

THE ECONOMIC STRATEGY

ONE YEAR ON



Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

ACHIEVEMENTS **GOOD WORK**

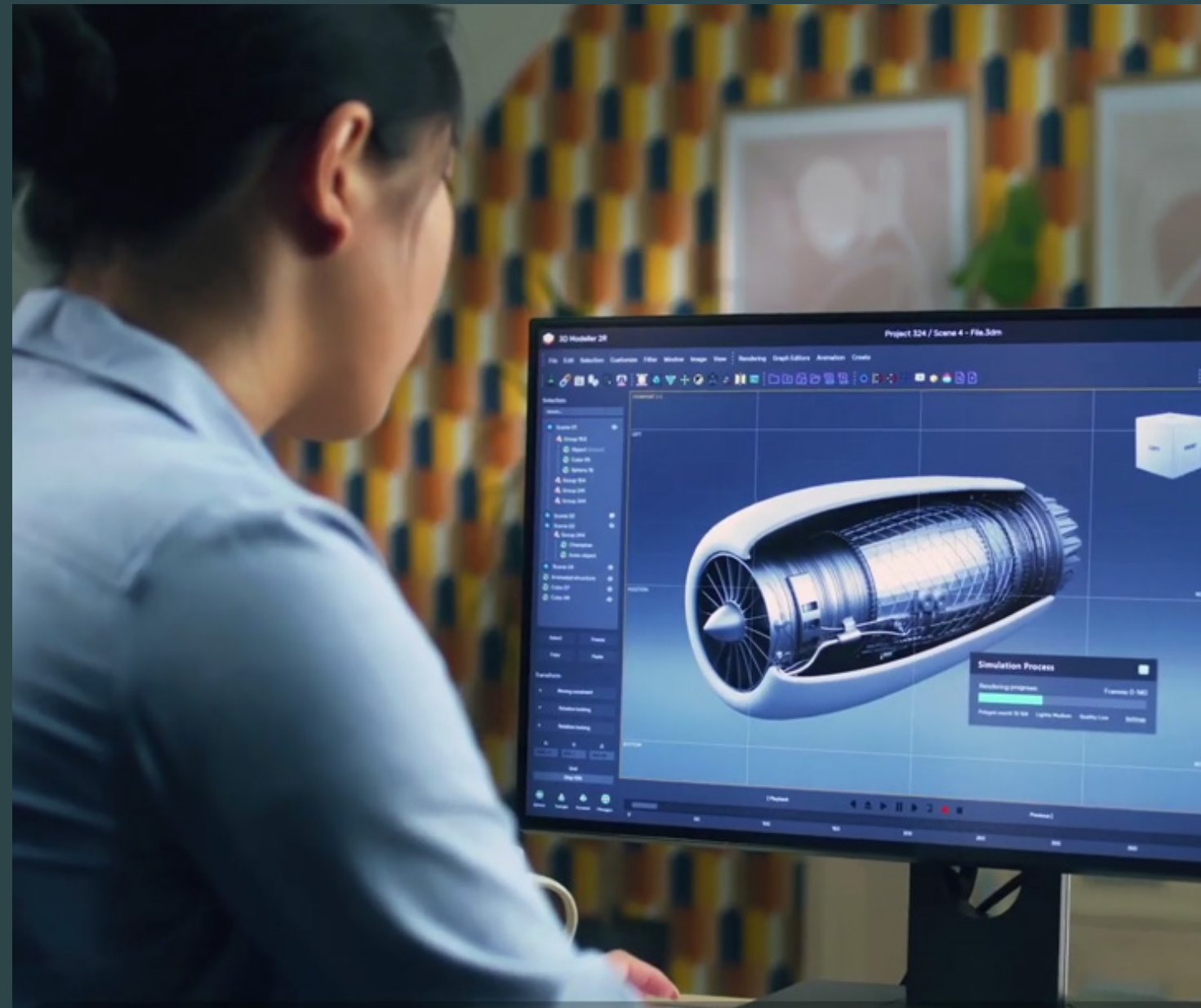


- Held an Economic Strategy session at the B&NES Youth Forum
- Held a Disability Confident Network workshop with 27 individual participants from 19 different businesses
- Held a Mid-Life Work Review 2025 event with 80 attendees
- Ran a Volunteers Fair with 130 attendees
- Appointment of a Ukrainian Youth Ambassador
- The Employment & Skills Pod supported 17 residents into employment earning at least the real living wage from April 2024-25.

ACHIEVEMENTS

RESILIENT BUSINESS

- Published the B&NES Future Economic Needs Assessment
- Developing the Local Growth Plan for the Somer Valley Zone and Bristol and Bath Corridor Zone alongside the MCA
- Somer Valley Enterprise Zone Local Development Order approved
- Held Two Economic Strategy Business Engagement workshops
- Developed two Somer Valley Workshop around the LGP
- Held the Bath Business Show, hosting networking, specialist clinics, talks and demonstrations with local businesses and entrepreneurs.



ACHIEVEMENTS **CREATIVITY & INNOVATION**



- Joint working between B&NES Council, Bath Spa University and University of Bath encapsulated as the Bath Riverside Innovation Quarter (BRIQ).
- Held the Digital Doughnuts in Bath events at the Bath Digital Festival
- Produced the Economic Strategy video
- Produced a second Economic Strategy video of interviews with the Civic Agreement stakeholder leaders: B&NES CEO Will Godfrey, RUH Chair Alison Ryan, BSU Vice-Chancellor Georgina Andrews, and Curo Group CEO Victor de Cuhna.
- Developing an Economic Strategy Power BI Dashboard



ACHIEVEMENTS **STRONGER PLACES**

- Completion of £2.39m public realm improvement scheme for to Midsomer Norton Town Centre and commenced a Town Centre Regeneration Plan
- Opened Old Print Work Arts Centre, supported community acquisition of Trinity Church as a new community and arts centre in Radstock Town Centre
- Completed 4 local high street improvement projects in Bath
- Prepared a Regeneration Town Centre Action Plan for Keynsham and progressing refurb of 1000m2 employment use to bring long term vacant space back into use



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ACHIEVEMENTS **STRONGER PLACES**

- Undertaken engagement in Bath Central Riverside Masterplan attended by 29,000 visitors
- Progressing transformational regeneration projects in the Milsom Quarter including Bath Fashion Museum redevelopment, Milsom Quarter public realm scheme and Broad Street Yards creative workspace development
- Completed the Production Quarter Masterplan
- Bath Riverside Innovation Quarter workshop
- Bath Quays MOU signed by B&NES Council and University of Bath



ACHIEVEMENTS **HOUSING AFFORDABILITY**







- Hosted Bath's first Housing Summit at the Apex Hotel in July
- Established a Housing Mission Delivery Board (HMDB) with three sub-groups
- Created a 25-year vision for the housing system in B&NES
- B&NES Council published the Housing Plan 2025-2030
- Presented Economic Strategy to the Federation of Bath Residents' Associations

ACHIEVEMENTS **GREENER ECONOMY**

- B&NES Council is developing a Climate and Nature Strategy.
- £1.5m awarded by National Lottery's Climate Action Fund, to set up network of Energy Champions with Bath and West Community Energy, Community Wellbeing Hub, and Bath University, supported by CSE. To help people access support and funding to reduce their bills and carbon footprint.
- Renewed Cooperation agreements with Bath and West Community Energy and Keynsham Community Energy, developing local projects.
- Engaging with Distribution Systems Operator on their network investment plan and Future Energy Scenarios



OUR ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Vision	Bath with North East Somerset: Ambitious Together for a Fair, Green, Creative and Connected City Region					
Pillar	 Greener Economy	 Good Work	 Resilient Businesses	 Creativity & Innovation	 Housing Affordability	 Stronger Places
Objective	Delivering net zero & nature positive and enhancing our natural assets	Supporting residents to access and thrive in good work	Building a diverse, creative and sustainable business base	Establishing B&NES as a centre for scientific and health academic excellence, inclusive innovation and creativity	Ensuring residents have access to affordable and high quality housing	Enabling all people and places to share in prosperity
Priorities that unlock infrastructure, innovation and opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build local energy generation capacity and demand for energy saving measures• Support businesses to deliver net zero and nature positive in B&NES• Create opportunities for residents to train and upskill for future green economy jobs• Develop B&NES to be a broad green economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Champion good work practices• Increase inclusive pathways into work• Develop an inclusive lifelong learning offer• Facilitate businesses to access the skills they need	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invest in the infrastructure businesses need• Nurture emerging sectors and specialisms, including culture & creative• Promote alternative business models and community-led action• Support local businesses to stay and scale in B&NES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximise local benefits of B&NES leading innovation assets• Promote B&NES as an innovation testbed• Ensure all sectors and business are supported to innovate• Create spaces for creativity to thrive across B&NES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop housing offer that is accessible and attractive to all• Work with partners to unlock affordable housing• Deliver high quality and sustainable housing fit for future generations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote place-based strengths to drive economic growth in urban centres and rural areas• Support local food supply chains and food security• Improve & invest in sustainable connectivity within B&NES and to the subregion• Drive a sustainable and innovative visitor economy
Outcomes	Net zero and nature positive B&NES by 2030	Increased economic activity in residents as a proportion of the total population	Improved access to employment industrial/office/retail space across B&NES to meet demand	Increased prosperity for all, measured through Gross Disposable Household Income and healthy life expectancy	Better housing affordability, measured through housing costs as a proportion of income	Improvements in index of multiple deprivation at neighbourhood level, and raised wage levels

Delivered in partnership with Bath & North East Somerset Council – Anchor Institutions – Voluntary and Community Sector – Businesses – Communities – Regional and National Partners