high level of public sector jobs in the area means that B&NES will be unable to completely avoid the impact of the current recession. A tightening of public sector expenditure over the medium term means we will be reviewing how we provide services and looking at ways of increasing the level of joint working between areas and partner agencies. There may also be opportunities for doing things differently and drawing upon the expertise of partners within the private and third sectors. We will be doing all we can to minimise the impact of the economic downturn and to make sure that we are in the best position to recover from recession.

3.1 Addressing the issues

The previous chapter set out a number of drivers for change that mean that B&NES will need to do things differently over the next 15 or so years. They were:



The causes and effects of climate change



The impacts of demographic change



The need for growth



Inequalities in our communities



A focus on 'thinking local'



The impact of recession on our economy

The following chapters set out how we will address these issues and provide an overview of how we will make B&NES a distinctive place, with vibrant sustainable communities where everyone fulfils their potential. We have six themes, which together will help us achieve our aspirations for a sustainable community:

Economic Development & Enterprise:

A thriving and resilient economy will play a key role in achieving sustainable growth in B&NES.

Health & Wellbeing:

To help individuals achieve their potential by improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities within our communities.

Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change:

To lead B&NES to an environmentally sustainable, low carbon future that is resilient to the expected changes to our climate.

Stronger Communities:

Creating communities where everyone contributes and everyone takes responsibility.

Children & Young People:

All children and young people will do better in life than they thought they could.

Safer Communities:

Building communities where people feel confident about carrying out their daily activities, inside and outside the home.

Each theme is addressed in turn providing an overview of our vision for the area and a breakdown of what will be achieved with key milestones over the coming years.



3.2 Economic Development & Enterprise

Our Strategy

As outlined in the Future for Bath, Keynsham and Somer Valley visions, a thriving and resilient economy will play a key role in achieving sustainable growth in B&NES.

Our vision is to create an economy with a greater range of employment opportunities for local residents, backed up by improvements in local skill levels and involvement from our top-class education establishments.

This will help to create the conditions for reduced unemployment, improved standards of living, and greater wealth creation.

In order to achieve greater environmental sustainability, we will ensure that more housing, employment and cultural opportunities are available locally, which build on the distinctive nature of our places.

We will make sure that:

- Distinctive, vibrant and mixed use city and town centres are created with attractive, high quality streets, markets, and innovative public spaces and riversides. Cultural and conference facilities and programming will be improved, in order to contribute to a better quality of life for residents, and to attract further business investment and high-calibre staff
- Policies and funding plans allow the development of low-carbon modern premises which meet the aspirations of higher-waged knowledge-based businesses (e.g. ICT, the creative industries, professional services, and bioscience / environmental technologies) across B&NES
- An appropriate level of contemporary affordable housing is planned for, to help attract and retain staff locally
- Housing and employment growth is supported by appropriate improvements to transport infrastructure (especially public transport, walking and cycling facilities) and other social infrastructure (e.g. healthcare and community facilities) . This is particularly important within the Bath-Bristol corridor and in relation to any potential urban extensions
- “Low-carbon” utilities and telecommunications infrastructure (including high-speed broadband) support growth
- Access to jobs, including higher-wage jobs, is improved for local people, by identifying skills requirements and gaps, and working with providers to offer appropriate support and training
- Business support and advice activities are provided to the local business community, and safeguards are in place to protect the independent retail sector
- Targeted promotion of the local “offer” encourages more spend from tourists (including business tourists)
- Rural areas retain their distinctive identities and contribution to local quality of life, whilst developing improved services and products for local communities
- A greater emphasis is placed on local supply chains, to include those businesses based in rural areas. Where possible local energy and food sources will be used
- An entrepreneurial culture is encouraged, by providing relevant training and skills, promoting links between our fantastic Universities / colleges and business, and ensuring that appropriate workspace is provided
- Business networks to support the identified growth sectors are encouraged and promoted, particularly those which reflect local culture and heritage, such as the Health and Wellbeing sector in Bath
- Businesses and individuals are supported in becoming low or carbon neutral.

Delivering the vision to 2026

2009 - 2012

- To help encourage a recovery from the recession, policies are in place for the development of modern business space and public transport improvements within Bath.
- More local residents are equipped with the right skills (such as literacy, numeracy and personal communication skills) to take advantage of opportunities in a strengthening economy.
- In Radstock, the redevelopment of the former railway land has begun and plans for development of other areas of the town have been approved. In Midsomer Norton, plans will have been approved for improvements to the town centre, as well as for new business space on the edge of the town.
- Community planning for the rural areas has begun.
- Improved business networking in localities and within sectors has helped to expand and develop local supply chain.
- In Bath, the SouthGate development is complete and fully occupied, the first phase of new city centre development will be underway and the first new homes at Bath Western Riverside are starting to be built. A new city information system will have improved navigation and ease of use of the city. Cultural venues including performance and sports facilities will have been improved (including the Holburne Museum, Forum and Victoria Art Gallery and a new central library in Bath, possibly including a records and archives centre).
- Regeneration of Keynsham town centre is underway with the completion of a new foodstore, improvements to cultural and community facilities including a library and approved plans for the Town Hall/Riverside area and the Somerdale site.

2012 - 2015

- A continued enhancement of workforce skills has helped to increase economic inclusion and the continued growth of the local economy.
- More contemporary, low-carbon premises and facilities are available to encourage the growth of local businesses.
- In Bath, development of Western Riverside is advanced, and public realm improvements and major regeneration of the riverside area are underway.
- In Keynsham, redevelopment of the Somerdale site is well advanced to create a distinctive area with good links to the town centre. New developments in the town will provide new shops and other business facilities. The park continues to play an important role in Keynsham.
- Radstock town centre will be transformed through new development and investment to provide new shops, homes, business space, community facilities and an enhanced public realm. The development and enhancement of Midsomer Norton town centre, and new business space on the edge of town, is underway.
- Community planning for the rural areas continues.
- Improvements to local and regional transport infrastructure and service, (including the Greater Bristol Bus Network), have been implemented.

2015 - 2018



- Bath is recognised as a hub for creative, knowledge based and “wellbeing” businesses (as well as its traditional strengths in retail and tourism). More local graduates and young professionals are attracted to work in B&NES, as more premises enable businesses to grow and locate in the area.
- Progress will have been made in planning for the growth of the city of Bath supported by the necessary infrastructure.
- Regeneration of Bath’s riverside areas will continue with real momentum, public realm and movement enhancements in the city centre will be advanced and a new rugby facility will be complete. Development of Bath Western Riverside will be in its final phase.
- Redevelopment of Somerdale in Keynsham and the town centre will continue, as will the redevelopment of Midsomer Norton town centre and its new modern business space. Overall, more diverse job opportunities are available in these areas.
- Reductions in CO2 output from the commercial sector are on track to meet statutory targets.

2018 - 2026



- Increased opportunities for employment and cultural experiences across B&NES have improved levels of personal wealth and wellbeing. Excellence in training and skills development, together with the availability of modern business premises, has helped to make this happen.
- Development and regeneration in the market towns has reinforced the identity of each place, and has provided opportunities for future generations to play a greater role in the B&NES economy.
- Reductions in CO2 output from the commercial sector are on track to meet statutory targets.
- Work on a potential new mixed-use urban extension to south east Bristol will be started, only if it has been possible to support this with necessary infrastructure, which should include strategic transportation improvements.

How does this fit with the wider strategy?



Demographics:

People of all ages will be able to access training and skills courses to enable them to be more economically active. In particular, support will be given to those wishing to set up their own businesses in later life.



Growth:

Distinctive, vibrant and mixed use city and town centres with appropriate infrastructure will be created to support the need for housing and employment growth.



Climate change:

CO2 will be reduced and a robust approach to renewable energy will be encouraged. B&NES will be recognised as a place for businesses helping to create a low-carbon future.



Inequalities:

There will be increased economic inclusion through skills development, and access to housing (particularly affordable housing) will also be improved. There will be improved access to goods and services, better transport systems and affordable energy.



Locality:

Local communities will have access to sustainable local energy supplies where possible. There will be an increased focus on improving local opportunities and facilities for B&NES residents to reduce the need for commuting to major urban centres. Environmentally-friendly transport facilities and local supply chains will be supported and encouraged. There will be local access to training and education services.



Economy:

The economy will grow and diversify, to further encompass the creative, knowledge based and well-being sectors. Whilst protecting and supporting growth in existing businesses and sectors, the B&NES economy will also be able to maximise opportunities provided by global changes.

There will be an emphasis on less waste, more recycling and more sustainable housing design and construction. There will be focus on the development and use of sustainable forms of transport.



Strategies and partners that will help to deliver this vision:

- The Future for Bath, Keynsham and the Somer Valley visions;
- The Economic Strategy
- Local Development Framework
- Regeneration Delivery Plans for Bath, Keynsham, Radstock and Midsomer Norton
- Public Realm and Movement Strategy for Bath
- The World Heritage Site Management Plan
- Retail Strategy
- Destination Management Plan
- Visitor Accommodation Study
- Local Transport Plans 2 and 3
- Cultural Strategy
- Strategies for Arts Development, Heritage Services, Sports and Active Leisure, and Libraries
- 14-19 Education Strategy
- Post 19 Strategy
- Regional cultural strategies of the NDPB;s (Non departmental public bodies) (Arts Council, English Heritage, Sport England and Museums Libraries & Archives Council
- Regional cultural infrastructure development strategy “People Places and Spaces”
- Regional Economic Strategy

All strategies are subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.





3.3 Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change

Our Strategy

Within B&NES we have an outstanding natural environment, world renowned built heritage and generally high quality of life. This is threatened by climate change and the related issue of 'peak oil'.

By 2026, the aim for the area is to be well on the way to tackling the local causes and effects of climate change, with quality of life and the quality of our natural and built environment maintained and wellbeing enhanced.

Our ambition is to lead B&NES to an environmentally sustainable, low carbon future that is resilient to the expected changes to our climate.

This requires changing the way we think and act now.


Through the development of a new leadership forum, the B&NES Environmental Sustainability Partnership, and a key project, the Climate Change Initiative, **we will make sure that:**

- Plans are in place to manage the unavoidable impact of climate change and peak oil, and make sure our homes, business, public services and the natural environment are safeguarded


- Significant cuts are made in the carbon emissions of all organisations in the LSP, at least in line with national targets (34% by 2020, 80% by 2050)
- We provide the leadership to help our communities to help people reduce carbon emissions across the area by 45% by 2026
- We develop a Sustainable Energy Strategy for the area to enable the development of clean, local, sustainable energy sources and systems
- The quality of our natural and built environment is maintained and enhanced as far as possible, without compromising the need to tackle climate change.
- The new leadership forum will need to identify and resolve perceived and actual conflicts between competing objectives, for example: building preservation vs. energy efficiency; new build costs vs. higher environmental standards; local green energy generation vs. planning objections; thinking local with local markets and shops and less travel vs existing patterns of behaviour.

Delivering the vision to 2026

2009 - 2015

- 
- The Council's carbon footprint is reduced by 30% by 2014 through its first five year Carbon Management Plan
 - A strategic planning framework has been developed by the Environmental Sustainability Partnership and Climate Change Initiative and is reflected in all relevant strategies, such as the Local Development Framework and Regeneration Delivery Plans, the Zero Waste Strategy, Local Transport Plans, the Housing Strategy, Bath & North East Somerset NHS Plans, Economic Strategy, Education Strategy, Air Quality Action Plans, Asset Management Strategy, Green Infrastructure Strategy, Green Spaces Strategy and Bio-diversity Action Plans
 - Each of the strategic themes and the action plans have been tested against this framework to ensure action on climate change is properly incorporated
 - Action to cut carbon emissions and move away from fossil fuels is helping to tackle the issue of 'peak oil', and the impact of peak oil is included in resilience planning.

2015 - 2026

- 
- Managing the unavoidable impact of climate change and peak oil, making sure our homes, businesses, public services and the natural environment are safeguarded.
 - Careful flood mitigation planning has been introduced to help us cope with more unpredictable and higher volume rainfall and to reduce the incidence of flash flooding.
 - NHS Planning has ensured the successful management of health issues resulting from our changing climate such as heat stress in the elderly
 - Significant cuts are made in the carbon emissions of all organisations in the LSP, at least in line with national targets (34% by 2020, 80% by 2050)
 - The Council has delivered three five year Carbon Management Plans with B&NES moving towards becoming a zero carbon council
 - Council Change Programme has modernised working practices including more flexible use of office spaces improving resource efficiency and reducing carbon emissions
 - There has been a huge reduction in energy use in the local public sector and across the LSP
 - Action has been taken to obtain funding to install renewable energy in schools
 - A low carbon lifestyle is now within everyone's reach and has helped ensure local prosperity and wellbeing while reducing carbon emissions

Delivering the vision to 2026

2015 - 2026



- A successful village hub scheme has been introduced bringing the majority of vital services closer to where people live, reducing use of cars and increasing quality of life
- Leadership has been provided to help people to reduce their carbon emissions across the district by 45% by 2026
- Improvements have been made to public transport, and walking and cycling has become safer and more enjoyable. This has reduced congestion and improved air quality. Zero emission vehicles have been introduced
- A number of local sustainable energy projects have been implemented through the Sustainable Energy Strategy, including the development of the local wood-fuel supply chain and the means to produce clean energy from waste
- Land filling of waste has been virtually eliminated through reduced waste production, increased recycling and new ways to treat waste and use waste resources
- Businesses and the agricultural sectors are adapting to new needs and opportunities
- Communities, schools and colleges are promoting and developing sustainable lifestyles

2015 - 2026



- The quality of our natural and built environment has been maintained and enhanced as far as possible, without compromising the need to tackle climate change
- The natural environment of the area is still outstanding and improved green infrastructure has contributed to local food and energy production and enhanced biodiversity
- Bath is leading the UK in making heritage buildings more energy efficient and low carbon.

How does this fit with the wider strategy?



Demographics:

NHS Planning will ensure that health issues resulting from climate change e.g. heat stress in the elderly is successfully managed.



Growth:

Improvements to public transport and measures to make walking and cycling safer and more enjoyable will reduce congestion.



Climate Change:

Plans across B&NES will achieve carbon reduction and make sure that B&NES is equipped to deal with the unavoidable changes that climate change and peak oil will make to day to day lives. Plans are in place to limit the impact of climate change for example excessive heat, flooding and extreme weather, particularly to those in vulnerable groups such as the elderly.



Inequalities:

Incidences of 'fuel poverty' will be addressed and reduced. Communities will be equipped to deal with both increases in energy costs and the increased frequency of extreme weather events such as flooding. Improved green infrastructure allows everyone to enjoy healthy active lifestyles and maintain mental health and wellbeing.



Locality:

A low carbon lifestyle is within everyone's reach and will help ensure local prosperity and wellbeing. Village hub schemes will bring vital services closer to where people live.



Economy:

Plans to reduce carbon emissions and shift to a low carbon economy will create opportunities for businesses to cut costs and for new business to develop related to new low carbon industries and services. Plans will be in place to safeguard businesses and public services against the impact of climate change.

Strategies that will help deliver this vision:

- B&NES Environmental Sustainability Partnership and Climate Change Initiative
- Sustainable Energy Strategy
- Local Development Framework
- Regeneration Delivery Plans
- Economic Strategy
- Education Strategy
- Zero Waste Strategy
- Local Transport Plans
- Housing Strategy
- B&NES NHS Plans
- Air Quality Action Plans
- Asset Management Strategy
- Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Bio-diversity Action Plans
- Green Spaces Strategy

All strategies are subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.



3.4 Children & Young People:

Our Strategy:

The Strategy for children and young people in B&NES is that “all children and young people will do better in life than they thought they could.” In doing so we are committed to ensuring that all children and young people are safe and that we tackle inequalities in our communities and close the attainment gap.

To achieve this we are committed to creating the infrastructure and support needed to make sure that:

- 'Keeping children safe' is the central concern of all services and agencies
- Children, young people, parents and carers are involved in the design, delivery and evaluation of services
- Children and their families are supported in their local communities, specifically through the creation of community based children's centres for children aged 0-11
- Young people (11-25) have access to local services and youth centres where they live or go to school
- All children have access to excellent schools in line with the vision for the 21st Century School and access to personalised education
- Parents are provided with support in all aspects of their children's lives through the provision of universal and specialist local services where necessary
- Children and young people have the opportunity to be involved in more positive activities, in and out of school and feel safe to play out
- Emotional health and wellbeing is supported
- Where necessary services are redesigned and commissioned to respond directly to the needs of young people
- The Children's Trust Board and Local Area Partnership Boards are providing strategic leadership and accountability
- A workforce that is supported and has the skills to deliver this vision
- Services are targeted to support the most vulnerable children
- Health of children and young people is improved with a reduction in teenage pregnancy and obesity rates
- There is improved access to good quality housing, recognising the positive impact that this will have in keeping children safe and improving their prospects
- Schools are more environmentally sustainable and the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Capital programme are focussed to do this
- There is an increase in the number of children walking and cycling to school to raise levels of physical activity
- Equipping children with the education and support needed to lead a low carbon life and cope with the changes to the climate that will change day to day life in the UK.

Delivering the vision to 2026

2009 - 2012



- Children's Centre Services are providing integrated services for children aged 0-11, available in all areas, most notably in those areas where there is most deprivation
- A Young People's Centre has been launched in one of the most deprived areas in South West Bath providing a range of services for young people aged 11-25
- There is greater uptake of universal and preventative services, particularly through locality bases through Children Centre Services, Extended Services and the three Local Area Integrated Assessment Panels
- There are less children in need and on the child protection register
- The new commissioning framework for Children's Services is fully operational
- A comprehensive multi-agency training programme to support those working in Children and Young People is established
- First phase of Diplomas for ages 14-19 are available (Construction/Media and Creative Arts)
- The first three primary schools have been remodelled under the Primary Building Schools for the Future programme. These schools are zero carbon and climate change resilient from 2016 onwards
- The inequalities gap has been narrowed
- Performance against targets has improved.

2012 - 2015



- Young People's Centres have been rolled out to more areas where there are highest levels of deprivation
- The first five schools have been remodelled under Building Schools for the Future Programme
- The workforce has received necessary support and training to deliver the 2020 Workforce Strategy
- All 14 diplomas in the 14-19 Diploma are available across B&NES and uptake has increased.

2015 - 2028



- Building Schools for the Future Programme is completed across all secondary schools and 50% of primary schools
- All schools, services and teams have incorporated the three elements of managing climate change into everyday working. The elements are: adaptation, carbon reduction and how to help the community at large.

How does this fit in with the wider strategy



Climate Change:

Children's Service will lead the way from an education, building management and community outreach point of view. The Building Schools for the Future programme will address the issues of renewable energy, Healthy Schools and other improvements. Children's Service will lead the education of children and young people in how to lead low carbon lives and cope with the impact of climate change on their day to day lives.



Demographics:

More information will be available on demographics after the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2011.



Growth:

All children will have access to excellent schools and where necessary services will be redesigned and commissioned to provide for the needs of all children.



Inequalities:

Children and families will be supported during the early years of children's lives through the delivery of integrated services at Children's Centres and schools. There will also be a focus on supporting personalised educational attainment for all children and young people.

Children and young people will receive support that promotes emotional health and wellbeing. This will be available across a number of different settings. The work to reduce teenage pregnancies and obesity rates will also contribute to a reduction in inequalities.



Locality:

Children and young people will have access to services in their local community.



Economy:

The workforce will receive the support and training required to deliver these aspirations under the 2020 Workforce Strategy. Diplomas for ages 14-19 in growth industries such as media and creative arts will be introduced.

Strategies that will help deliver this vision:

- Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009(CYPP) Children Trust Board
- Every Child Matters Outcomes
- Building Schools for the Future
- Children's Leadership Team
- Local Area Agreement 2006-2009 and 2007-2010
- Joint Local Transport Plan
- Housing Strategy

All strategies are subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.



Health & Wellbeing

Our Strategy:

Our vision is to help individuals achieve their potential by improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities within our communities.

We will achieve this by making sure that we:

- Improve health through changing the pattern of investment so that we focus resources on preventative services, earlier intervention and the promotion of healthy lifestyles
- Develop choice and promote independence by providing services and opportunities in different settings and in new ways. We will focus on the changing needs of local people and the growing elderly population
- Improve access to services by ensuring they are efficient and easily available to all, meeting expectations for timeliness and convenience
- Improve quality by maintaining and developing a high standard of service delivery, promoting safety and satisfaction
- Ensure value for money is considered by prioritising how resources are distributed and ensuring services are as efficient and effective as possible
- Keep people well informed by promoting knowledge and learning and by building relationships with individuals and communities that lead to healthy outcomes for all
- Reduce inequalities by assessing the health needs of local people and closing the gap between those who have the poorest health and those who have the best health
- Improve services to vulnerable people by targeting those who find it more difficult to use health and wellbeing services
- Ensure we are an effective organisation by seeking innovative ways of doing things differently to achieve the best outcomes.

Delivering the vision to 2026

2009 - 2012



- People have access to services as fast or faster than national standards, such as 18 weeks from GP referral to hospital treatment
- There is integrated health and social care teams for adults working in three localities across B&NES, providing advice, information, assessment and care
- People have their requirements for both health and social care assessed as part of a single process, resulting in a personalised package of support
- People learn through a variety of routes made available, enabling them to make healthier lifestyle choices
- Communities and individuals can provide immediate feedback on services
- There is greater investment in services to prevent poor health and wellbeing and provide an earlier response to prevent deterioration
- We have developed a comprehensive Housing Strategy that allows everyone to live in a safe, warm and affordable home that meets their needs
- People feel confident that we robustly review all services to make sure they are high quality and as efficient and effective as possible.

2012 - 2015




- Most people who need help have access to personalised care packages
- More people can exercise control and choice about the services they receive through an individual budget
- More carers have access to effective support enabling them to continue in caring roles
- More older people are supported to live in their own home
- People who choose to die at home are supported to do so
- More adults with learning disabilities are being supported to live at home and more are therefore in paid employment.

2015 - 2018



- Health and wellbeing has measurably improved. This is most noticeable in deprived areas
- Local communities are engaged in shaping and delivering support alongside public sector and third sector organisations
- There are less people needing specialist mental health services
- There is a reduction in levels of obesity and alcohol-related admissions to hospital.

2018 - 2026

- 
- People are making positive choices about their lifestyles and wellbeing helping them to live healthier and longer lives
 - Mortality rates for cancer and cardio-vascular disease is reduced
 - There is a reduced gap in life expectancy between the most and least affluent areas.

How does this fit in with the wider strategy



Climate Change:

We will seek to achieve energy and resource efficiency in all of our buildings, including providing more local services and encouraging initiatives such as home working to reduce the number of miles travelled. Staff will be encouraged to adopt carbon saving behaviours and we will build sustainability into our purchasing of goods and services. Initiatives to support healthier lifestyles and better health and wellbeing in people will lead to less illness and more sustainable futures.



Demographics:

Health, care and housing services will be maintained and developed to meet the changing needs of local people and the growing elderly population.



Growth:

Regularly assessing the needs of the local population through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment will shape our response to the changing needs of local communities.



Inequalities:

There will be a focus on reducing health inequalities particularly targeted to areas of disadvantage and need.



Locality:

There will be greater involvement with local communities. Community teams providing health, social care and housing services will be introduced across B&NES focussed on local areas.



Economy:

Changes will be made to the pattern of investment to provide a focus on early intervention and prevention.

Strategies that will help deliver this vision:

- Tackling Health Inequalities
- Improving Health and Well-being
- Transforming Partnership Systems
- Transforming Community Health and Social Care
- Transforming Acute Delivery Systems

All strategies are subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.



Stronger Communities

Our Strategy:

To create communities where everyone contributes and everyone takes responsibility. Our challenge is to foster community ties particularly at a time when economic difficulties, development of new housing, people moving to the area from the rest of the UK and climate change provides a set of unique challenges.

In order to support the creation of stronger communities we will make sure that:

- Local people are able to tackle things for themselves, allowing communities to take responsibility for their own development and future
- New and creative ways are used to deliver services that include and involve local people
- Day to day services are in easy reach of all communities, strengthening town and village centres and helping to reduce carbon emissions
- Access is available to more specialised services through reliable, affordable and appropriate public transport
- Voluntary and community sectors including social enterprise are supported to allow them to thrive, flourish and deliver innovative services
- Local community planning is supported, and town and parish plans make a difference
- People are able to have their say through promotion of 'real' consultation and engagement
- People living on new housing developments are given the means to integrate into existing communities and vice versa
- Projects that foster feelings of 'belonging' e.g. events, inter- generational projects and community interest projects are fully supported
- New technologies are used in the best way to ensure quality of access to services.

Delivering the vision to 2026

2009 - 2012

- Community planning is significantly extended
- There are greater levels of local working by public services such as NHS Bath & North East Somerset, Police and Council
- The LSP community engagement strategy has been agreed and delivery has begun. Communities are contributing to better local services
- New housing developments are being planned with an emphasis on integration and the creation of sustainable communities with a balance of housing and jobs
- Communities have identified and prepared for the impacts of climate change on local community life
- One stop services are available locally providing better access to services
- Community engagement has increased e.g. through volunteering
- New ways of working with Town and Parish Councils, volunteer networks and community businesses have been introduced
- New forms of accountability are in place.

2012 - 2026

- The impact of new housing, developments, technology, demographic change, budget reductions and climate change is being felt more significantly
- New housing developments feel like communities with high levels of volunteering and involvement and will add significantly to the cultural and civic life of B&NES
- New communities are contributing significantly to carbon reduction targets.

How does this fit in with the wider strategy



Climate Change:

There will be a move towards a low carbon economy through an increased focus on local needs and services and work with communities will take place to prepare for the impact of climate change on local community life.



Demographics:

Specific communities will be identified and prepared for the impact of climate change on local community life. Changes in demographics will be reflected in the design of new developments, for example so that their design can reflect changing needs as people grow older.



Growth:

Local community planning will be supported with greater emphasis placed on town and parish plans. Voluntary and community sectors will be encouraged to grow and flourish within communities. New housing developments will have an emphasis on integration and creating sustainable communities.



Inequalities:

Local communities will be empowered to take greater control. There will be a focus on working closely with local people which will help to identify issues and solutions. More sustainable communities will help encourage healthier lifestyles with more walking, cycling and access to better quality housing. Local community engagement also offers hard to reach communities the opportunity to take greater control of their lives and will help put in place preventative work.



Locality:

Local people will be encouraged to tackle issues directly. Communities will become more involved in service delivery.



Economy:

Our support for the voluntary and community sector, and for social enterprise, will contribute to a more diverse local economy.

Strategies that will help deliver this vision:

- Community Engagement Strategy
- Local Development Framework and Statement of Community Involvement
- Town and Parish Plans
- Volunteering Strategy
- Joint Local Transport Plan
- Vision for Bath
- Older People's Strategy
- Cultural Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Somer Community Housing Trust Community Plan
- 14-19 Strategy
- Post-19 Strategy

All strategies are subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.



Safer Communities



Our Strategy

Building communities where people feel confident about carrying out their daily activities, inside and outside the home.

We will make sure that:

- Local communities are involved in decisions about community safety priorities
- Local communities are kept informed of progress on the issues they have raised and an environment of 'trust and confidence' is fostered
- People feel more confident in their local communities due to a reduction in anti-social behaviour
- Local people are involved in the development of the design and management of local areas e.g. through Parish Plans, and the building of a vision for the night-time economy for Bath
- Vulnerable groups are given adequate protection, with young people safeguarded to prevent them becoming victims or perpetrators of crime
- There is a focus on working with local communities to reduce crime and fear of crime, particularly in those areas that suffer disproportionately from it
- We work with education and training bodies to promote key messages on safer communities and to work across all age groups
- There is a focus on community cohesion to address emerging challenges including the threat of violent extremism
- We continue to work together reduce the number of people killed or injured on our roads.

Delivering the vision to 2026

2009 - 2012

- Anti-social behaviour and nuisance in Bath city centre at night has been reduced
- Gaps in services for vulnerable groups are being addressed.
- The effect of the recession on crime is being closely monitored
- There is a clear improvement in behaviour in Bath city centre at night
- People are receiving better information and responses to issues of concern
- It is easier to report and get action in 'real time' on local issues and nuisances
- We have built on the experience of the community engagement work in Whiteway
- Local communities are empowered to tackle issues such as fly tipping. We will use the local development framework system to reduce crime and strengthen communities.

2012 - 2015

- Local agencies are more accountable and have a greater presence in local communities
- Partners are working more closely to provide services that meet community expectations
- People are using the 'one stop shops' shared by the Police and other agencies to address local issues promoting an 'on the ground' presence
- Communities are benefiting from faster response times
- People are finding it easier to find out what is happening to the issues that concerns them most
- Local people are using community planning initiatives such as Parish Plans to work together on local solutions.

2015 - 2018

- Local people are involved in planning new developments that have modern 'secure by design' standards
- Public areas are easy to manage, clean and maintain and modern facilities e.g. cabling is in place
- Residents of new housing developments are benefiting from secure housing design, modern technology and improved 'public realm' layout
- Local facilities e.g. shared community public service outlets have been planned and risk factors such as fire, crime and perception of anti-social behaviour have been 'designed out'.

2018 - 2026

- New housing developments are complete driving further innovation in local service delivery and neighbourhood work
- Residents of new housing developments have access to locally controlled resources which address their own needs.

How does this fit in with the wider strategy



Climate Change:

Changes in crime patterns will be monitored to identify any link with climate change. Partners and Communities Together (PACT) and local arrangements for Police and neighbourhood working will be based as locally as possible to reduce need for travel. The impact of public spaces on climate change will also be addressed e.g. the use of local low energy street lighting.



Demographics:

New and vulnerable communities will be identified and gaps in services addressed.



Growth:

Local people will be more involved in planning new developments and will benefit from secure housing design and modern technology such as sprinkler systems.



Inequalities:

Trust and confidence will be improved across all communities, particularly in those areas where levels of crime are highest. A joint approach to managing crime and ill health will further help to address inequalities.



Locality:

Local communities will be more closely involved in decisions about community safety. Residents in new housing developments will have access to locally controlled resources.



Economy:

A new vision for a night time economy for Bath will be delivered in conjunction with local communities.

Strategies that will help deliver this vision:

- Community Safety Plan 2009 – 2012
- Strategic Assessment
- Local Development Framework and Statement of Community Involvement
- Housing Strategy
- Joint Local Transport Plan
- Policing Plan
- Somer Housing Trust Community Plan

All strategies are subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

4.1 Our resources

As we write this strategy, we recognise that the medium term outlook for public sector finances will mean a significant tightening of expenditure and potentially real term cuts. If we are to make this strategy happen, we must focus on making sure that our resources are being used and managed in the most efficient way and being used to address the key priorities set out in this Sustainable Community Strategy.

This will involve:

- Reviewing services and deciding the best options for commissioning within resource constraints
- Exploring how we can work more cost effectively by working together over wider geographical areas and across agencies
- Examining all potential funding to maximise investment
- Aligning asset management plans with the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities so future property and infrastructure planning reflect the needs set out in this strategy

4.2 Our strategies and plans

This Strategy acts as the overarching document for the Partnership and provides the context for a host of other strategies and plans across all the organisations involved in the LSP. Some of the key ways the Sustainable Community Strategy will be delivered are set out below.

The Local Development Framework:

This is a set of documents that help deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Framework describes the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Vision for the area in spatial, or planning and land use terms. The Framework is made up of a number of planning policy documents that guide the future planning and development of the area. The main document within the framework is the Core Strategy which establishes the spatial vision and strategy for the district up to 2026, outlining how places will change, where future development will take place and how this will be delivered.

The Local Area Agreement:

This is the key delivery plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy. It is a written agreement with agreed priorities for the area over a three year period. It includes a number of performance indicators and targets, set out across the six themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy. Targets are set for three years and are used to measure how well we are doing to meet our priorities for the area. The targets are delivered by a number of partners including public and third sector organisations. The priorities are refreshed on a three year basis so the Local Area Agreement is seen as a short term action plan for the longer term Sustainable Community Strategy.

Infrastructure Delivery Planning:

Local Infrastructure Planning makes sure that proper plans are in place to address the needs generated by future development. It also helps meet existing gaps or weaknesses in the access of services and facilities. It will deliver the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Core Strategy and other more detailed place-based strategies such as town centre regeneration delivery plans and the public realm and movement strategy, which looks at the streets and open spaces in Bath City Centre. Work on infrastructure is also being undertaken across the West of England as we recognise that things do not just operate within B&NES boundaries.

4.3 Listening to our communities

Listening to the views of our communities is important if we are going to successfully deal with what matters most to local people. Many of the priorities and solutions identified in this strategy can only be achieved by LSP partners working more closely and more efficiently with each other and with local communities. Some of the ways in which we will listen to our communities are set out below:

Community Engagement Strategy:

The key public service partners in the LSP are developing a joint approach to engaging with local communities. The new Community Engagement Strategy will:

- Clarify and simplify the different aspects of community engagement, from providing information to working with local groups to tackling specific issues
- Make efficient use of the different ways that public services engage with local communities
- Ensure that public services feed back to communities on the engagement they have undertaken
- Ensure the tools we use for community engagement meet the needs of all our communities.

Statement of Community Involvement:

This Statement explains how the Council will involve the community in the preparation of the Local Development Framework and consult on planning applications. It says when and how members of the public can be involved in the planning process, what feedback the Council will give on the consultation and what will happen to public views in the decision making process.

Town and Parish Plans:

Town and Parish Plans are a way of communities getting together and setting out a broad vision of how they would like their area to be and how they will work with partners to achieve this. They give everyone in a community the opportunity to influence their future and also:

- Provide clear evidence of the needs and priorities for your community
- Set out a business plan for the town or parish council to adopt and take action on
- Provide easy to access evidence on which to base funding applications.

4.4 Partnership Working

This strategy will be delivered by the B&NES Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). It comprises a wide range of partners from the statutory, voluntary, community and business sectors. This extensive membership aims to represent the views from communities and residents across B&NES. The Partnership is responsible for continuing the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and overseeing the process.



Glossary

Term	Definition	Page Number
Bath	The largest urban settlement in the area	4
B&NES	Bath and North East Somerset	2
Climate Change	Climate change is described by the Department for Environment food and Rural Affairs as; 'the greatest environmental challenge facing the world today'.	9
CO2	Carbon Dioxide	17
Community Engagement Strategy	Key public service partners in the LSP are developing a joint approach to community engagement.	31
Core Strategy	A Development Plan document setting out the long term (10+ years) spatial vision and strategy for the district. Includes the broad locations for housing, business, retail, Leisure, transport and other development needs.	36
Keynsham	Town located to the west of Bath	4
LAA	Local Area Agreement	36
LDF	Local Development Framework	36
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership, also referred to as 'the Partnership'	38
Midsomer Norton and Radstock	Towns located to the south of the District	4
NHS	National Health Service	8
PACT	Partners and Communities Together	35
PCSOs	Police Community Support Officers	8
Public Sector	The public sector is a part of the state that deals with the delivery of goods and services by and for the government, whether national, regional or local/municipal	11
Recession	In economic terms a recession is a general slowdown in economic activity over a sustained period of time	11
SCS	Sustainable Community Strategy- The overarching strategy for the area	
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organisation	4
Voicebox	Survey sent to a representative sample of B&NES	7
West of England	Four local authority areas make up the West of England Partnership	8

End Notes

1. *Mid-Year Estimates; sub-authority projections based on continuation of proportions from Census Data (c) Office of National Statistics (2001)*
2. *Census Data (c) Office of National Statistics (2001)*
3. *Census Data (c) Office of National Statistics (2001)*
4. *Mapping the Voluntary and Community Sector in Bath and North East Somerset An Economic, Social and Environmental Audit of Bath and North East Somerset, North Harbour Report (2007)*
5. *The State of Bath & North East Somerset (Local Futures Group)- Full Report (2007)*
6. *The State of Bath & North East Somerset (Local Futures Group)- Ward Data Annex (2007)*
7. *Data from Office of National Statistics- <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp>*
8. *Police forces and authorities have been set a level of confidence that they should reach by March 2011. This, along with the 2012 target will be measured by questions asked in the British Crime Survey.*
9. *2008 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – General Health and Social Care needs in the population)*
10. *Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (Data published Sept 2008)*
11. *Figures stated in the Climate Change Act (2008)*
12. *The Voicebox survey is sent to a representative sample of residents in the Bath & North East Somerset area. Data refers to 2006-2007.*
13. *<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/media/news/2006/April/Policing+in+Bath+and+North+East+Somerset.htm>*
14. *<http://www.bigenergychallenge.org/>*
15. *Casualty Statistics for the West of England Sub-Region*
16. *Climate Change Act (2008)*
17. *West of England Demographic Projections, Greater London Authority (2008) [http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/communityandliving/intelligenceproject/Population+Projections+to+2031+\(2008\).htm](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/communityandliving/intelligenceproject/Population+Projections+to+2031+(2008).htm)*
18. *Indices of Multiple Deprivation, 2007, Communities and Local Government*
19. *The State of the District – An Economic, Social and Environmental Audit of Bath and North East Somerset, Local Futures Group (2007)*
20. *Community Action – Access to Rural Services in Bath & North East Somerset (2008)*

This document about the Bath & North East Somerset Sustainable Community Strategy can be made available in a range of languages, large print, Braille, on tape, electronic and accessible formats from Policy and Partnerships. Telephone: 01225 477807