Wiltshire Council

AGENDA

Meeting:	**Cabinet**
Place:	**Council Chamber - County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN**
Date:	**Tuesday 1 February 2022**
Time:	**10.00 am**

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Stuart Figini, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718221 or email stuart.figini@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

All public reports referred to on this agenda are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Membership:

Cllr Richard Clewer	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for MCI, Economic Development, Heritage, Arts, Tourism and Health & Wellbeing and Interim Cabinet Member responsible for Finance & Procurement, Commissioning and Commercialisation
Cllr Laura Mayes	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills
Cllr Jane Davies	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, SEND, Transition and Inclusion
Cllr Phil Alford	Cabinet Member for Housing, Strategic Assets and Asset Transfer
Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection, Leisure, Libraries, Facilities Management and Operational Assets
Cllr Nick Botterill	Cabinet Member for Development Management, Strategic Planning and Climate Change

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland   Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste, Street Scene and Flooding

Cllr Ashley O'Neill   Cabinet Member for Governance, IT, Broadband, Digital, Licensing, Staffing, Communities and Area Boards

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Public Participation

Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of deadlines for submission of questions and statements for this meeting.

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The full constitution can be found at this link.

For assistance on these and other matters please contact the officer named above for details

Covid-19 safety precautions for public attendees

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You must contact the officer named on this agenda no later than 5pm on Monday 31 January 2022 if you wish to attend this meeting.

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- Follow one-way systems, signage and instruction
- Maintain social distancing
- Wear a face-mask (unless exempt)

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This meeting will also be live streamed for all members of the public to watch online.

Part I

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

Key Decisions   Matters defined as 'Key' Decisions and included in the Council's Forward Work Plan are shown as 🔑

1   **Apologies**

2   **Minutes of the previous meeting** *(Pages 7 - 12)*

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 January 2022, previously circulated.

3   **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

4   **Leader's announcements**

5   **Public participation and Questions from Councillors**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public. This meeting is open to the public, who may ask a question or make a statement. Questions may also be asked by members of the Council. Written notice of questions or statements should be given to Stuart Figini of Democratic Services stuart.figini@wiltshire.gov.uk 01225 718221 by 12.00 noon on 26 January 2022. Anyone wishing to ask a question or make a statement should contact the officer named above.

6   **Wiltshire Council's Budget 2022/23** *(Pages 13 - 110)*

🔑   Report of the Chief Executive

7   **Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23** *(Pages 111 - 150)*

Report of the Chief Executive

8   **Financial Year 2021/2022 - Quarter Three Revenue Budget Monitoring** *(Pages 151 - 184)*

Report of the Chief Executive

9   **Financial Year 2021/2022 - Quarter Three Capital Budget Monitoring** *(Pages 185 - 202)*

Report of the Chief Executive

10   **Business Plan 2022 - 2032** *(Pages 203 - 246)*

🔑   Report of the Chief Executive

11   **School Capital Programme 2022 to 2025** *(Pages 247 - 266)*

☌   Report of the Chief Executive

12   **Adoption of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy** *(Pages 267 - 450)*

☌   Report of the Chief Executive

13   **Climate Strategy and update on council's response to the climate emergency** *(Pages 451 - 552)*

☌   Report of the Chief Executive

14   **Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Scheme 2023/24** *(Pages 553 - 630)*

Report of the Chief Executive

15   **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business, which the Leader agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

Part II

Items during consideration of which it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

NONE

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 11 JANUARY 2022 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Richard Clewer (Chairman), Cllr Laura Mayes (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill and Cllr Dr Mark McClelland

Also Present:

Cllr Helen Belcher, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Ian Thorn and Cllr Jo Trigg

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1   **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Ashley O'Neill.

2   **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2021 were presented, and it was,

Resolved:

That subject to a correction to include Councillor Nic Puntis as being in attendance, to approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record.

3   **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4   **Leader's announcements**

The Leader confirmed that Councillor Pauline Church had decided over the Christmas period to stand down from the Cabinet in order to focus more time on her business.

The Leader would be taking on Cabinet responsibility for Finance and Procurement until after the Council budget had been approved.

IT and Digital would be taken on by Councillor Ashley O'Neill, who would also be taking on responsibility for Governance and Broadband from Councillor Ian

Blair-Pilling, who would take on the Public Health and Public Protection portfolios currently overseen by Councillor O'Neill.

Councillor Nic Puntis was appointed portfolio holder for Flooding.

5   Public participation and Questions from Councillors

Written answers were provided to questions as detailed in the Agenda Supplement.

In response to Question 22-002 Councillor Ian Thorn sought details of how much the council had spent on defending planning appeals in previous financial years. It was agreed a written response would be provided.

In response to Question 22-003 Councillor Thorn asked whether there was a need to increase the number of planning staff.

In response to Question 22-004 Councillor Thorn requested a breakdown of the costs from the Wiltshire Towns Fund be provided in a written response.

Councillor Gavin Grant then asked a question relating to an appeal decision granted by an inspector for a site at Filands in Malmesbury, and the view of the Cabinet Member. Councillor Nick Botterill stated the recent decision was still being considered, but that the relationship between Neighbourhood plans and Local Plan requirements was of some concern to communities.

Councillor Thorn then asked for an update on the council's response to the ongoing Omicron Covid-19 situation. The Leader and the Chief Executive provided an update on the current development of cases and impact upon hospitals and other services in Wiltshire.

Councillor Gordon King asked a question regarding delegation of services and assets to towns and parishes and meetings with those parishes. The Leader stated a planned event with some towns and parishes to further discussions had been pushed back due to the current Covid situation, but the policy was continuing to be developed.

Councillor Clare Cape asked whether the situation with a backlog of planning applications was improving, and Councillor Botterill stated there was still pressure from appeals but validation of applications had improved and the backlog situation was likewise improved.

6   Update on Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, presented the update report on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022/23. He thanked Councillor Church, as then Cabinet Member with responsibility for finance, for being integral in preparing the report.

It was reported the proposed budget would be published on 12 January 2022 but noted in particular the report clarifying the funding settlement from central government, confirming an additional £12.5m of government grant to be included in the budget for 2022/23. Details were provided on the inflation assumptions in the report, and the potential impact of ongoing discussions regarding the staff pay award agreed nationally. Inflation and demand risk assessment would be included within the budget.

Councillor Pip Ridout, Chairman of the Financial Planning Task Group, welcomed the report and discussions held with the Task Group, and confirmed it had been agreed the strategy appeared to be sound.

Councillor Ian Thorn sought details on inflation, the modelling of latent demand as a result of Covid-19 and funding set aside for that, and the impact of any changes to the government's new homes bonus. The report estimated that inflation would rise in 2022/23 before reducing again in 2023/24. On latent demand the Leader noted the £7m in reserve, and that the pandemic was ongoing with the potential for significant latent demand to emerge particularly in relation to children's services. On the new homes bonus, it was estimated that there would continue to be support through that or another mechanism.

Councillor Gavin Grant sought details on funding on new Services Grants and on business rates. In relation to the grants, it was confirmed to be non-ring fenced funding, and in relation to business rates it was clarified that the number would be confirmed in estimate toward the end of February 2022 but with reasonable estimates before then of how much the government would compensate the council for loss of income for example when the government froze multipliers or introduced small business rates relief.

Councillor Helen Belcher asked a question on the council looking at alternative sources of income. The Leader stated this was explored but needed to be undertaken carefully. He noted the Stone Circle companies, although returns would not be expected for a number of years.

Councillor Clare Cape sought details on how equivalent demand for services of the council was calculated. The Leader explained that different services calculated this in different ways, for example by number of households or population estimates.

At the conclusion of discussion, it was,

Resolved:

The updated position in respect of the current estimated financial gap for 2022/23 including the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2022/23.

Reason for Decision:
To inform effective decision making and ensure sound financial management as part of the Councils overall control environment.

To inform Cabinet on the current position for the setting of the 2022/23 budget and continuing the focus for setting plans and providing resources that will be essential for delivering services in Wiltshire over the MTFS period.

7   **New Term Highways Maintenance Contract**

Councillor Dr Mark McClelland presented the report on the New Term Highways Maintenance Contract. Councillor McClelland discussed the need for arrangements to be put in place to ensure the routine maintenance operations could be continued when the current contract ends and the options available as detailed in the report.

It was recommended that a similar contract to the present contract be put in place, and to seek the necessary authority to begin that process. It was explained the new contract would need to take account of the council's carbon neutrality targets, with climate change and social value relevant factors in the weighting process.

Councillor Pip Ridout, Chairman of the Financial Planning Task Group, explained that the Task Group had received an update from the Cabinet Member and Director, looking at length and value of any contract option and any tendering risks. The Task Group had sought reassurance about the continuation of the parish steward arrangements.

Councillor Ian Thorn sought details on the proposed extension process after five years of the new contract, once awarded, and it was confirmed the relevant Cabinet Member would be consulted on any proposed extension. Councillor Thorn also sought more details on how the contract would ensure partners who were confident in contributing to the council meeting its net zero and other commitments, and the weighting by price, quality, climate change and social value was explained, within legal procurement rules.

Councillor Sven Hocking asked a question relating to the tendering process and whether worthwhile potential contractors might be screened out, Councillor McClelland responded with assurances of it being expected there would be a competitive process.

Councillor Dr Brian Mathew asked a question relating to the decision-making process and a new 'decision wheel' to demonstrate environmental impacts. It was explained this was an approach used in other local authorities to ensure an overview from an environmental perspective.

Councillor Helen Belcher asked about the setting of carbon targets, and it was stated such a detail would be looked into when the contractor was being drawn up.

Councillor Tony Jackson asked a question about not ending up with a single contractor for all activities, with it stated that more specialist areas were not included and were already held by more than one company.

At the conclusion of discussion, it was,

Resolved:

That authority is delegated to the Director Highways & Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste, Street Scene and Flooding, to:

(i)   **Invite tenders in accordance with the Council's procurement procedures, for a single supplier to provide Wiltshire's Term Highways Maintenance Services for a duration of five years with the option to allow the service manager to extend the contract for up to five more years subject to performance from 1 April 2023.**

(ii)   **Report the results of the procurement exercise back to a future Cabinet when the tenders results are received, for Cabinet to consider the proposals for award of contract.**

Reason for Decision:

These proposals constitute a key decision to be made by Cabinet in accordance with Part 1 item 4.2.7 of the Wiltshire Council Constitution.

The procurement of a new Term Highway Maintenance contract will have an annual value in excess of £1 million and the total contract value will exceed £4 million.

Note: Councillor Laura Mayes left the meeting at 11.10 ahead of the vote.

8   **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.15 am)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services, e-mail kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line ((01225) 713114 or email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject:	**Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2025/26**
Cabinet Member:	**Cllr Richard Clewer – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member responsible for MCI, Economic Development, Heritage, Arts, Tourism and Health & Wellbeing and Interim Cabinet Member responsible for Finance & Procurement, Commissioning and Commercialisation**
Key Decision:	**Key**

Executive Summary

This report presents the proposed 2022/23 Budget and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23 to 2025/26 that will resource the Councils new Business Plan.

While managing the impact of the on-going effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on services, the council, through continued financial management is forecasting an underspend position for the 2021/22 financial year. This puts the Council in a strong position going into 2022/23 with further provision now being set aside within the Budget Equalisation Reserve to help manage the budget gaps over the MTFS period and also ensuring funds continue to be set aside to mitigate risks that may arise e.g. latent demand for services.

It has also been another extraordinary year in which to set a balanced budget, with the on-going impact of the pandemic on the Council's services continues to be significant and the future uncertain. Although a three year spending review was announced by the Chancellor only a one-year funding settlement was announced by the Secretary of State for the 2022/23 budget. It therefore remains challenging to financially plan and balance over the MTFS period with a proportion of one-off funding included within the additional funding provided in 2022/23, and a degree of uncertainty remains in the assumptions for planning over the MTFS period.

The 2022/23 budget will ensure that vital services to the residents, businesses and communities of Wiltshire will continue to be provided during the ongoing pandemic, as well as delivering on the commitments as set out in the new Business Plan.

It is key that to be able to deliver on the Business Plan the Council must have sound and sustainable finances. The report therefore sets out, for approval by Cabinet, the budget setting proposals that provides for a balanced budget in 2022/23 and 2023/24.

It recognises the one year nature of the current government funding, the uncertainty of future reform and begins to set out the likely state of the Council's

finances beyond 2022/23 with an estimated budget gap in year three (2024/25) of the MTFS.

Within this the report sets out the required increase in Council Tax for the year, the increase in fees and charges and the general fund reserve balance as part of a reserve strategy to provide improved future financial resilience for service delivery as well as outlining the key financial risks being faced by the Council in estimating the level of reserves to be held.

In addition, the report sets out for approval the planned Capital investment being made in 2022/23 and beyond, ensuring the delivery of key infrastructure projects as well as maintaining the Councils asset base for future service delivery.

Lastly the report sets out the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2022/23 and associated increases in rents, service charges and garage rents as well as the position, to be approved by Schools Forum on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

Proposal(s)

Cabinet is asked to approve:

a) Approve the updating of the Infrastructure List and allocate CIL funding to include:
   - £1.378m for the A338 Southern Salisbury Junction Improvements (Exeter Street Roundabout, Harnham Gyratory and Park Wall Junction)
   - £3.154m for the A350 Chippenham Bypass Phases 4 and 5;
   - £4.516m for the A350/J17 Capacity Improvements;
   - £3.909m for the A350 Melksham Bypass.

Cabinet recommends to Council:

b) That a net general fund budget of 2022/23 of £417.703m is approved;

c) That the Councils Tax requirement for the Council be set at £311.192m for 2022/23 with an average Band D of £1,638.16, an increase of 91p per week;

d) That the Wiltshire Council element of the Council Tax be increased in 2022/23 by the following:

   i. A 1.99% general increase;
   ii. Plus a levy of 1% to be spent solely on Adult Social Care;

e) That the Corporate Leadership Team be required to meet the revenue budget targets for each service area as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, for the delivery of Council services in 2022/23;

f) Approves the changes in the fees and charges as set out in the report;

g) That the Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2029/30 is approved;

h) That the Capital Strategy set out in Appendix 9 is approved;

i) That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2022/23 is set at £24.173m;

j) That a 4.1% increase is set for social dwelling rents, except for rents currently over the formula rent which will be capped at formula rent as per national guidance;

k) All service charges related to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) being increased to cover costs and garage rents increased by 4.1%;

l) Endorses the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the forecast budget gap, after the utilisation of the budget equalisation reserve, of £10.705m for the 2024/25 financial year with regular updates to be received on delivery against strategy and addressing the forecast budget gap.

Reason for Proposal(s)

To enable the Cabinet to recommend to Council a balanced revenue budget for the financial year 2022/23 and to set the level of Council Tax.

To enable effective, transparent decision making and ensure sound financial management as part of the Councils overall control environment.

The Cabinet also sets out the final assumptions being used in the budget for growth, inflation, demand for services, the estimated level of income from sales, fees and charges and the level of income estimated from core funding e.g. council tax, business rates and government grants as well as the level of reserves held and assessed by the Councils Section 151 Officer, as required, to provide future financial resilience.

This provides the Council with a MTFS to deliver on the new business plan priorities and begin to drive long term financial sustainability.

Terence Herbert – Chief Executive

Andy Brown – Corporate Director Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer)

Perry Holmes – Director of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject:	**Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2025/26**
Cabinet Member:	**Cllr Richard Clewer – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member responsible for MCI, Economic Development, Heritage, Arts, Tourism and Health & Wellbeing and Interim Cabinet Member responsible for Finance & Procurement, Commissioning and Commercialisation**
Key Decision:	**Key**

Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out the Cabinet's proposals for the Council's Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022/23-2025/26.

2. It also sets out the Council's Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2029/30, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget 2022/23 and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

3. The detailed assumptions underpinning the Cabinet's proposals are set out and the Section 151 Officer's opinion on the robustness of the budget estimates for 2022/23 and the adequacy of the Councils reserves, including the general fund reserve, as required under section 25 of the local government act 2003.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

4. The council must set a balanced budget for the financial year 2022/23 and setting out the MTFS for future years supports effective decision making and the alignment of the Councils resources to deliver the priorities and objectives as set out in the new Business Plan.

5. The 2022/23 budget proposals therefore look to ensure resources are focused and equally, where required, savings do not undermine the delivery of the Business Plan principles that were established in 2021:

   - **Empowered People** We want every child to have the best start and life and we will help develop the communities and facilities that enable all residents to enjoy good physical and mental health to live active lives. This includes ensuring that they are safe throughout their life.

   - **Resilient Society** We want people in Wiltshire to build positive relationships and live well together, to be able to get involved, influence and act on what matters in their local communities. We want our communities to be able to

grow sustainably with access to arts, heritage and culture and have easy access to high quality and affordable housing in beautiful places.

- **Thriving Economy** We want to continue to grow the skills of our local workforce, nurture the opportunities available to them and for our economy to thrive. We must mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on our children's education so that they can prosper and as a county we can attract and retain high value businesses and investment. As we continue to move forward, we must ensure everyone can take advantage of a sustainable economy with vibrant, well-connected settlements.

- **Sustainable Environment** The Council has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and we now must take the lead and support the whole county as it strives for the same. Together, we must take responsibility for the environment and ensure it is well used, cherished, protected, conserved and enhanced.

Background

6. The Update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 report presented to Cabinet on 11 January 2022 set out the latest budget gap and details of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2022/23. As a result of the ongoing pressures faced by Local Government the settlement included some additional funding as well as a new grant, which saw the provisional settlement bring in £12.5m of additional grant funding for the council to support the delivery of local services.

7. Even with this the additional funding the budget gap for 2022/23 stood at £27.7m, rising to £59.2m by 2024/25, before any saving proposals, and already factored in a planned rise of 1.99% in council tax.

8. In the setting of the 2021/22 budget in February 2021, at the height of the third wave, and the financial management approach during the 2021/22 financial year the Council has looked to set aside funding in reserves to provide for financial risks the council faces such as latent demand and to also allow one-off funding to allow the council time to transform its services and service delivery to ensure it is financially resilient and sustainable in the long-term.

9. Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team have continued to review the growth, inflation and demand estimates on which the budget is based with a focus on reasonably challenging and bringing these estimates down either through the latest known forecast data or through mitigation actions that will be taken in 2022/23.

Main Considerations for the Council

10. The Cabinet is proposing a balanced budget for 2022/23, a budget that ensures funding for vital services to continue during the ongoing pandemic as well as ensuring the resources are provided to ensure the delivery of the new business plan.

11. In achieving this the Cabinet has duly considered the current position on Wiltshire's residents and businesses and has felt that the provision of vital services to protect the vulnerable and continue the running of key services is paramount and the maintenance, and where possible investment, in these services is critical.

12. The Council receives nearly 90% of its funding from local taxes, business rates and council tax, and is therefore dependent on increases in these to deliver services to Wiltshire's residents, communities, and businesses.

13. Wiltshire does not receive any Revenue Support Grant (RSG) from Whitehall, and we still await funding reforms that will ensure Local Government receives the funding, particularly for Social Care, it needs to deliver vital services. Even with the provisional settlement from Government of an additional £12.5m, the level of specific grant funding Wiltshire receives from Government to fund core local services stands at £49m (12%).

14. In having sufficient funds to enable the funding of vital services, specifically in relation to Adult Social Care, the Cabinet is proposing that the Government permitted additional 1% Adult Social Care levy is taken in 2022/23.

15. Therefore for 2022/23 the Cabinet is proposing a 1.99% general increase in Council Tax with a 1% levy specifically for Adult Social Care. The levy will raise £3m and will help to fund the £7m of growth that has been built into the Adult Social Care budget.

16. In addition, and as resolved at the Cabinet meeting on 21 July 2021, an investment of £1.742m has been included in the 2022/23 budget to increase capacity within Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) & Inclusion services to ensure fit for purpose, efficient, quality sustainable and secure service to deliver the SEND & Inclusion strategy.

17. Cabinet have also continued to set aside £1m a year to support Wiltshire's market towns, maintaining the commitment made in the 2021/22 budget.

18. Further detail on spending for services is provided in the report. The MTFS appendix contains further detail on inflation, growth and savings for individual services provided by the Council.

19. To provide a simple overview on where monies are spent, for every £100 of core funding we receive to fund services, we spend:

£35 caring for Adults	£20 supporting and safeguarding our children and young people
£10 on managing Wiltshire's Waste	£9 funding the investment in Wiltshire schools, roads and housing
£9 on maintaining Wiltshire's Highways and subsidising local bus services	£7 on running the Council and holding elections
£4 on our Property £3 on our online and digital services	£2 on Wiltshire's Leisure & Libraries £1 on improving Wiltshire's economy

20. As reported to Cabinet on the 11 January 2022, after the announcement of the provisional settlement there remained a £27m budget gap. The proposals contained in this report provide the detail on how the budget gap will be closed which, after small changes in demand, is achieved through the proposed 1% levy on Adult Social Care, raising an additional £3m to funds the £7m growth in Adults, and new saving proposals totalling over £24m.

People Services - £235m annual spend on services

Living and Ageing Well - £72m annual net spend on services
21. There are a number of service areas within the Living and Ageing Well directorate and a key objective is to maintain and promote independence for individuals and their unpaid carers who experience physical, cognitive and sensory difficulties.

22. We have an increasing focus on approaches and services that aim to intervene early when there is a change in circumstance and prevent and delay need. This could be through the provision of timely information and advice by the Advice and Contact team or as a result of input from the new Prevention and Well Being service and their work with individuals to build social and community networks and resources that can offer support. This is in addition to the work of Wiltshire Council Reablement service that provides an intensive period of support to regain confidence or build new skills.

23. Where people have longer term and more complex needs, the budget allocated to the Living and Ageing Well directorate ensures that individuals and their unpaid carers receive appropriate care and support in the community that maintains and promotes independence and well being with a focus on support people to remain in their own homes wherever possible.

24. We work closely with our community health partners to prevent someone going into hospital by responding rapidly in an emergency and ensuring the right health and care support is available in their own home. When a hospital stay has been necessary, our social care teams work with families to ensure they have the correct care when they are discharged, whether that is short term reablement focused support or exploring longer term care options.

25. The right housing is a key determinant of Living and Ageing well and the Housing operations service area will maximise the opportunities to prevent and sustain tenancies, reduce homelessness and placements into temporary accommodation as well as providing advice and support to rough sleepers to help them move into sustainable accommodation with on going support. We will make best use of the DFG budget to increase hospital discharges and decrease residential placements as well as creating a reduced need for long term domiciliary care as adaptations maximise independence. Our private sector housing team will provide advice and support to landlords to improve properties in the private rented sector and take enforcement action as required as well as looking to improve properties with an EPC rating of E or below. We will review and consult on our current allocations policy to make the process more efficient for our customers to ensure we meet the highest needs and Council priorities.

26. The Government has announced reforms to Adult Social Care that will take effect from 1st October 2023. These reforms include a raising of the threshold for savings that determines that a person is a self-funder from £23,250 to £100,000; a cap on the cost of care for a person at £86,000; and a commitment that Councils will pay a fair price for care.

27. In setting the MTFS it has been assumed that these reforms will be cost neutral to the Council, with Government funding covering the cost of the reforms. At this early stage it is unclear the extent to which this is the case but given the high proportion of self-funders in Wiltshire this must be considered a significant financial risk to the Council.

28. Although the reforms will not take effect until halfway through the 2023/24 financial year there will be implementation costs that start to be incurred, particularly in respect of market sustainability and a fair cost of care, in 2022-23. These costs will be contained within the Council's allocation from a new grant starting in 2022-23.

29. In setting the budget for 2022/23 account has been taken of demographic pressures that will see more people requiring support, and the rising cost pressures that providers face due both to general inflation, and sector specific cost pressures including the particular costs that infection control requirements have in social care settings.

Whole Life Pathway - £78m annual net spend on services

30. There are a number of service areas within the Whole Life Pathway directorate whose key objective is to maintain and promote independence for individuals, their families and their unpaid carers who have complex mental health and long terms neurological and cognitive conditions.

31. We work with people at an early point to prevent and delay crisis and psychiatric hospital admissions and highly restrictive (and therefore high cost) packages of care.

32. This can sometimes be through the provision of timely information and guidance by the Advice and Contact team in Aging and Living Well directorate, however, nearly all of our service users are already known to services and most come through to our teams directly through transitions from children's services, the person's GP and or secondary mental health services.

33. As people who are supported by the Whole Life Pathway directorate are likely to have longer term and more complex needs, the budget allocated to the directorate is used to support individuals and their unpaid carers to receive appropriate care and support in the community that is self-directed, promotes independence and enables and empowers people with a learning disability and or autism to live successfully in their local community. The budget also is used to support those with a mental health condition to recover from a period of illness to continue to access the local community and live alongside their friends and family. The directorate has a strong focus on supporting people to live in Wiltshire, return to Wiltshire if they have been placed outside of the county and thrive in Wiltshire.

34. We work closely with our community and mental health and voluntary sector partners to achieve this. We advocate on behalf of our service users to live independently and to be able to engage with employment, education, training and local community-based activities. We work closely with our Aging and Living Well colleagues as housing plays a key role in maximising and securing tenancies for the most vulnerable.

35. Our Community Services which are the provider arm of the directorate support individuals in our day centres and respite units to offer support to family members and unpaid carers. Our Enablement and Outreach service and our Intensive service provide additional support to our service users in their own home and in the wider community to maximise their independence and to enable them to live successfully and safely in the community and not in long stay institutions.

36. It is the role of the directorate to promote individuals' rights, highlight and address social injustice, ensure the wider adult population are safeguarded and where necessary implement the Mental Capacity Act and the Mental Health Act, (where appropriate), through our Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard Team, our Approved Mental Health Practitioner Teams and the Emergency Duty Service.

37. The Whole Life Pathway's budget also supports the delivery of services for refugees and those resettling into Wiltshire from countries across the globe.

38. As with the Living and Ageing Well directorate, the budget for 22/23 contains growth to cover demographic pressures that will see more people requiring support, and the rising cost pressures that providers face.

Education and Skills - £23m annual net spend on services
39. The school effectiveness service fulfills the statutory duty relating to standards of education in schools. The team of school effectiveness officers monitor and support all schools to be at least good and secure high standards. All local authority maintained schools benefit from the School Improvement Adviser programme with each school working with a dedicated officer. This service also has responsibility for safeguarding across all education settings, including early years, auditing arrangements and providing relevent training for all practiners. In addition there is statutory spend on premature retirement costs in schools, the majority relating to historcial commitments from previous years where schools have restructured usually following a period of financial difficulty.

40. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places available; the school schools buildings team work with school leaders and the Regional Schools Commissioner to deliver the School Place Planning Strategy.

41. The Targeted Education Service fulfils the Council's statutory duties around education provision for looked-after and previously looked-after children along with the promotion of the educational outcomes of all children with a social worker. It also leads on the Council's duties relating to school attendance, permanently excluded pupils and alternative provision, in addition to promoting the education outcomes across disadvantaged or vulnerable groups.

42. The SEND and Inclusion Service leads and manages the statutory education health and care plan (EHCP) process. These plans are issued where a child requires additional support beyond what a school college or nursery can typically deliver from their standard offer. The service ensures statutory partner support during the assessment stage and via issued plans to ensure that children with SEND have a package of support to help them through to adulthood (until they are 25.) The statutory duty to provide school transport for pupils with EHCPs is led by this team and externally commissioned services include mental health support for children and short breaks for children with a disability. The investment for 2022-23 is driven by significant increases in estimates of numbers of children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) requiring school transport and inflation which reflects the forecast Bank of England CPI rate for 2022-23. Cabinet approved the investment in the SEND statutory services at their extraordinary meeting in July 2021 as described in paragraph 16 of this report.

Families and Children - £62m annual net spend on services

43. Over the last 10 years the families and children service has seen an increase in demand through all stages of early help and social care and at rates higher than population growth for the same period (+2.4% since 2011). The most significant increases are seen around our child protection activity and this mirrors the national study undertaken by the Association of Director of Children's Services (ADCS). In response the service has adapted systems effectively to ensure timely support is provided to families and children. The rate of children subject to children in need, (CIN,) child protection (CP) and children in care (CiC) are now lower than England averages and more in line with authorities judged Outstanding by Ofsted. The Early Support hub continues to offer consultations to professionals providing advice and guidance pre-referral. Q1 2021-22 recorded 299 consultations, of these 40% were diverted away from the front door meaning professionals did not make unnecessary referrals but were signposted to the most appropriate services.

44. Early Support includes the Local Authority's in house 'Support' threshold offer as well as the partnership Early Support Assessment and Team Around the Child and Family model. Currently the service is working with on average 600 children at a support level preventing escalation to statutory levels. The Stronger Families Team continue to work with older children who are on the edge of coming into care, or at risk of county lines involvement or risk of requiring contextual safeguarding through intensive and targeted support work. Now 80% are diverted from care with the majority continuing to live with their family.

45. Children in care (including children with a disability) benefit from very good placement stability with a higher proportion placed with Wiltshire Council foster carers. We know there remains more to do to ensure sufficiency of good placements that are matched to the needs of children looked after by the Council, and of suitable housing for care leavers. This work is being taken forward under the Fostering Excellence agenda and through our Market Sufficiency Strategy. The investment for 2022-23 is driven by volume estimates of children in care and inflation on commissioned placements which reflects the forecast Bank of England CPI rate for 2022-23.

46. Good staff retention and balanced caseloads help to ensure a high quality service, however there remain harder to recruit to posts. We are keenly aware of the level of competitiveness within the social work recruitment marketplace and the need to ensure Wiltshire Council remains an attractive employer for new and experienced social work staff. Modelling is underway around post pandemic demand and the associated pressure this will place on caseloads which, will need to be carefully monitored in light of the national recruitment challenges.

Place Services - £93m annual spend on services

47. Place services help communities to be stronger and more resilient. By taking an integrated place-based approach our services work together as "One Council" and with external partners to develop the economy, ensuring we protect and enhance the environment and meet our carbon neutral commitment.

48. Place services support Wiltshire's communities to live healthy and active lives through the provision of leisure, culture and arts services, and the promotion of sustainable and active travel. We plan for the future in terms of housing, employment space and associated highways and infrastructure, ensuring that development and planned growth is high quality and meets the needs of our communities now and in the future.

49. We continue to deliver a large programme of highways maintenance to ensure residents and visitors travel safely in the county. We continuously look at options to improve connectivity and transport choices for our communities, and at the same time aim to decarbonise transport.

50. As well as providing home to school transport for 11,000 pupils, or Passenger Transport team provides transport for 1,400 pupils with special needs, over 80,000 concessionary fare users and subsidise bus services for our rural areas.

51. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, we invest and work with volunteers and other agencies to reduce the risk of flooding, and better prepare for flood events.

52. In 2019, The Council acknowledged that there is a climate emergency and through the Climate Strategy will support both Council services and Wiltshire communities to mitigate the effects of climate change and support our goal to become carbon neutral by 2030.

53. In response to the new Environment Act 2021 we will review how we deliver effective and efficient waste management and recycling services. Currently managing around 226,000 tonnes of waste collections annually from 221,000 households we will ensure that these services are fit for purpose and future proofed with zero avoidable waste to landfill. We will continue to protect the environment by championing sustainable development and encouraging others to take responsibility for their impact on the environment & our residents, protecting and safeguarding public health by promoting and ensuring safe and legal foods, goods, services, and workplaces.

54. As one of the largest Local Planning Authorities in the country, both in terms of geographic area and the number of applications we process, we deliver effective and creative place shaping balancing the needs of communities, businesses, and the environment through the Council's Local Plans and Transport Plans and support communities to undertake Neighbourhood Plans. The Planning service determine more than 90% of applications with agreed timescales and currently has 59% market share of Building Control activity.

55. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic Place Services delivered a successful programme of Covid Business support grants making 34,000 grant payments totalling £176.4m. The focus for 2022 will be on economic recovery, working with our partners, stakeholders, and the business community to deliver a range of government funded programmes which will target economic growth and regeneration, including the levelling up agenda and UK Shared Prosperity schemes. The schemes will target the high street and support the delivery of vibrant town centres. Our goal is to ensure that Wiltshire's economy is competitive, sustainable, and resilient with high levels of inward investment, a broad employment base as well as a suitable proportion of high value and skilled jobs.

56. Place services will ensure our leisure centres and libraries are well maintained, fit for purpose and accessible to all supporting Wiltshire communities to become more resilient and thrive. Focus will be on increasing the opportunities for engagement and participation in both sports and physical activity and in cultural activity and the arts. We will support our 1,000 strong volunteer base and promote more opportunities for working with the voluntary sector, strengthening our links with the community and the local/visitor economy.

57. All staff within Place services work as an integral part of the Place function providing professional input and guidance through our governance structures including the Place Leadership Team, Place Performance and Outcomes Board, Cabinet, Full Council and select committees when required.

Resources - £37m annual spend on services

Assets & Commercial Development - £16m annual net spend on services
58. The Asset & Commercial Development service are responsible for managing the Councils estate, which includes the 5,300 existing properties and 1,000 planned new properties from the Council House Build Programme under the Housing Revenue Account.

59. Wiltshire Council takes a strategic and commercial approach to managing assets ensuring assets are well maintained, fit for purpose and that services can operate safely, efficiently, and effectively ensuring the sustainability of the property estate. The council shares resources with other public services and uses technology, buildings and other assets flexibly to maximise value and reduce costs.

60. Stone Circle Housing and Development companies were set up in 2020 to meet a range of Wiltshire's strategic housing needs and undertake residential development, predominantly on Council owned land to ensure these needs are

met while increasing the potential return to the Council. Asset & Commercial Development work with the companies, providing professional services and strategic direction.

<u>Procurement & Commissioning - £5m annual net spend on services</u>

61. The Procurement & Commissioning Directorate role is to deliver on some key objectives for other Council directorates, ensuring vibrant sustainable markets in areas that are of key strategic interest for the Council, stepping in when there is a provider or even market failure and facilitating the delivery of optimum value for money.

62. The Procurement function serves all areas of the Council and is a key enabling function across all services areas in delivering their service, budgetary and wider Business Plan objectives and ensuring as a Council we become more commercial in our approach to procurement and contract management. The Commissioning function on the other hand predominantly supports the People directorate, and works closely with partners, most notably the NHS, in ensuring that the right services, at the right volumes, are in place to support people with health and social care needs.

63. Commissioning leads on market shaping in partnership with providers for social care services for the whole community, not just people who are reliant on public fund, undertakes local market oversight for providers who are not covered by CQC's market oversight scheme, and aims to avert or minimise the impact of provider or market failure.

64. As well as working in partnership with the NHS, some parts of the Commissioning area are fully integrated with the CCG, in particular the Brokerage function and several individual posts within commissioning are joint posts with the CCG.

Fees and Charges

65. As part of budget setting, where the council has discretion on the setting of fees and charges and increases to these, it is recommended that the fees and charges to the public are increased by appropriate inflation rates to help support the delivery of a balanced budget. Other fees and charges will be based on statutory national levels (where set by statute) or individual agreements.

66. Demand has been adjusted within the pressures built into the budget to reflect the continued reduction seen in some service areas such as car parking and leisure.

67. Detail of the fees and charges where the council has discretion on the setting of the fees and charges and where they have been increased can be seen in appendix 1.

Reserves – General Fund and Earmarked

68. As part of the budget setting process for 2021/22 a reserve strategy was set out, which included the approach of ensuring financial risks that the council

faced were supported adequately by monies set aside in reserves. During 2021/22 the additional funds set aside to help manage Latent Demand have been maintained as the anticipated demand for services has not materialised during the year, and this helps to support the continued risk that remains.

69. The plan to raise the value of the General Fund Reserve to just less than £20m by 2024/25 has been exceeded with additional contributions being made during 2021/22, with the latest forecast MTFS now estimating a reserve of over £21m by 2024/25.

70. The planned contribution to this reserve in 2022/23 has been removed, due to this additional contribution during 2021/22, to help ease the budget gap in 2022/23 and to maintain vital services. The forecast for the balance over the MTFS is detailed in the reserves section in appendix 1.

71. During 2022/23 £3.3m will be received from a commercial gainshare arrangement as part of the Wiltshire On-Line programme. This income will be transferred to the Budget Equalisation reserve during the year to provide additional capacity to help manage the overall budget position. With the forecast financial position for 2021/22 it is expected that there will be £16.5m in the reserve to support the budget and savings delivery in the future MTFS years.

72. The general fund reserve risk assessment is shown in annex 8 of appendix 1. This uses the estimates of key financial risks facing the authority in 2022/23 and it provides an estimated risk assessed level of reserves based on the specific complexities and activities unique to Wiltshire Council. This assessment is reviewed and refreshed every year to reflect the known financial risks in that year and provides an update on the financial resilience for the council.

73. The level of risks faced by the authority in 2021/22 was risk assessed at £22.760m, for 2022/23 this has been revised and now stands at £27.615m.

74. The increase is largely a result of the increased level of savings that are required to be delivered in 2022/23 and represents the biggest financial risk to the authority in the coming financial year. The level and volatility in income for services e.g. leisure and car parking, and demand for services also represent key risks.

75. The risk assessed level is a tool to manage and context financial risks facing the authority and is not an exact science. It is key however in determining the financial resilience of the authority in terms of the level of reserves held against the level of estimated financial risk.

76. In addition to the level of the general fund, there are other reserves held against the financial risks facing the Council. These reserves have been created to deal with risks around demand e.g. the latent demand reserve is being held to specifically mitigate any unquantified risks facing the authority on social care, particularly children's social care and the recent high profile national cases and the knock on consequences that may have on demand.

77. The Council overall has significantly improved its financial standing over the last couple of financial years through sound financial management, and can look to having a significant level of reserve cover against the assessed financial risk in 2022/23, although this reduces over the course of the MTFS the General Fund reserve still rises over the MTFS period.

MTFS 2022/23 to 2024/25

78. A summary of the overall MTFS proposed budgets for 2022/23 can be seen in the below table at Corporate Director responsibility level. More detail can be seen in the appendix 1, which show the changes to the service budgets from the revised 2021/22 budgets in greater detail.

Wiltshire Council - Proposed Budgets			
Service	**2022/23 Proposed Budget £m**	**2023/24 Proposed Budget £m**	**2024/25 Proposed Budget £m**
Corporate Director People	235.002	241.899	254.510
Corporate Director Resources	37.061	37.157	37.795
Corporate Director Place	92.611	93.706	96.060
Public Health	1.597	1.710	1.822
Legal & Governance	7.482	7.524	7.763
HR&OD and Transformation	5.468	5.645	5.870
Corporate Directors & Members	3.041	3.060	3.094
Corporate Costs	35.441	44.081	48.414
WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NET BUDGET	**417.703**	**434.782**	**455.328**

79. The MTFS sets out the forecast budget position for a 3-year period. The above table shows the proposed service budgets for 2022/23, and the below table shows the movements in the Net Budget and Funding for the council and the overall financial position of the council. There is an overall funding deficit across the MTFS 3-year period, with one-off funding from the Budget Equalisation Reserve in the second year (2023/24) of £9.102m. This reserve is fully exhausted in 2024/25 and a funding gap of £10.705m remains and further work is required to ensure this gap is addressed in a sustainable way.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Budget 2021/22	**412.561**	**417.703**	**434.782**
Funding Changes/ Technical Adjustments	10.849	-0.112	1.250
Pay Award	7.401	4.063	4.234
Cabinet Investment	1.742	0	0
Budget Monitoring Permanent Changes	-1.054	-0.200	0
Demand	-3.580	15.271	10.004
Contractual Inflation	13.608	8.745	8.197
Approved Savings	-0.585	-1.000	-0.790
Staffing Savings Proposals	-6.985	-3.211	0
Service Savings Proposals	-16.255	-6.476	-2.200
Budget 2022/23	**417.703**	**434.782**	**455.478**
Funding 2021/22	**-412.561**	**-417.703**	**-425.681**
Council Tax Requirement	-9.905	-10.001	-10.424
Social Care Levy	-3.022	-3.128	0
Collection Fund (surplus) / deficit	11.622	0	-1
s31 Grant - Collection Fund deficit	-11.622	0	0
Specific Grants	-12.517	5.151	0
Hardship & Emergency Funding	20.302	0	0
Funding 2022/23	**-417.703**	**-425.681**	**-437.355**
GAP	**0**	**9.102**	**18.123**
Proposed use of Budget Equalisation reserve		**-9.102**	**-7.418**
Gap remaining		**0**	**10.705**

Capital Receipts Flexibilities

80. As part of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2021/22 published on 10 February 2021 Government announced a 3-year extension from 2022/23 onwards of the flexibility for councils to use capital receipts to fund transformation projects that produce long-term savings or reduce the cost of service delivery across the public sector. [Funding boost provides councils with certainty to plan for year ahead with £51 billion funding package - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk)

81. It is important that any council using this flexibility is transparent in reporting its plans and the individual projects that are to be funded or part funded, report on planned savings and/or service transformation that is planned to be delivered and report the previous years' activity and realisation of benefits.

82. During 2022/23 the use of this regulation to fund transformational activity will include funding different transformation projects across the council, and specifically projects that support delivering a more financially sustainable council. £1m has been included within the budget for each year of the MTFS period (2022/23-2024/25). The prioritisation of the projects and funding through this regulation will be agreed by CLT and reported as part of the quarterly budget monitoring process to ensure the requirement of transparent reporting is met.

Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2029/30

83. The Capital Programme is not tied to an annual setting process like the Council's revenue budget, with projects and schemes being added on their own merits by the Cabinet during the year. The Capital Programme is a key area of investment for the Council and in 2022/23 will now stand at £307.115m for that year and £1,286.953m over the 8-year period and the Council will be investing to deliver Business Plan priorities in the following headline areas.

Leisure Investment

84. £25m investment has been added to the capital programme to create a new Leisure facility to serve Trowbridge and the surrounding area. The facility will offer swimming, gym and sports hall services and will be part of the Trowbridge Place shaping strategy that is being developed in 2022. This scheme is being funded by borrowing but given the infrastructure element maybe suitable for CIL allocation in future. The new facility will replace two existing ones and will be a more energy efficient building with reduced carbon footprint so will enable the Council to deliver a more sustainable Leisure service.

Highways & Transport

85. From 2022/23 there will be an increase in the funding for local highway and foothpath schemes that are issued through the existing Community Area Transport Groups (CATG). The groups will be renamed Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Groups (LHFIG) and will receive an increase of £0.400m in funding which will be reallocated from half of the existing £0.800m funding for Area Board capital grants. This will see a total of £0.800m for LHFIG when you include the existing £0.400m set aside for CATG funding currently within Integrated Transport, whilst still retaining half the funding (£0.400m) for Area Boards from 2022/23.

86. A total of £4.485m investment has been added to the capital programme for Highways and Transport projects this will enable £1.5m drainage improvement works to be undertaken to highway and land drainage assets at locations known to be vulnerable to flooding; improving safety and protecting property. Investment in Council Fleet of £1.910m to ensure front line service continue to operate effectively, the Fleet Strategy will be taken to Cabinet in 2022/23 with an emphasis on carbon neutral fleet and setting out the long terms requirements. £0.380m has been invested to replace 95 outdated car parking machines with contactless machines in Wiltshire car parks over a three year programme. £0.695m will be used to replace the current real Time Passenger Information system which provides live data on how buses are running to the public to encourage the use of busses reducing congestion and emissions.

Assets

87. A total of £18.765m investment to Council assets will be made for maintenance and improvements to ensure frontline services can continue to operate effectively and safely. This includes £4.170m for Schools and Early Years setting to replace mobile and pratten classrooms with permanent extensions and replace temporary early year setting buildings that are no longer fit for

purpose. £8.627m investment for improvement and refurbishment at Leisure Centres to ensure the service can operate effectively and commercially and become a sustainable service. £0.838m on Waste services to ensure facilities and closed sites are monitored and achieve the required environmental standards and investment at Household Recycling Centres to increase recycling. An increase of £5.130m for planned maintenance on the operational and commercial estate, to include structural and lighting improvements on car parks and Salisbury Library improvements.

Major Transport Schemes Investment

88. Wiltshire Council is currently developing major road improvements to facilitate population and employment growth, and improve the local transport infrastructure. £74.627m investment has been added for three Major Road Network Schemes; M4 Junction 17 Improvements, A338 Salisbury Junction Improvements and A350 Chippenham Bypass (ph 4 & 5) and £236.021m for one Large Local Major scheme A350 Melksham Bypass.

89. The Major Road Network Schemes will be funded by a combination of DfT grant and Wiltshire Council match funding from CIL and S106 and will only proceed to construction upon confirmation of DfT grant funding. DfT grant funding has been confirmed for A350 Chippenham Bypass.

90. The council is committed to progressing the A350 Melksham Bypass. It is a Large Local Major scheme which is expected to take about seven years until it is completed, and will have to go through a number of stages, including planning approvals, statutory orders, public inquiry and procurement. At present funding has been included within the capital programme to full construction however financing has only been assigned to Full Business Case stage which is expected to be submitted in 2026, this will be through a combination of DfT grant and CIL funding.

91. The construction stage will require further funding of up to £32 million from 2026/27 onwards, this will depend on the successful progress through the statutory procedures and on the actual contribution required by the Department for Transport (DfT) at that time. In the meantime, the council will continue to work with the DfT to deliver this scheme to ensure the necessary funding is available.

Allocations from the Community Infrastructure Levy Strategic Fund

92. Cabinet on 27 September 2021 approved a revised process for allocating the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) strategic fund and resolved that further work would be undertaken "to consider how the strategic fund can be used, in accordance with the CIL legislation, to align delivery of projects with the Council's budget setting process and the Council's new Business Plan."

93. Cabinet will continue to review the policy to ensure that the funds raised from CIL are used to address pressures on infrastructure as a result of development within Wiltshire, both in terms of large scale and smaller developments.

94. Work has commenced on this through the consideration of potential projects for the Council's capital programme, an initial set of projects has been identified, which relate to transport as detailed below.

Transport Projects

95. These relate to the four new transport schemes discussed above that accord with the principles set in the Wiltshire Core Strategy, Core Policy 66 Strategic Transport Network: to selectively improve the A350 to support its functionality as a strategic road corridor and the sustainable growth of west Wiltshire; and more generally, to improve the strategic transport network, which includes the A338 around Salisbury. The three schemes have previously been reported to Cabinet, most recently on 30 November, as part of the agenda item on A350 Melksham Bypass:

 (i) A338 Southern Salisbury Junction Improvements (Exeter Street Roundabout, Harnham Gyratory and Park Wall Junction) - start 2025, completion anticipated 2025

 (ii) A350 Chippenham Bypass Phases 4 and 5 - start 2023 completion anticipated 2024

 (iii) A350/M4 Junction 17 Capacity Improvement – start 2024 completion anticipated 2025

 (iv) A350 Melksham Bypass - start 2026, completion anticipated end 2028

96. Currently none of these projects are on the Council's Infrastructure List, however schemes (i) and (ii) are both identified in the Salisbury and Chippenham Transport Strategies respectively that were prepared to support the growth in the Chippenham and Wiltshire Site Allocation Plans that followed the Wiltshire Core Strategy. Both schemes are being supported by the Department for Transport (DfT) through the allocation of Major Road Network (MRN) funding but a local contribution of around 15% is required, while some of this is being secured through developer contributions (circa £0.96m and £2m respectively) there is a funding gap that the CIL strategic fund can address to ensure the timely progression of these projects. DfT funding would contribute £13.2m for (i) and £26.1m for (ii).

97. The profile of CIL funding required for both projects is set out in the table below.

98. The Chippenham Transport Strategy identified the need for a short-term project to upgrade M4 Junction 17. This took the form of part signalisation to address capacity and safety issues on the off- slip roads due to the hazard caused by vehicles queuing onto the M4. This was funded by the former Highways England and the Local Growth Fund. Since the Strategy was prepared National Highways is looking increasingly critically at current plans for growth and further work has been undertaken by the Council that supports the need for further investment at the top of the A350 around Junction 17 to support its functionality. This project would provide further capacity improvements over and above those

secured as part of the Chippenham Gateway development. It is estimated that DfT funding would be circa £23.3m. The funding gap for the local contribution is set out in the Table below.

99. With regard to the Melksham Bypass, the A350 through Beanacre and Melksham has been a concern for many years but the opportunity to seriously address this only came about in 2019 when the project was submitted to the DfT by the Western Gateway Sub-National Transport Body. Since then, several reports have been brought to Cabinet about the project, most recently on 30th November 2021, when the two public consultations were reported. The Council remains committed to delivering the project. While Cabinet agreed to consider the matter again when National Highways' M4 to Dorset Coast Connectivity study has progressed further, due to potential for new funding streams becoming available; in the meantime, funding is needed to enable the preparation work to continue, including the preparation of the Full Business Case. Discussions will continue to be held with DfT regarding the longer-term funding arrangements for the scheme, as currently funding is only being sought to progress the scheme to the Full Business Case stage. The profile of CIL funding required for the short-term phase of work is set out also in Table 1.

CIL Contribution	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total Proposed
A350 M4 Junction 17	£236,050	£269,950	£2,639,950	£1,370,050	£0	**£4,516,000**
A338 Salisbury Junctions	£113,824	£84,176	£562,640	£617,143	£0	**£1,377,783**
A350 Chippenham Bypass	£248,652	£1,923,336	£982,224	£0	£0	**£3,154,212**
A350 Melksham Bypass	£508,750	£929,500	£954,250	£975,250	£541,750	**£3,909,500**
Total	**£1,107,276**	**£3,206,962**	**£5,139,064**	**£2,962,443**	**£541,750**	**£12,957,495**

Profile of requested CIL funding for Transport Projects

100. It is recommended that firstly, it is agreed that the Council's Infrastructure List is updated with projects, as projects the Council may fund through CIL, and secondly approves the allocation of CIL from the strategic fund as set out in Table 1 for these projects.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 2022/23

101. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a separate account that all local authorities with housing stock are required to maintain by law. This account accumulates and reports all transactions relating to, or associated with, local authority-owned housing.

102. It is ring fenced which means that money cannot be paid into or out of it from the General Fund. In addition, it is not lawful to run a deficit on the account.

103. The 30-year business plan aims to deliver a substantial increase in the amount of money available to be invested in capital works on existing dwellings

and to deliver new housing to replace properties that have been sold under the Government's Right to Buy scheme and to address housing need.

104.   The aim of the business plan is to deliver carbon zero new builds and investment in all existing stock to achieve energy performance rating B. The capital and revenue budgets for 2022/23 have been updated to reflect the position presented and approved by Cabinet in the plan.

105.   For 2022/23 rents will be increased by Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus 1%, which is the same as 2021/22, for 2022/23 this increase will be 4.1%, 3.1% CPI plus 1%. Increases for any actual rents currently over formula rent will be capped at formula rent as per national guidance.

106.   Future rent increases will be reviewed in light of the 30 year business plan so as to balance the investment in the housing stock, development of new homes, maintain services to customers as well as ensuring affordability.

107.   For 2-bedroom properties, the average 2021/22 rent (social and sheltered) was £90.21 per week which will increase to an average of £93.94 for 2022/23. For 3 bedroom properties, the increase would be from £98.27 to £102.43.

108.   It is proposed to increase garage rents by 4.1% (CPI plus 1%).

109.   It is proposed that service charges are increased to cover costs.

Dedicated Schools Grant

110.   Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ring fenced specific grant used in support of the Schools Budget as defined in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013. The DSG is made up of four blocks with minimal flexibility to move funding between blocks. The allocations for 2022-23 are as follows:

	2021-22 Allocation	**2022-23 Allocation**	**Increase**	**% Increase**
Early Years	£28.217m	£28.522m	£0.304m	1.08%
Schools	£317.724m	£328.594m	£10.869m	3.42%
Central	£2.565m	£2.604m	£0.039m	1.52%
High Needs	£57.835m	£62.691m	£4.855m	8.4% *(DfE minimum is 8%)*
TOTAL	£406.342m	£422.409m	£16.067m	3.95%

111.   In addition, for 2022/23, a later separate grant; "supplementary allocations" have been advised and these are to offset the budget pressures around the health and social care levy and other cost pressures. For schools Wiltshire is allocated £9.450m and for the high needs block; £2.415m.

112.   The allocations are driven by the school and early years census data multiplied by specific funding levels and factors in each block and include nationally announced increases (year 3/3 Autumn 2019 pledge for schools and

high needs funding and year 1/3 Autumn 2021 early years national increases.) In addition, the historical element of the central block reduces by 20% year on year.

113. The local authority and schools forum set the budget for all blocks. Schools and high needs blocks are top sliced by the ESFA and funds re-directed to academies and colleges.

114. **Schools Block** – it is the responsibility if the Council to propose and make recommendations to Schools Forum to decide any changes to the formula which is used to allocate schools block DSG to all primary and secondary schools. Wiltshire Schools formula aligns itself as closely as possible to the national funding formula (NFF) in preparation for the hard formula, when the DfE remove or at least limit, local formula flexibility.

115. **Early Years Block** – the local authority must passport a minimum of 95% funding for the universal and additional working parents entitlement for 3& 4 year olds and disadvantaged 2 year olds directly to settings. This means up to 5% can be retained by the council to fund the early years central functions. It is the responsibility of the local authority to propose and decide the allocation of early years funding – the schools forum and early years providers are consulted annually to give their view on the local authority proposal.

116. **High Needs Block** – this supports provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The block provides resources for specialist place funding, top up funding and external provision as well as funding high need services including statutory delivered by the local authority. It is the responsibility of the local authority to propose and decide the allocation of high needs block funding – the schools forum is consulted on any proposed changes.

117. **Central School Services block** – this provides funding for the local authority to provide central functions on behalf of pupils in both maintained schools and academies. Services are split, copyright licences for all schools, on-going and historic responsibilities. The local authority proposes the spending allocations funded from the Central School Services Block but the final decision is made by the Schools Forum.

118. For 2022-23, additional allocations have been added to the schools and high needs block to cover the estimated burden of the health and social care levy and other cost pressures.

119. In the event of an underspend or overspend on the annual grant, the balance transfers to a DSG reserve at the end of each financial year. The 2021-22 quarter 3 figures reported to Cabinet in December showed an in year overspend of £8.271m which, leads to a forecast cumulative DSG deficit reserve balance of £26.555m. Demand and therefore expenditure are forecast to grow in 22-23 at a rate that is higher than the allocation. It is recognised that nationally pressures on the school system and high needs budget in particular are an issue, local authorities, school leaders and lobby groups continue to raise this with Central government and recovery plans are in place but limited to being long term and in partnership with statutory partners and limited to the

legal statutory requirements around services and performance standards for children and young people with additional needs.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

120. Regular reports are taken to Overview & Scrutiny relating to the Council's financial position and the budget report will be subject to review by the Councils Financial Planning Task Group during January 2022.

121. In addition to reviews by elected members through the scrutiny process, the budget proposals will also be subject to review and scrutiny by a range of stakeholders, including Trade Unions and Business through meetings with them, Housing Panels consideration of the Housing Revenue Account proposals and Schools Forum consideration of the Dedicated Schools Grant changes.

Safeguarding Implications

122. Safeguarding remains a key priority for the Council and this report outlines investment in services, in particular Adult Social Care and Children's Services, that reflects the commitment to safeguarding.

Public Health Implications

123. The impact on public health has continued to be significant in 2021/22 as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Procurement Implications

124. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

125. The Council's budget planning framework is supported by the development of Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) for the budget proposals, identifying possible disproportionate impact in relation to the protected characteristics as described within the Equality Act 2010. The EIAs will also identify potential mitigation where applicable.

126. The Council maintains its strong commitment to equality, believing that all groups and individuals within the community and its workforce have equal opportunity to benefit from the services and employment it provides. EIAs help the Council to arrive at informed decisions and to make the best judgements about how to target resources.

127. As part of the implementation of savings, once they are approved an Equality Impact Assessment for those individual saving proposals to assess whether the proposals are positive or negative for a protected group will be undertaken before the proposal is implemented.

128. In consideration of the overall budget and balancing the gap, Cabinet in putting forward its proposals were keen to ensure that investment and growth were directed to services so that this will have an overall positive impact on service users, particularly children, older people and disabled people.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

129. The business plan and budget that funds it have been developed to support strong, resilient communities in Wiltshire. The budget includes the continued resourcing of the Carbon Reduction Team, formed during 2020/21, and funding within the capital programme for specific schemes aimed at reducing the Councils carbon footprint.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

130. There is a statutory requirement to set a balanced budget. This report sets out the services delivered by the council and the financial implications of the budget proposed. Previous MTFS update reports have included visibility on the base assumptions on which the budget is built and this report sets out how the budget gap is to be addressed to deliver a balanced budget.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

131. The risks around the ongoing implications of COVID-19 on the Council are not fully known with the risk of further government interventions, and this risk will remain for 2022/23 and even into future years.

132. Assumptions on inflation and interest rates have also been documented in the MTFS update reports and clearly the Council is exposed to inflation rises and, to a lesser extent, interest rate rises. These have been factored into the Councils risk assessment when assessing the level of general fund reserves the Council should be holding.

133. The level of uncertainty has always been a risk, in terms of demand on services and with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic there is an increased variability of the risk. The Council has therefore tried to mitigate this through the level of growth assumptions within the MTFS, and continues to hold a latent demand reserve to deal with any demand that outstrips those assumptions, particularly around children's social care.

134. There is a risk the pandemic continues in a way currently not anticipated, requiring further response or impact on the Councils service provision and/or financial standing. In this instance, as we have seen during the past two financial years, we would be expecting the Government to be stepping in to support the entire sector.

135. Risks associated with the savings proposals and service delivery have been assessed and as savings are implemented these risks will continue to be reviewed and monitored through the service and corporate risk management processes.

Financial Implications

136.   Under Section 25 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003 there is a statutory duty on the Section 151 Officer to report to Council at the time the budget is considered and the Council Tax set, an opinion on the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of financial reserves.

137.   There is also a legal requirement under the Local Government Act 1992, section 32 and 43 to set a balanced budget, and critically the 2022/23 budget is balanced, not only that but it also removes the reliance on one off funding that was used to balance the 2021/22 budget with a full scheduled savings plan being proposed for 2022/23 to achieve this position.

138.   Cabinet have also proposed savings plans over the three years of the MTFS to make the decisions now to move the Council closer to becoming a financially sustainable authority. Although this has yet to be achieved, given the scale of savings in 2022/23, the gap for 2023/24 now stands at £9m rising to £18m in 2024/25 a significant improvement on the forecast budget gap when the 2021/22 budget was set in February 2021. Furthermore, the planned use of the Budget Equalisation reserve in 2023/24 effectively sees the first two years of the MTFS balanced. It is without question though that further savings will be required, as it stands, in year 3.

139.   Although there are risks in the budget in relation to demand led budgets, in particular Social Care, the key risk in the budget is the level of savings requiring to be delivered, with over £25m in the first financial year (2022/23) and over £39m over the three years of the MTFS.

140.   There will need to be a step change in the way the Council oversees and ensures delivery of proposed savings in 2022/23 given the size and timing, and non-delivery runs the risk of undermining the recent tight financial management.

141.   The Corporate Leadership Team will be putting savings delivery as part of the Councils overall performance management and will be accountable for oversight and responsible for delivery of the saving proposals, and this will be reported regularly through to Cabinet.

142.   There are significant cost pressures arising from changing demographics and a growing, ageing population. These lead to increased demand for adult and children services, as well as other services across the Council. These pressures have been built into the budget and will continue to be reviewed to ensure the assumptions remain robust and financial impacts can be reported, and management action taken if necessary, however risk remains on the ability to manage this pressure.

143.   The construction of the budget for 2022/23 and examination and validation of the budget proposals has been subject to challenge by the Corporate Leadership Team, Heads of Finance and directors. Further scrutiny of the MTFS and budget proposals will be undertaken by the Financial Planning Task

Group which is a standing task group of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

144. Business Rates assumptions have been prudently set, again keeping out any anticipated growth, and reducing the amount expected in total from the current retention system as a result of the uncertainties that lie ahead from April 2022 once Government support ends.

145. The assumptions on income from Council Tax have been reviewed and reflect the current dynamic with respect to those in receipt of local council tax support, which have not reduced, but to which the Council Tax collection rates have not been adversely affected. Council Tax tax base, the growth in properties, has been better than anticipated and therefore future assumptions have been revised upwards to reflect this increase.

146. Investment income returns are budgeted at 0.75% for 2022/23. The current cost of borrowing for Wiltshire Council is 3.74%, and the average cost of new borrowing has been estimated at around 2.5% although there is opportunity for this to be improved upon depending on the timing and value of any borrowing undertaken. The Council is building up a risk by delaying the need to borrow, potentially opening itself up to future interest rate rises at a time when it does need to borrow, and this position is under constant consideration.

147. Despite the recent volatility in inflation the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has been used as the set standard to forecast increases for contractual inflation. It is intended to move the Council over to this standard for all future contractual negotiations, where possible, to aid financial planning and budget/contract management. The assumption on pay has been adjusted to reflect the latest national negotiations.

148. The Dedicated Schools Grant is a ring-fenced grant to fund activity relating to the provision of education services. As a result of this ring-fencing the assumption within the MTFS is that any deficit position does not impact on the general resources available to the council in terms of the general fund revenue account and any deficit reserve.

149. However, there is a significant concern that from April 2023 deficits will need to be recognised by the Council. Currently, given the size of the forecast DSG deficit. If this was recognised it would technically move the Council into a position where it would be considered not to be a going concern. Wiltshire is not alone in this position and we, the Society of County Treasurers, the F40 and other groups are lobbying Government both in terms of the inadequacy of funding for this group of 0-25 learners, the significant delay in the DfE's SEN Review and of this key technical change that would have serious consequences should it arise.

150. Despite the three-year spending review there is still uncertainty in the overall Local Government finance position beyond 2022/23. The government has promised to consult on a fairer funding model from local government for 2023/24 which will include changes to the current business rates retention mechanism, changes to new homes bonus, reductions in ring fenced grants and possible new burdens funding.

151.   The Government have also announced funding for Adult Social Care reforms. Whilst these are welcome, we await the details on how they will be implemented and the impact for Wiltshire. Funding for reforms will need to be distributed on proportionality of self-funders as opposed to the current distribution of Adult Social Care funding which is based on need. Whilst this represents a risk it is still unclear how this will materialise, and for the MTFS an assumption of nil impact on Wiltshire has been made until the position is clearer.

152.   As part of the budget setting process, the levels of balances and reserves is reviewed and determined ensuring that the level is justifiable in the context of local circumstances. The Section 151 officer has reviewed the level in order to ensure a prudent level of balances that reflects a full risk assessment commensurate with the risks that the Council faces and the context within which the authority operates.

153.   The Risk assessment as detailed in Annex 8 of Appendix 1 has put context around the level of reserves held compared to a calculated risk adjusted assessment.

154.   The forecast levels of earmarked reserves are set out in the appendix and forecast balances for future years over the period of the MTFS are shown. As can be seen although the level of reserves held against risk is initially high it reduces over MTFS, as well as the overall level of earmarked reserves is reducing. Although pressures such as demand, and demography are built into the revenue budget there is limited capacity within earmarked reserves to fund transformational activity hence a transformational reserve has been established to assist in this activity.

155.   On the basis of the above, the Section 151 Officer's advice is that the level of reserves, following the prudent management during 2021/22 and the continuing strategic approach to increase over the MTFS period and provide increased reserve coverage of key financial risks is adequate, that the financial standing of the Council is sound and continues to improve in the context of those key risks and that the proposed budget is robust and achievable.

Legal Implications

156.   The Monitoring Officer considers that the proposals, together with this report, fulfil the statutory requirements set out below with regard to setting the amount of Council Tax for the forthcoming year and to set a balanced budget:

- Section 30(6) Local Government Finance Act 1992 ('the 1992 Act') requires that Council Tax must be set before 11 March, in the financial year preceding that for which it is set.

- Section 32 of the 1992 Act sets out the calculations to be made in determining the budget requirements, including contingencies and financial reserves.

- Section 33 of the 1992 Act requires the Council to set a balanced budget.

- Section 25(1) Local Government Act 2003 ('the 2003 Act') requires the Chief Finance Officer of the Council to report to it on (a) the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations; and (b) the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.

- Section 25(2) the 2003 Act requires that when the Council is considering calculations under Section 32, it must have regard to a report of the Chief Finance Officer concerning the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.

- The Local Authorities (Functions & Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended) set out the respective functions of Council and of the Cabinet. With regard to the setting of the budget and Council Tax for the forthcoming year, the Regulations provide that the Cabinet formulates the plan or strategy (in relation to the control of the Council's borrowing or capital expenditure) and the preparation of estimates of the amounts to be aggregated in making the calculations under Section 32 of the 1992 Act. However, the adoption of any such plan or strategy/calculations is the responsibility of full Council.

- Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 require that the Council sets a budget and Council Tax by 11 March each year and in doing so make a number of statutory calculations incorporated by resolution. The Localism Act 2011 has amended some of the terms and definitions to accommodate the introduction of powers to call local referendums for excessive Council Tax increase. The Council is now required to make a calculation of the Council Tax Requirement (Section 31A), excluding Parish precepts. The Act (Section 36) further prescribes that a calculation of the basic amount of Council Tax be presented together with an analysis of the Council Tax across the area and by valuation band. These calculations are required to be presented in a prescribed format and be subject to formal resolution by the Council.

- Section 12(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 and The Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) (Amendment) (No.2) (England) Regulations 2012 gave billing authorities the discretion to levy an empty homes premium of up to 50% on council tax payable in respect of dwellings that have been left empty and unfurnished for two years or more, resulting in a council tax rate for long-term empty properties of up to 150% of the normal liability.

- The Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 provided billing authorities with discretion to charge an additional premium where a property has remained empty and unfurnished for a period in excess of two years. 17.4 The Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended by the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings)

(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 provided an authority with discretion to change the discount in respect of empty and unfurnished properties. Any change to the premium/discount in place needs to be published, as a public notice, within 21 days of the Council adopting any new premium/discount.

- The Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England) Regulations 2001 deal, amongst other things, with the process of approving the budget. Under the constitution the adoption of the budget and the setting of the Council Tax are matters reserved for the Council upon recommendation from Cabinet.

- Council budget: In reaching their decisions, Members and officers must act reasonably, taking into account all relevant considerations and ignoring irrelevant ones. There is a need to ensure that when making budget decisions the result is not one which is irrational in the Wednesbury sense (i.e. one which no reasonable local authority could have made). The Council's overriding duty is to make a lawful budget and this is the touchstone against which other considerations must be tested.

- The Council must have regard to its public sector equality duties when making decisions. This includes the requirement to undertake a Diversity Impact Assessment in relation to all significant changes to policies, procedures or practice, and to pay 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality with regards to race, disability and gender. An overarching Equalities Impact Assessment has been included as an addendum report.

- Appropriate consultation will take place before decisions proposed in this report are made, where required by law or otherwise.

- Legal Obligations: Local authorities provide services pursuant to statutory duties (a mandatory requirement to provide services), and statutory powers, (where the Council has a discretion whether or not to provide services). Where the Council has a legal duty then it still has discretion in determining the manner in which those services are provided, so long as the level of quality of service provision is sufficient to fulfil the statutory duty. The decision to implement budget reductions must not focus solely on financial considerations. Members and officers must address the core question of individual service users' needs. Case law has held that resources may be a relevant consideration in making a decision relating to the manner of service provision, so long as the individual's assessed needs are met.

- Charges for services: In considering charges for services, Members and officers should also try to achieve a fair balance between the interests of the users of council services and Council Tax payers. Where charges are being increased, Members need to bear in mind the scale and extent of the charges, and may need in some cases to have regard to the costs of service provision, associated with the power to charge.

- Members' responsibility to make a personal decision: In Council, Members must make a personal decision on how to vote on the budget proposals. Members' overriding duty is to the whole community. Members have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them. Whilst Members may be strongly influenced by the views of others, and of their party in particular, it is their responsibility alone to determine what view to take when deciding upon budget questions. He/she should not follow party loyalty and party policy to the exclusion of other considerations.

- Members need to balance the cost to Council Tax payers of any budget reductions, against the need for the benefits of services of the particular nature, range and quality, under consideration. If having taken into account all relevant (and disregarding all irrelevant) considerations, Members are satisfied that it is financially prudent and reasonable to make the proposed budget reductions and adopt the recommendations then they may properly and reasonably decide to do so.

- Capping: The Localism Act 2011 has superseded the previous capping legislation and dictates that should a council propose an increase in Council Tax which would be deemed to be excessive in accordance with principles and levels designated by the minister, then a local referendum on the proposal would be required. This would necessitate the drafting of an alternative proposal that would meet ministerial requirements to be put to the electorate alongside the 'excessive' proposition. Since this proposed budget is below the 'excessive' threshold this does not apply.

- Housing Revenue Account: Under Section 76 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the council is required, in advance of the financial year, to formulate proposals which satisfy the requirement that, on certain stated assumptions, the Housing Revenue Account for that year does not show a debit balance. The council is obliged to implement those proposals and from time to time to determine whether the proposals satisfy the 'break even' requirement. If not, then the council shall make such provisions as are reasonable practicable towards securing that the proposals as revised, shall satisfy the requirement.

- Under Section 24 of the Housing Act 1985, the council can make such reasonable charges as it determines for the tenancy or occupation of its houses. The council is obliged, from time to time, to review rents charged and make such changes, as circumstances may require. In exercising this function (determining and fixing rent), the council should have regard to the rents charged in the private sector. A decision to increase rent constitutes a variation of the terms of a tenancy. Under Section 103 of the Housing Act 1985, in respect of secure tenancies, a notice of variation (specifying the variation and date on which it takes effect) must be served on each tenant. For non-secure tenancies (excluding introductory tenancies), a notice must be served that

complies with Section 25 of the Housing Act 1985. The Housing Act 1985 defines the legal requirements for informing tenants of rent increases. In practice this requires the issue of written notification to each tenant a minimum of four weeks in advance of the date that the increase becomes operative.

- The Local Authorities (Standing Orders (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014) require that a recorded vote shall be held on the substantive motion at any Budget Council Meeting

Workforce Implications

157. Proposals around how the budget gap will be bridged will look at all avenues open to the Council and this includes looking at the service the Council provides from a statutory and discretionary level as well as the costs that fall within those services most notably third party spend and staffing. Changes to workforce will be minimised in so far as they can be with mitigations such as holding vacancies where possible and steps to mitigate the need for redundancies will be taken.

158. Staffing savings of £10m have been identified across the MTFS period and steps to deliver these savings will include the deletion of some vacant posts, holding other vacancies temporarily to deliver an increase in the vacancy factor of 1.5%, and reviewing service structures to ensure they have the most effective and efficient staffing models. In addition, changes to some terms and conditions are proposed and negotiations with the recognised trade unions to deliver these savings are taking place with the aim of reaching agreement on these changes by 1 April 2022. The negotiations will aim to deliver £2.1m of the savings required.

159. Where savings do impact on the workforce the Council has in place robust policies and procedures to support this.

Options Considered

160. There is a statutory requirement to set a balanced budget. Other options to close the gap have been considered, however those options have been considered as damaging to the overall delivery of the new business plan and have therefore been discounted.

Conclusions

161. The report supports effective decision making and allows the council to set a balanced revenue budget for 2022/23 and set council tax levels. It also ensures that the council has an MTFS to support long-term financial sustainability and aligns the budget to the Council's Business Plan.

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12/01/2022

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Council Budget 2022/23 & Medium Term Financial Strategy
     2022/23 to 2024/25
Appendix 2 – Capital Strategy 2022/23 to 2029/30

Background Papers

None

Council Budget 2022/23
and
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

This document sets out the Council's Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2024/25.

It maps out in financial terms the Council's journey for the 2022/23 budget and the following two years, taking its direction from the Council's new Business Plan.

The budget will be refreshed annually to take account of any local or national changes and to provide for a three year financial plan in line with the Governments three year spending review. It will follow any review or refresh of the Council's new Business Plan in subsequent years, incorporating any resulting financial changes. It will also be updated for changes in national and local funding assumptions, local income projections, spending pressures and any changes in savings plans.

Finally, the document sets out in detail the proposed saving plans and the estimates and assumptions used in developing the Budget and the MTFS. Those assumptions will be reviewed on a continued basis and, if necessary, amended for future years as more data and evidence on service demands and funding becomes available.

As such, whilst the budget estimates for 2022/23 have been proposed and are set, budgets for the ensuing years 2023/24 – 2024/25 are indicative only and are likely to significantly change before the final budgets for those years are approved as part of the annual cycle.

FUNDING ASSUMPTIONS

The Council receives its funding to deliver services in the main from local taxes, council tax and business rates. It also receives funding from Government in the form of grant. Where this grant is either ringfenced or service specific e.g. Public Health, it is budgeted for against the service it relates too. All other grants are considered core funding and are held 'below the line' to fund the spending on services.

This section will go through the assumptions and data being used to estimate the level of funding being received for those three main funding sources.

Council Tax

The forecast for Council Tax income is driven by two main factors:

a) The number of Band D equivalent properties, known as the 'taxbase'.

> The taxbase for 2022/23 is estimated 189,964.37 Band D equivalents. Going forward, the Council has assumed a collection rate of 98.8% and annual 'growth' of around 1.2% p.a. It is forecast that, by 2024/25, the taxbase will be 194,550.87 Band equivalents.

b) The charge per Band D equivalent property.

> The Council tax charge 2022/23 is £1,638.16, a general rise of 1.99%, plus a further 1% levy for Adult Social Care. A total 2.99% increase on the 2021/22 charge.

Forecasts for later years of the MTFS are based on a further general rise of 1.99% p.a. in each year from 2023/24 to 20234/25, plus one more year of the Adult Social Care levy at 1% in 2023/24.

The current Government Council Tax Referendum prescribed limit of 2% for 2022/23 was announced in the provisional settlement.

Also, in the settlement an Adult Social Care levy of 1% for each of the next three years was permissible for those Councils who have social care responsibilities. This must be spent wholly on Adult Social Services.

The table below sets out the detail on the Council Tax assumptions over the MTFS.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Tax base (Band D Equivalents)	187,517.40	189,964.37	192,243.94	194,550.87
Increase in properties		2,446.97	2,279.57	2,306.93
% increase		1.3%	1.2%	1.2%
Band D Charge (£p)	£1,590.60	£1,638.16	£1,687.14	£1,720.71
Increase in £p		£47.56	£48.98	£33.57
Price % increase		2.99%	2.99%	1.99%
Total Council Tax revenue (£m)	298.265	311.192	324.342	334.766
Increase in £		12.927	13.151	10.424
Increase in %		4.33%	4.23%	3.21%

Business Rates

National Non Domestic Rates (NNDR) are charged on non-domestic properties such as shops, offices and factories. They are calculated using the rateable value (RV) of an eligible property and multiplying it by the appropriate multiplier. The RV is set by the Valuations Office Agency (VOA).

The Council bills all registered properties and under the current national 50:50 business rate retention scheme, the Council retain 49%, the Fire Authority 1% and 50% of the business rates collected is paid over to the Government.

When the 50:50 business rate retention system was introduced in 2013/14, as part of wide changing reforms to Local Government Funding, the Government also introduced a tariff and top up redistribution system based on the overall funding baseline that was set to ensure no Council lost out or indeed profited from the new Local Government funding system.

The level of tariff is estimated at circa £14m and is taken off at source as part of the business rate mechanism, when you take this into the rate retention mechanism, the Council retains around 39% of the distributable business rates within Wiltshire.

The Government announced in the spending review that it would freeze the increase in the multiplier rate for 2022/23 to provide continuing support to businesses. Consequently, the Government announced in the provisional settlement that it would compensate Local Government for the loss of business rates because of the freeze. It is estimated therefore that Wiltshire will receive around £1.16m in funding through a section 31 grant in 2022/23 only, given the intention for business rate reform in 2023/24.

Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit

Over the past 2 years the Collection Fund has seen significant changes due to the economic impact of COVID-19 and the steps taken by government to support businesses and households. The main change has been within the business rates regime and the timing of the reliefs announced for certain business sectors and the timing of the grant to compensate councils for these reliefs. Due to the mechanism and regulation significant deficits have been seen in business rates, with s31 grant funding received in the year to mitigate the cashflow impact on councils.

The declared position of the overall Collection Fund administered by the council for 2021/22 is a surplus for Council Tax of £3.855m and a deficit for Business Rates of (£30.384m). The council's share of these balances is £3.266m and (£14.888m) respectively, resulting in an overall deficit of (£11.622m). Due to the accounting regulation for the Collection Fund this cost falls to the council during the 2022/23 financial year, and this is funded by s31 grant received in 2021/22 that will be rolled forward.

The previous year's deficit will continue to be funded by the monies set aside in the Collection Fund Volatility reserve over the 3 year period 2021/22-2023/24 as originally planned, with the timing of the financial impact across the 3 years set out in the regulations set by government.

Risk remains with the income from local taxation despite the positive indications of new homes growth and the on-going support from government and to support the mitigation of this risk for the council continue to hold a Collection Fund Volatility reserve that was created in 2020/21, and this reserve is forecast to hold £5.675m at the beginning of 2022/23.

Provisional Local Government Settlement

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a three year spending review on 27 October 2021 and outlined an additional £1.6bn a year (£4.8bn over three years) in funding to Local Government and £3.6bn over three years to fund adult social care reforms.

On the 16 December 2021 the Secretary of State announced the provisional local government settlement which provided details on the grant allocations to Councils from this additional funding, together with other measures aimed at supporting Council finances.

The settlement was announced for one year with the intention for reform to take place on how local government is funded from 2023/24.

Nationally of the £1.6bn, £822m had been identified as a new grant for local services and £636m would be for social care. The balance had been top sliced by the Ministry to fund other specific activities.

Of the £636m announced nationally as additional funding for social care, £556m is to be paid as additional social care social grant and £80m to equalise out the Adult Social Care precept flexibilities. The council is set to receive £4.226m from the additional social care grant allocation but does not receive any funding from the Adult Social Care equalisation owing to its Council Tax base position compared to other authorities.

The £822m made available nationally for a new Services Grants is additional one-off funding. The Government announced that the funding covers costs for the increase in employer National Insurance contributions (see Pay Award section below) but that it would not be baselined for transitional support in future years. The allocation for the council has been confirmed as £3.991m, which is new funding for the council and was not previously included in the MTFS assumptions but has only been included for 2022/23 until Government confirm the position for 2023/24. All other grants have been assumed that they will continue at the same rate as 2022/23.

Funding for Adult Social Care reforms was also announced with £162m being made nationally for Councils with social care responsibility in 2022/23 to assist with Market Sustainability and implementing the fair cost of care. This funding will increase significantly, in line with the £3.6bn national figure, as reforms are introduced from October 2023. Wiltshire will receive £1.231m in 2022/23 and it is expected that the cost of the implementation of reforms during 2022/23 as well as the cost of the actual reforms in the latter part of the MTFS will be cost neutral, however this represents a risk to the Council given Wiltshire's high proportion of self-funders in care settings.

The provisional settlement confirmed that year 12 payments for the New Homes Bonus would now be made alongside the legacy payment of £2.407m. An additional

£4.271m of grant funding is to be paid, allocating a total of £6.678m to the council overall for the New Homes Bonus grant.

Other smaller core funding grants have been confirmed as continuing at the same level of funding as 2021/22, and these grants include the Lower Service Tier grant, confirmed at £0.498m and Rural Services Delivery Grant confirmed to continue with the same quantum and basis of allocation, which for the council is £3.480m.

Details of the core funding Government grants are provided in the table below.

Provisional Settlement Comparison	FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23 MTFS Dec 2021 £m	Settlement £m	Outcome £m	2023/24 Estimate £m	2024/25 Estimate £m
Lower Tier Services Grant	0.473	0.498	0.025	0.498	0.498
New Homes Bonus	2.407	6.678	4.271	6.678	6.678
Rural Service Development Grant	3.479	3.479	-	3.479	3.479
New Services Grant	-	3.991	3.991	-	-
Improved Better Care Fund	9.100	9.100	-	9.100	9.100
New Social Care Grant	-	4.226	4.226	4.226	4.226
Social Care Grant	10.000	10.027	0.027	10.027	10.027
Sub total Social Care Grant	10.000	14.253	4.253	14.253	14.253
Total Government Core Funding	**25.459**	**37.999**	**12.540**	**34.008**	**34.008**
Section 31 inc. NNDR Multiplier Compensation	9.102	10.262	1.160	10.262	10.262
Total Specific Grants	**34.561**	**48.261**	**13.700**	**44.270**	**44.270**

The Council also received funding for specific service delivery from Government and these are budgeted for within the services net budget. The significant grants are detailed in the table below.

Specific Grants held in the Services Net Budget Total	2022/23 £ m	2023/24 £ m	2024/25 £ m
Public Health Grant	17.522	17.522	17.522
Former Independent Living Fund	1.081	1.081	1.081
NNDR Admin Grant	0.614	0.614	0.614
Housing Benefit Admin subsidy	1.174	1.174	1.174
Homelessness Prevention Grant	1.005	1.005	1.005
Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund	1.231	-	-
Local Authority Bus Subsidy	0.985	0.985	0.985
Specific Grants In the Services	**23.612**	**22.381**	**22.381**

Summary Forecast Resources

Based on the above assumptions the total core funding available for the Council to deliver services in 2022/23 is £418m.

It reflects the higher than anticipated increases in Council Tax income and the outcome of the provisional settlement.

Going forward in the MTFS it is anticipated that although Government grant will fall, and this is a level of uncertainty around this assumption, the additional income from council tax will see the overall resources continue to increase to £437m by 2024/25.

	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m
Council Tax	275.755	285.756	296.180
Social Care Levy	35.437	38.565	38.565
Business Rates	58.500	58.500	58.500
Collection Fund deficit	(12.872)	(1.250)	-
s31 Grant - CF deficit	11.622	-	-
Specific Grants	49.261	44.110	44.110
Total Funding	**417.703**	**425.681**	**437.355**

This will form the basis of the Councils Net Revenue Budget and fund service spending plans over the next three years.

SERVICE SPENDING PLANS

Service Spending Pressures

As for any other organisation, the Council experiences budget pressures as a result of inflation e.g. contractual and national staff pay awards, increasing demand for service provision and changes in legislation.

The Council has considered and made provision for spending pressures that are likely to materialise, totalling over £68m by 2024/25.

Some of these pressures have been recognised during the budget monitoring of the current 2021/22 financial year but the vast majority are pressures that are expected to arise based on the current assumptions and estimates. These are listed in the table below and the most significant items explained in the ensuing narrative:

	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	Total £m
Pay Inflation	7.401	4.063	4.234	15.698
Contractual Inflation	13.608	8.745	8.197	30.550
Total Inflationary Pressures	21.009	12.808	12.431	46.248
Removal of Election Costs	(1.000)	-	-	(1.000)
Revised Income Assumptions	(3.485)	(0.200)	-	(3.685)
Demand for Adult Social Care inc. Hospital Discharges	0.365	3.273	3.449	7.087
Demand for School Transport inc. SEND Transport	0.001	2.842	3.165	6.008
Demand for Children's Social Care	0.742	0.110	(0.212)	0.640
Waste Management changes	(0.299)	0.113	0.118	(0.068)
Increase for Ash Die Back	0.500	-	-	0.500
Base budget for Monkton Park PFI	0.509	-	-	0.509
Increase in scope of new income system	0.053	-	-	0.053
CCG contribution from Better Care Fund	(1.654)	-	-	(1.654)
Reduction in Corporate Legal costs	(0.250)	-	-	(0.250)
Scale back PPE requirements	(0.270)	-	-	(0.270)
Financing the Capital Programme	0.154	8.933	3.483	12.570
Total Demand Pressures	(4.634)	15.071	10.003	20.440
				-
Cabinet Investment on SEND & Inclusion	1.742	-	-	1.742
Grand Total Spending Pressures	**18.117**	**27.879**	**22.434**	**68.430**

Pay inflation

Pay inflation includes the national pay award, annual increments for staff not at the top of their scale and the impact of national insurance rises.

In 2022/23 £7.4m has been budgeted to allow for the previously unbudgeted pay award from 2021/22, which at the time of publication the outcome was still unknown, as well as the pay award for 2022/23. Both years awards have been estimated at 2%.

In addition, from April 2022 National Insurance contribution rate will increase by an additional 1.25%. From April 2023 National Insurance will return to the current rate and the extra tax will remain as a new Health and Social Care levy.

Contractual inflation

The total contract inflation arising over the next three years is estimated to be circa £30.5m, with £13.6m estimated in 2022/23.

The Council budgets for inflation based on the indices that those supplies and services are contractually linked to. For strategic budget planning purposes, we are looking to hold this to Consumer Price Index (CPI) but specific contracts will have different indices aligned to them.

While the Council works towards that position, the approach towards inflation management within contracts varies across the organisation and therefore reflects the actual pressures identified by services and the inflation indices used.

The majority of contracts are linked to CPI and the councils uses the Bank of England (BoE) forecast issued in November of the preceding year to estimate the CPI rate. Previously the MTFS was assuming the BoE target rate of 2% but given the recent rises in inflation the forecast for 2022/23 released in November estimated the average CPI for the year would be 4%.

All inflation assumptions linked to CPI have now used this revised higher forecast for 2022/23, returning back down to 2% from 2023/24.

There are outliers for forecasts on inflation, most notably around energy prices. Given the current volatility of the energy market the Council has moved to secure and fix the majority of its energy prices entering into the 2022/23 financial year. This provides security against the ongoing volatility but will see significant uplift against the current contract prices, with Gas at 60% and Electricity at 35%.

Demand for Services

Demand for services the Council provides is driven dependent on a specific service, for Waste Management it is driven through the number of households and the total tonnage of Waste produced, for Adult Social Care the number of residents requiring packages of care or placements. For the latter an ageing demographic will have a significant impact on the amount of demand predicted to arise.

The base budget was set assuming a level of demand for services that was estimated in 2021/21, at the height of the pandemic in February 2021, and throughout the current financial year forecasts have been revised based on latest evidence and trends.

For 2022/23 revisions have been made to the base budget to accurately revise the level of base budget to reflect current demands in some services, with later years then revised to estimate the level of demand for those services from that revised base. Revisions have been made during the budget monitoring of the 2021/22 financial year where they are recognised to continue into future years e.g. hospital discharge costs, as a result of the current trends which are expected to continue, are estimated to increase by nearly £2m in 2022/23.

Income assumptions have also been updated to reflect an improving position from those income streams significantly impacted as a result of COVID-19 and the social distancing guidelines and measures that were in place during 2021/22.

Cabinet Investment

As resolved at the Cabinets meeting on 21 July 2021, an investment of £1.742m has been included in the 2022/23 budget to increase capacity within Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)END & Inclusion services to ensure fit for purpose, efficient, quality sustainable and secure service to deliver the SEND & Inclusion strategy

SAVINGS

The Cabinet have been working on putting together saving proposals over the three years that would not only still enable business plan priorities to be delivered but also for the Councils finances to be managed and move to a sustainable footing.

Saving proposals have been put forward that total £39m over the MTFS, significantly over £25m in the first year.

	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	Total £m
Previously Approved Savings	(0.585)	(1.000)	(0.790)	(2.374)
Staffing Savings Proposals	(6.985)	(3.211)	-	(10.197)
Service Savings Proposals	(17.255)	(6.476)	(2.200)	(25.931)
Total Savings Planned	**(24.825)**	**(10.687)**	**(2.990)**	**(38.502)**

The detail proposal for savings by each service are shown in annex 6 of this appendix.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Capital Programme is detailed in annex 7, a summary is provided below.

	Revised 22/23 Budget	Revised 23/24 Budget	Revised 24/25 Budget	Revised 25/26 Budget	Revised 26/27 Budget	Revised 27/28 Budget	Revised 28/29 Budget	Revised 29/30 Budget	TOTAL
Approved Capital Programme	289.870	160.874	136.175	66.341	66.760	68.047	69.286	70.692	928.045
Capital Bids approved as part of 2022/23 Budget Setting	17.245	44.541	61.410	18.866	44.306	87.685	84.605	0.250	358.908
Total	**307.115**	**205.415**	**197.585**	**85.207**	**111.066**	**155.732**	**153.891**	**70.942**	**1,286.953**

Financed By:									
Grants	73.152	79.999	101.497	40.574	62.232	99.055	96.387	24.720	577.616
Contributions	2.198	7.162	7.739	2.962	0.542	0.000	0.000	0.000	20.603
HRA	45.159	38.309	36.391	36.434	37.621	38.935	40.203	41.512	314.564
Capital Receipts	3.439	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	5.189
Flexible Capital Receipts	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Borrowing - Funded by Revenue Saving in Service	100.787	33.478	13.299	0.019	0.119	0.141	0.163	0.309	148.315
Borrowing	82.380	44.217	38.409	4.968	4.150	4.151	4.150	4.151	186.576
Other	0.000	2.000	0.000	0.000	6.152	13.200	12.738	0.000	34.090
Total Funding	**307.115**	**205.415**	**197.585**	**85.207**	**111.066**	**155.732**	**153.891**	**70.942**	**1,286.953**

New schemes totalling £359m will be added to the Capital Programme, the majority of which will be funded from sources other than borrowing. The schemes are detailed below.

The revenue financing of new schemes that are funded from borrowing, which totals over £45m, has been factored in the pressures of the MTFS.

	Revised 22/23 Budget	Revised 23/24 Budget	Revised 24/25 Budget	Revised 25/26 Budget	Revised 26/27 Budget	Revised 27/28 Budget	Revised 28/29 Budget	Revised 29/30 Budget	TOTAL
Major Road Network M4 Junction 17	1.007	1.233	17.033	8.567	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	27.840
A338 Salisbury Junction Improvements MRN	0.759	0.561	10.136	4.114	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	15.570
A350 Chippenham Bypass (Ph 4&5) MRN	1.091	19.056	11.070	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	31.217
A3250 Melksham Bypass LLM - Full Scheme	2.825	5.630	5.795	5.935	44.056	87.435	84.355	0.000	236.031
Parking Contactless Machines	0.127	0.127	0.126						0.380
Trowbridge Leisure Centre	2.000	13.000	10.000						25.000
FMIE - Commercial & Rural Estate Planned Maintenance	0.630	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	2.380
FMOE - Car Parks - Structural & Lighting	1.000	0.500	0.500						2.000
FMOE -Salisbury Library		0.750							0.750
Fleet - Carbon Neutral Fleet	1.410								1.410
Drainage Improvements	0.500	0.500	0.500						1.500
HRC Savings Infrastructure	0.100								0.100
Passenger Transport RTPI	0.695								0.695
SMM - School Mobile Accomodation Replacement	0.500	1.500	1.000						3.000
Early Years Buildings	1.170								1.170
Waste Collection Vehicle Replacement	0.500								0.500
MBT Emissions Control Equipment	0.300								0.300
Closed Landfill Sites - Review & Works	0.219	0.219							0.438
Leisure Centres Requirements	2.412	1.215	5.000						8.627
Total	**17.245**	**44.541**	**61.410**	**18.866**	**44.306**	**87.685**	**84.605**	**0.250**	**358.908**

RESERVES

The Council holds reserves to either undertake planned one off investment/spending or to deal with financial shocks/risk that face the authority in its operations.

In the setting of the 2021/22 budget the Cabinet unveiled its intention to be more transparent on the reserves held and to move the Council to holding reserves that are commensurate with the level of financial risk being faced, and where that was lower than how it would plan to move towards the level of risk assessed balance.

The General Fund Reserve is the Councils reserve held to deal with all financial shocks, whatever they may be. The table below shows the estimated opening balance, reflecting the increased balance as a result of the increases planned during 2021/22, and the balances as a result of holding to the planned strategy of increasing contributions to bring the reserve up to the risk assessed level over the MTFS.

General Fund Reserve Forecast

Year Ended 31 March	2022/23 £M	2023/24 £M	2024/25 £M
Opening Balance	18.256	18.256	19.656
Contribution to / (from)	1.400	1.400	1.400
Removed as per budget setting	(1.400)	-	-
Closing Balance	18.256	19.656	21.056

Annex 8 provides the full detail on the general fund risk assessment. The table below then provides an estimate of the reserves held against the risk assessed level. The budget equalisation reserve is being estimated to be used to balance the 2023/24 budget and then exhausted in 2024/25, however the reality is likely that either further

saving proposals will come forward or Government's funding reforms will become clearer for Wiltshire.

Reserves Held Against Assessed Financial Risk

Year Ended 31 March	2022/23 £M	2023/24 £M	2024/25 £M
General Fund	18.256	18.256	19.656
Budget Equalisation	16.520	16.520	7.418
Collection Fund Volatility	6.438	5.188	3.938
Latent Demand	7.034	4.034	-
Opening Balance	48.248	43.998	31.012
Net Movement on General Fund	-	1.400	1.400
Planned use of Budget Equalisation	-	(9.102)	(7.418)
Planned use of Collection Fund	(1.250)	(1.250)	-
Estimated use of Latent Demand	(3.000)	(4.034)	-
Closing Balance	43.998	31.012	24.994
Represented By:			
General Fund	18.256	19.656	21.056
Budget Equalisation	16.520	7.418	-
Collection Fund Volatility	5.188	3.938	3.938
Latent Demand	4.034	-	-
Closing Balance	43.998	31.012	24.994
Risk Assessed Balance*	27.615	27.615	27.615
Cover	159%	112%	91%

The Council also holds Earmarked Reserves to deliver on planned or ringfenced spending. The table below provides details on the total level of reserves held by the Council, including Earmarked Reserves as well as Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and school balances.

Reserve	Closing Balance 2021/22 £m	Closing Balance 2022/23 £m	Closing Balance 2023/24 £m	Closing Balance 2024/25 £m
General Fund	**18.256**	**18.256**	**19.656**	**21.056**
EARMARKED RESERVES:				
Budget Equalisation	16.520	16.520	7.418	0.000
Latent Demand	7.034	4.034	0.000	0.000
Collection Fund Volatility	6.925	5.675	4.425	4.425
Public Health	4.823	4.823	4.823	4.823
Transformation	3.299	3.299	3.299	0.000
Business Plan Priorities	0.397	0.509	0.000	0.000
PFIs	5.494	5.494	5.494	5.494
Insurance	2.338	2.038	1.738	1.738
Other Earmarked	4.993	3.910	4.041	4.041
Total Earmarked	**51.823**	**46.302**	**31.239**	**20.522**
Schools Balances	12.542	12.542	12.542	12.542
DSG	-27.708	-38.708	-51.708	-51.708
TOTAL	**54.913**	**38.392**	**11.729**	**2.412**

Annexes

Annex 1 – Service Budget Targets 2022/23

Annex 2 – Detail by Service on Technical Adjustments. Pay Award & Investment

Annex 3 – Detail by Service on Budget Monitoring Permanent Changes

Annex 4 – Detail by Service on Contractual Inflation

Annex 5 – Detail by Service on Service Demand Changes

Annex 6 – Detail by Service on Saving Proposals

Annex 7 – Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2029/30

Annex 8 – General Fund Reserve Risk Assessment 2022/23

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges

Wiltshire Council - MTFP Model 2022-23 to 2024-25
Annex 1 - Service Budget Targets 2022/23

Service	Revised Base Budget 2021/22	Funding Changes	Technical Adjustments	Pay Award	Cabinet Investment	Budget Monitoring Permanent Changes	Contractual Inflation	Demand	Previously Approved Savings	Staffing Savings Proposals	Service Savings Proposals	Proposed Budget 2022/23	Change in Budget
						Analysis of Movement in the 2021-22 Budget to the Proposed 2022-23 Budget							
Living and Ageing Well Total	£67,894,905	-	-	£936,400	-	£1,996,000	£2,455,600	£4,111,700	-£60,000	-£788,700	-£4,450,000	£72,095,905	£4,201,000
Whole Life Pathway Total	£81,004,825	-	£2,793,000	£410,000	-	-	£2,896,800	-£5,742,300	-	-£439,400	-£2,920,000	£78,002,925	-£3,001,900
Education & Skills Total	£20,466,610	-	-	£826,700	£1,742,000	-	£507,100	-£89,200	-	-£390,500	-£334,500	£22,728,210	£2,261,600
Families & Children's Total	£60,509,910	-	£750,000	£1,220,200	-	-	£1,045,400	£741,700	-£525,000	-£1,039,400	-£528,100	£62,174,710	£1,664,800
Corporate Director People Total	**£229,876,250**	**-**	**£3,543,000**	**£3,393,300**	**£1,742,000**	**£1,996,000**	**£6,904,900**	**-£978,100**	**-£585,000**	**-£2,658,000**	**-£8,232,600**	**£235,001,750**	**£5,125,500**
Finance Total	£3,685,820	-	-	£389,800	-	-	-	-	-	-£170,500	-£10,200	£3,894,920	£209,100
Assets & Commercial Development Total	£15,382,270	-	-	£137,900	-	£509,200	£1,454,000	-£411,600	-	-£365,600	-£445,500	£16,260,670	£878,400
Information Services Total	£11,413,020	-	-	£364,900	-	-	£299,300	£53,100	-	-£401,800	-£133,000	£11,595,520	£182,500
Procurement & Commissioning Total	£8,252,130	-	-	£261,400	-	-£1,654,000	-	-	-	-£363,100	-£1,186,300	£5,310,130	-£2,942,000
HRA Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corporate Director Resources Total	**£38,733,240**	**-**	**-**	**£1,154,000**	**-**	**-£1,144,800**	**£1,753,300**	**-£358,500**	**-**	**-£1,301,000**	**-£1,775,000**	**£37,061,240**	**-£1,672,000**
Highways & Transport Total	£36,891,750	-	-	£561,000	-	-£160,000	£2,405,600	£425,900	-	-£455,700	-£1,907,900	£37,760,650	£868,900
Economy & Regeneration Total	£2,777,516	-	-	£94,500	-	-	-	-£37,400	-	-£253,500	-£90,600	£2,490,516	-£287,000
Planning Total	£2,372,551	-	-	£358,900	-	-	-	-£623,900	-	-£164,400	-£273,000	£1,670,151	-£702,400
Environment Total	£42,879,913	-	-	£198,600	-	-£945,000	£2,522,500	£36,400	-	-£145,500	-£1,332,000	£43,214,913	£335,000
Leisure Culture & Communities Total	£9,581,930	-	-	£566,400	-	-£800,000	-	-£816,700	-	-£959,400	-£97,900	£7,474,330	-£2,107,600
Corporate Director Place Total	**£94,503,660**	**-**	**-**	**£1,779,400**	**-**	**-£1,905,000**	**£4,928,100**	**-£1,015,700**	**-**	**-£1,978,500**	**-£3,701,400**	**£92,610,560**	**-£1,893,100**
Public Health Total	£1,465,300	-	-	£194,000	-	-	-	-	-	-£57,900	-£4,100	£1,597,300	£132,000
Legal & Governance Total	£8,672,560	-	-	£403,900	-	-	£5,400	-£1,131,400	-	-£468,600	-	£7,481,860	-£1,190,700
HR&OD and Transformation Total	£6,437,050	-	-	£425,200	-	-	-	-	-	-£182,200	-£1,211,700	£5,468,350	-£968,700
Corporate Directors & Members Total	£3,328,570	-	-	£51,500	-	-	-	-	-	-£339,000	-	£3,041,070	-£287,500
Chief Executive Directorates Total	**£19,903,480**	**-**	**-**	**£1,074,600**	**-**	**-**	**£5,400**	**-£1,131,400**	**-**	**-£1,047,700**	**-£1,215,800**	**£17,588,580**	**-£2,314,900**
Movement on Reserves Total	-£8,444,000	£7,306,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-£1,137,900	£7,306,100
Capital Financing Total	£27,167,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	£153,500	-	-	-£480,000	£26,840,600	-£326,500
Corporate Costs Total	£4,196,170	-	-	-	-	-	£16,400	-£250,000	-	-	-£850,000	£3,112,570	-£1,083,600
Corporate Levies Total	£6,625,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£6,625,200	-
Corporate Total	**£29,544,470**	**£7,306,100**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**£16,400**	**-£96,500**	**-**	**-**	**-£1,330,000**	**£35,440,470**	**£5,896,000**
WILTSHIRE COUNCIL NET BUDGET	**£412,561,100**	**£7,306,100**	**£3,543,000**	**£7,401,300**	**£1,742,000**	**-£1,053,800**	**£13,608,100**	**-£3,580,200**	**-£585,000**	**-£6,985,200**	**-£16,254,800**	**£417,702,600**	**£5,141,500**
Council Tax Requirement	-£265,849,900	-£9,904,700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-£275,754,600	-£9,904,700
Social Care Levy	-£32,415,700	-£3,021,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-£35,437,300	-£3,021,600
Rates Retention	-£58,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-£58,500,000	-
Collection Fund (surplus) / deficit	£1,250,000	£11,621,876	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£12,871,876	£11,621,876
s31 Grant - Collection Fund deficit	-	-£11,621,876	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-£11,621,876	-£11,621,876
Specific Grants	-£36,744,000	-£7,973,700	-£3,543,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-£1,000,000	-£49,260,700	-£12,516,700
Hardship & Emergency Funding	-£20,301,500	£20,301,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£20,301,500
Income/Funding Total	**-£412,561,100**	**-£598,500**	**-£3,543,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-£1,000,000**	**-£417,702,600**	**-£5,141,500**

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

Annex 2 – Detail by service on Technical Adjustments

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Learning Disabilities & Autism Service - Technical adjustment to move Social Care Grant Income budget from Service to Funding so full grant recognised centrally	2,793,000	-	-
Corporate Director People	Families & Children's	Children in Care & Young People - Technical adjustment to move Social Care Grant Income budget from Service to Funding so full grant recognised centrally	750,000	-	-
Corporate	Movement on Reserves	Removal of one off use of Budget Equalisation Earmarked Reserve	7,194,000	-	-
Corporate	Movement on Reserves	Create one off Business Plan Priorities Earmarked Reserve in 2022/23	112,100	(112,100)	
Corporate	Movement on Reserves	Removal of Collection Fund Volatility Reserves funding of collection fund deficit	-	-	1,250,000
Funding and Technical Adjustment Changes Total			**10,849,100**	**(112,100)**	**1,250,000**

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

Annex 2 – Detail by service on Pay Award Changes

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
All	All	Pay Award at 2% for 2021/22 and 2022/23 and NI increase of 1.25% for 2022/23 Pay Award of 2% for 2023/24 & 2024/25	7,401,300	4,063,000	4,234,000
Pay Award Total			**7,401,300**	**4,063,000**	**4,234,000**

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

Annex 2 – Detail by service on Cabinet Investment

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Investment in SEN & Inclusion service (Cabinet decision)	1,742,000	-	-
Growth Total			**1,742,000**	**-**	**-**

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25
Annex 3 – Detail by service on Budget Monitoring Permanent Changes

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Living Well - Net impact on level of demand that the removal of Hospital Discharge Funding by central Government imposes on the Council	1,996,000	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Assets & Commercial Development	Monkton Park PFI, Ear Marked Reserve exhausted in 2020/21 so base budget required	509,200	-	-
Corporate Director People	Procurement & Commissioning	Better Care Fund - CCG provide Wiltshire Council an element of funding from BCF for protecting Adult Social Care. This increase is inline with CCG responsibility to increase that amount inline with CCG minimum contribution.	(1,654,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Local Highways - Street works Income budgets in line with 2021/22 demand	(250,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Passenger Transport - Additional Buses required for Wootton Bassett Academy so that busses arrive on site no earlier than 10 minutes before the start of the school day	90,000	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Management - Increase Income budgets for Green Waste, Bulky and Lot 2 HRC Recyclables Income budgets in line with 2021/22 demand	(545,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Management - implement waste collection round efficiencies	(400,000)		
Corporate Director Place	Leisure Culture & Communities	Leisure Operations - Alignment of pricing levels as part of Insourcing Leisure Centres and setting target at 80% of pre-covid levels	(800,000)	(200,000)	-
Budget Monitoring Permanent Changes Total			**(1,053,800)**	**(200,000)**	**-**

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

Annex 4 – Detail by service on Contractual Inflation

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Living Well - Contractual uplifts have been applied in the range of 0% to 2.68% ; in addition it is anticipated that there are specific areas where there may be significant increases in prices, and 5% for some specific services has been factored in	2,455,600	2,122,100	2,198,700
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Mental Health Service - Contractual uplifts have been applied in the range of 0% to 2.5%; in addition it is anticipated that there are specific areas where there may be significant increases in prices	1,228,200	562,200	578,200
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Learning Disabilities & Autism Service - Contractual uplifts have been applied in the range of 0% to 2.5%; in addition it is anticipated that there are specific providers where there may be significant increases in prices	1,668,600	976,300	1,003,300
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	SEND Inclusion - Inflation increase	507,100	292,700	331,400
Corporate Director People	Families & Children's	Children in Care & Young People - SEN and Social Care Placements Contractual Inflation	840,600	1,039,400	1,068,800
Corporate Director People	Families & Children's	Children in Care & Young People -SEN Social Care Placements Contractual Inflation	204,800	201,500	219,600
Corporate Director Resources	Assets & Commercial Development	Inflation increase for the estate - rates for 2022/23 Electricity 35%, Gas 60%, water 4%, biomass 10%, cleaning 5%, waste & NNDR 4%	1,454,000	336,900	350,600
Corporate Director Resources	Information Services	CPI at 4% on Applications and Microsoft Applications, assumes Licences are static	299,300	155,900	158,900
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Local Highways and Passenger Transport - Inflation rates linked to contracts or CPI (range 4-7.5%). Street Lighting Energy at 35%	2,405,600	1,060,800	1,114,300
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Management - CPI (blended rate as applies from Jul) at 3.6% on all contracts accept Landfill Tax, Lakeside and MBT contract which is at 6%	2,522,500	1,994,300	1,170,500
Chief Executive Directorates	Legal & Governance	Inflation increase for Mortuary Transport contract CPI at 4%	5,400	2,800	2,900
Corporate	Corporate Costs	SWAP Audit 3% price increase	16,400	-	-
Contractual Inflation Total			**13,608,100**	**8,744,900**	**8,197,200**

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Annex 5 – Detail by service on Service Demand changes

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Living Well - Adjustments in light of demand levels in line with 2021/22 forecast, new model to predict changes in demand using POPPI and PANSI population projections	4,111,700	1,426,300	1,497,400
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Learning Disabilities & Autism Service - Adjustments in light of demand levels in line with 2021/22 forecast, new model to predict changes in demand using POPPI and PANSI population projections	(4,868,900)	1,434,300	1,514,600
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Learning Disabilities & Autism Service - Transitions reflected in ASC as a pressure	1,358,300	-	-
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Community Support - Adjustments in light of demand levels in line with 2021/22 forecast, new model to predict changes in demand using POPPI and PANSI population projections	(2,231,700)	412,500	437,400
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	SEN Education - Revised PTU estimate, SEN Transport aligned to 2021/22	(974,000)	1,340,900	1,518,200
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	SEN Education - Anticipated demand at current prices which reflect the higher unit cost due to the national taxi driver shortage	884,800	1,501,200	1,647,000
Corporate Director People	Families & Children's	Children in Care & Young People - Social Care Placements Demand	472,900	109,800	(211,500)
Corporate Director People	Families & Children's	Children in Care & Young People - Connected Persons Rate change following case law	268,800	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Assets & Commercial Development	Puts Sales Fees and Charges budgets up so back to 100% of pre-covid level	(141,600)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Assets & Commercial Development	Remove PPE element for one of pressure in 2021/22. Assumes some additional cleaning for Council building (excluding Leisure) in response to COVID measures has to continue.	(270,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Information Services	Digital Board Civica application increase in scope	53,100	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Local Highways - increased budget for Ash Die Back programme to inspect and remove diseased trees	500,000	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Local Highways - Puts Sales Fees and Charges budgets up so back to 98% of pre-covid level	(74,100)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Economy & Regeneration	Puts Sales Fees and Charges budgets up so back to 98% of pre-covid level	(37,400)		

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25
Annex 5 – Detail by service on Service Demand changes

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Puts Sales Fees and Charges budgets up so that overall now at pre-covid level for Development Management and 98% of pre-covid levels for Building Control and Local Land Charges	(623,900)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Management - Tonnage increase linked to Household growth, has been assumed at 1% increase based on Q2 2021/22 tonnages	101,200	113,100	117,700
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Puts Sales Fees and Charges budgets up so that overall back to 98% of pre-covid level	(64,800)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Leisure Culture & Communities	Puts Sales Fees and Charges budgets up so that overall Leisure Operations back to 80% , Libraries 94% and Heritage 98% of pre-covid levels	(816,700)	-	-
Chief Executive Directorates	Legal & Governance	Removes one off base budget adjustment in 2021/22 for Elections for when reserve was used as part of 2019/20 spend mitigations.	(1,000,000)	-	-
Chief Executive Directorates	Legal & Governance	Puts Sales Fees and Charges budgets up so that overall back to 98% of pre-covid level	(131,400)	-	-
Corporate	Capital Financing	Capital Financing increase based on 2021/22 Q3 Capital Programme and approved BIDS, covers MRP and Interest	153,500	8,933,000	3,483,000
Corporate	Corporate Costs	50% reduction in Corporate Legal costs budget	(250,000)	-	-
Demand Total			**(3,580,200)**	**15,271,100**	**10,003,800**

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

Annex 6 – Detail by service on Previously Approved Savings

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Living Well - Adults 18+ Hospitals & Integration	(60,000)	-	
Corporate Director People	Families & Children's	Children in Care & Young People - Fostering Excellence	(525,000)	(999,600)	(789,500)
Approved Savings Total			**(585,000)**	**(999,600)**	**(789,500)**

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

Annex 6 – Detail by service on Savings Proposals

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Living Well - Continue with the brokerage process for allocating domiciliary care packages to Tier 1 providers	(100,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Living Well - Improved pricing and more effective demand management to be achieved with the introduction of additional zones of delivery and/or specialist tariffs (e.g. complex needs/end of life) through the Help to Live at Home (homecare) Alliance	(50,000)	(450,000)	-
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Living Well - Improved pricing and hospital discharge flow to nursing homes improved by increasing bed capacity block contracts and framework beds, particularly in locations where there is low bed capacity or where there are delays in meeting demand	(100,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Living Well - Increase Occupational Therapists to review large packages of care where there are moving and handling needs that require two support workers. Through use of specialist equipment and techniques, it is often possible to reduce the need for two support workers and therefore the costs also reduce	(100,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Living Well - Convert spot placements to block contract and negotiate reduced prices in Older People residential and nursing placements	(200,000)	(500,000)	-
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Living Well - New Prevention & Well being team in adults. Early support replacing Local Area Co-ordinators	(100,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Living Well - Improved Better Care Fund to be used to support social care, reduce pressure on NHS & support care market	(2,900,000)	-	-

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25
Annex 6 – Detail by service on Savings Proposals

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Living Well - To ensure we are achieving best value when delivering outcomes for individuals in order to meet their social care needs. This will involve using a strengths based approach to care and and support planning and increased use of direct payments.	(813,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Housing Services - Due to an increase in housing provider fees over a three year period we need to increase our income. This is the housing provider fee we charge to run and manage the Councils allocation system to enable us to be able to allocate homes in line with government guidance and legislation on behalf of the providers.	(30,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Living and Ageing Well	Housing Services - No longer provide Handy person scheme, service now managed differently through HIA service	(57,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Learning Disabilities & Autism Service - Roll out Enablement outreach model supporting people with LD or MH in crisis to reduce demand on specialist placements and supporting them to be as independent as possible	(90,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Learning Disabilities & Autism Service - Improved use of Care Cubed, a tool to help us obtain an evidence-based picture of what a placement is likely to cost, based on benchmarking data. It aids negotiation	(500,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Learning Disabilities & Autism Service - Contract variations and re-commissioning of Good Lives Alliance (Framework Contract for rates for care of adults with LD)	(250,000)	(750,000)	-
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Learning Disabilities & Autism Service - Convert spot to block contracts and negotiate reduced prices in working age residential placements (commissioning activity related to placements for adults with learning disability)	(250,000)	(750,000)	-
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Learning Disabilities & Autism Service - Re-commission day opportunities for working age adults and older people so less are spot purchased and they better meet need and provide value for money	-	(100,000)	-

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25
Annex 6 – Detail by service on Savings Proposals

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Learning Disabilities & Autism Service - Increased use of Shared Lives	(150,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Learning Disabilities & Autism Service - Savings against high cost action plan to address spend on under 65 placements (mainly adults with learning disabilities)	(500,000)	(500,000)	-
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Community Support - Income collection from clients in LD who only use in house services	(80,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Community Support - Travel reduction resulting from greater outreach and reduction of use of day centres for adults with LD	(100,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Whole Life Pathway	Mental Health & Safeguarding - CCG contribution to customers following discharge from mental health hospital (Section 117 Aftercare) has increased	(1,000,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Targeted Education - Increase Schools traded Service income by CPI 4%	(6,400)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Inclusion & SEND - SEND Travel Review for transport for children with Special educational needs	(140,000)	(250,000)	-
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Inclusion & SEND Increase Schools traded Service income by CPI 4%	(5,300)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	School Effectiveness - Moving Early Years Entitlement payments to Liquid Logic database will reduce staffing admin requirements	(28,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	School Effectiveness - Removal of funding for consultants in the School Place Commissioning Team	(38,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	School Effectiveness - Increase Schools traded Service income by CPI 4%	(6,800)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Employment & Skills - Review of service delivery to align with the Wiltshire Council funded element solely to statutory duties and crucial partnership engagement	(110,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Families & Children's	Support & Safeguarding - Make efficiencies across the contract portfolio in Families and Children's Commissioning, through contract negotiation and service reviews	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
Corporate Director People	Families & Children's	Support & Safeguarding - Apply Supporting families grant to address multiple disadvantages through a whole family approach, delivered by keyworkers	(225,000)	-	-
Corporate Director People	Families & Children's	Children in Care & Young People - New residential Children's Home Block Contract	(50,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25
Annex 6 – Detail by service on Savings Proposals

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director People	Families & Children's	Children in Care & Young People - Residential Step Forward Programme, moving children from residential placements in foster placements	(200,000)	(105,000)	(100,000)
Corporate Director People	Families & Children's	Children in Care & Young People - Increase Schools traded Service income by CPI 4%	(3,100)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Finance	Increase Schools traded Service income by CPI 4%	(10,200)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Assets & Commercial Development	Housing related support contracts saving from recommissioning service	(100,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Assets & Commercial Development	Generation of rental and service charge income from the Operational Estate, through lettings to third partners, commissioned services, public body partners or commercial companies	(170,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Assets & Commercial Development	Property cost avoided in Busines rates, utilities and security by the demolition, where appropriate of void buildings. The demolition should remove the liabilities and risks, and add value to the capital receipt potential of the site to be taken forward	(51,500)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Assets & Commercial Development	Property operating costs reduced by the close down and disposal of buildings	(19,500)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Assets & Commercial Development	Utility savings (gas and electricity) from improved building energy performance following capital investment through the Property Carbon Reduction Programme	(60,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Assets & Commercial Development	Re-investment of increase capital receipt into the commercial and rural estates. The aim is to invest capital into sites that mitigate reactive management costs and improve the lettability of the units to maintain income streams. The proposal encourages an active asset management approach for the council's investment estates, which currently have to compete with operational assets	(25,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Assets & Commercial Development	Future target for income generation through our assets as well reduction in operating costs following asset rationalisation through service reviews	-	(500,000)	(500,000)
Corporate Director Resources	Assets & Commercial Development	Increase Schools traded Service income by CPI 4%	(19,500)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Information Services	Review and reduce Applications costs by rationalising	(25,000)	-	-

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Annex 6 – Detail by service on Savings Proposals

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director Resources	Information Services	Reduce spend on corporate network	(50,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Information Services	Reduce spend on telephony	(25,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Information Services	Reduce costs as a result the new Liquid Logic Children's system	(33,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Procurement & Commissioning	Reduce funding for lunch clubs for older adults	(60,000)	(60,000)	-
Corporate Director Resources	Procurement & Commissioning	Decommission Housing Related Support	(958,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Resources	Procurement & Commissioning	Reduce funding for Friendship Clubs for adults with learning disabilities	(46,300)	(46,300)	-
Corporate Director Resources	Procurement & Commissioning	Reduce grant funding to Citizens Advice to core funding only	(122,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Car Parking - Introduce Parking charges for Blue Badge Holders	(40,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Car Parking - Introduce Sunday charges in all carparks	(50,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Car Parking - Increase the daily fee for Tradesmen's waivers from £11 to £15	(4,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Car Parking - Increase the charge for daily visitor permits for on street residential zones. From £0.040 to £0.060	(10,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Car Parking - Introduce a new charge of £20 for the currently free annual visitor permit. This is a permit available to a household where the occupant is over 60 and does not own a car	(5,400)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Car Parking - Remove the current arrangement of free parking after 3pm in Culver Street car park Salisbury	(40,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Car Parking - Remove free event parking from Town Councils. We provide the equivalent of two days free parking to all Town Councils.	(20,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Car Parking - Increase car parking charges by 10p per hour on every tariff; factors in a small drop in service demand	(600,000)	(120,000)	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Car Parking - Introduce car parking charges at Castle Combe car park	(30,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Highways Operations - Charge for advertising on Bus Shelters	(100,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Highways Operations - Reduce Consultants and Professional fees for Highways	(100,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Highways Operations - Fleet Strategy savings from capital investment in the stock	(57,000)	-	-

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Annex 6 – Detail by service on Savings Proposals

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Highways Operations - Retender a revised Streetscene Grounds Maintenance contract. Reduce quantity of grass cutting by changing suitable areas of land to less frequent cuts, including changing use to wildflower areas, engagement in "No Mow May" initiative. Replace petrol and diesel vehicles, machinery and tools with electric power. Delegate services and/or transfer areas of amenity land to town/parish councils. Transfer Council managed allotments.	(260,500)	(140,000)	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Highways Operations - Road Safety programme efficiencies	(70,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Highways Operations - Grey Fleet saving from the allocation of a vehicles to any Wiltshire Grey fleet driver doing over 8000 miles	(20,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Local Highways - Skips & Scaffolding fees and charges apply inflation increase from £69 to £85 and £81 to £100	(25,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Local Highways - Look at alternative support to Canal Trust and AONB	(40,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Local Highways - Asset transfer Countryside sites, due to timing may need to hibernate service for 22/23	(25,000)	(25,000)	-
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Passenger Transport - Reduce Concessionary fares to 90% .	(411,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Economy & Regeneration	Reduce Consultants budgets in Economic Regeneration	(78,600)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Economy & Regeneration	Review Enterprise Centre model to rationalise floor space and income generation	(12,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Introduce new charge for S106 monitoring fees	(60,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Reduce Spatial Planning Professional fees	(13,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Align Local Plan budget to programme and capacity and use Earmarked Reserve to balance fluctuations	(200,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Management - Introduce a charge at HRCs for disposal of non-household waste at the HRCs. For the purposes of charging, items that fall into this category (of non-household waste) will include asbestos, gas bottles, tyres, plasterboard, soil and rubble	(100,000)	(200,000)	-
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Management - Consult on the closure in 2023 of Lower Compton HRC	-	(100,000)	-
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Management - Increase Bulky Waste collection fee from £25.30 per item to £28 per item to fully recover contract costs, assumes demand is not impacted by price increase	(24,000)	-	-

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Annex 6 – Detail by service on Savings Proposals

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Management - Increase Green Waste collection charge from £50 to £60 per bin, assumes demand is not impacted by price increase (90,000 customers)	(488,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Management - Increase Lot 1 Recyclables Income budget in line with prices received in 2021	(625,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Management - Increase Lot 2 (HRC) Recyclables Income budget in line with prices received for 2021	(50,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Management – The Council currently has contracts in place to treat 110ktpa of household waste (60ktoa to MBT in Westbury, 50kpta to Lakeside EfW). Ongoing risk of under delivery of contracted tonnage, resulting in Compensation payment to contractor. Review contract to inform ability to negotiate the "sell off" of some contracted capacity. This will reduce council exposure to Compensation Events, plus realise the financial benefit of sale of capacity.	-	(500,000)	-
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Cabinet intend to increase recycling rates as per their commitment in the new Business Plan, and there are a number of opportunities to achieve this that will also bring about efficiencies and potential income generation in future years in the way we deliver Wiltshire's recycling service going forward	-	(500,000)	-
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Increases Fees and Charges in Pest control to maintain competitive pricing but move to full cost recovery of the service	(45,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Leisure Culture & Communities	Leisure Operations - Recruit and improve Debt collection for Leisure Centre income	(50,000)	-	-
Corporate Director Place	Leisure Culture & Communities	Leisure Operations - Future income and rationalisation target for Leisure and Library services following service reviews	-	(500,000)	(1,000,000)
Corporate Director Place	Leisure Culture & Communities	Libraries - Work with Town and Parish Councils so that Libraries are housed in the community and WC no longer have facility costs for the smaller Libraries	(47,900)	-	-
Chief Executive Directorates	Public Health	Increase Schools traded Service income by CPI 4%	(4,100)	-	-
Chief Executive Directorates	HR&OD and Transformation	Reduce supplies & services budgets	(154,000)	-	-
Chief Executive Directorates	HR&OD and Transformation	Remove public transport budget, vehicle hire and reduce travel	(16,000)	-	-
Chief Executive Directorates	HR&OD and Transformation	Increase Schools traded Service income by CPI 4%	(41,700)	-	-
Chief Executive Directorates	HR&OD and Transformation	Proposal to fund Transformation activities from flexible use of Capital Receipts	(1,000,000)	-	-

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25
Annex 6 – Detail by service on Savings Proposals

Corporate Directorate	Service	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Corporate	Capital Financing	Effective management of schemes in Capital Programme & where necessary reprogramming	(200,000)	-	-
Corporate	Capital Financing	Treasury Strategy investment strategy risk & cash mgmt	(30,000)	-	-
Corporate	Capital Financing	Removal of additional Hardship Funding	(250,000)	-	-
Corporate	Corporate Costs	Reduction in Redundancy budget	(750,000)	-	-
Corporate	Corporate Costs	Renewable energy investment opportunities	-	(180,000)	(400,000)
Corporate	Corporate Costs	Reduction in Bank charges as a result of improvements in the controls for digital payments	(100,000)	-	-
Specific Grants	Specific Grants	Remove the £1m set aside for business rates uncertainty	(1,000,000)	-	-
Service Savings Proposals Total			**(17,254,800)**	**(6,476,300)**	**(2,200,000)**

All	All	Reduction in staffing budgets, subject to negotiations with Unions. Applied at service level within the MTFS based on current assumptions and estimates.	(6,985,200)	(3,211,400)	
Staff Savings Proposals Total			**(6,985,200)**	**(3,211,400)**	**-**

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

Annex 7 – Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2029/30

Scheme name	Revised 22/23 Budget	Revised 23/24 Budget	Revised 24/25 Budget	Revised 25/26 Budget	Revised 26/27 Budget	Revised 27/28 Budget	Revised 28/29 Budget	Revised 29/30 Budget	TOTAL
Education & Skills									
Access and Inclusion	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.800
Basic Need	18.221	4.355	2.042	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	26.618
Stonehenge School Replacement of Lower Block	3.342	0.750	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.145
Devolved Formula Capital	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	4.000
Schools Maintenance & Modernisation	6.557	5.300	4.750	2.700	2.650	2.600	2.550	2.500	29.607
Early Years Buildings	1.170	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.170
Special Schools	16.068	10.262	9.545	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	35.875
Abnormal Costs in Development of SEND Free School	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.350
Education & Skills Total	**46.308**	**21.267**	**16.990**	**3.700**	**3.650**	**3.600**	**3.550**	**3.500**	**102.565**
Families & Children's									
Children's Home	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000
Families & Children's Total	**1.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**1.000**
Finance									
Evolve Project	4.982	2.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	7.482
Finance Total	**4.982**	**2.500**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**7.482**

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25
Annex 7 – Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2029/30

Scheme name	Revised 22/23 Budget	Revised 23/24 Budget	Revised 24/25 Budget	Revised 25/26 Budget	Revised 26/27 Budget	Revised 27/28 Budget	Revised 28/29 Budget	Revised 29/30 Budget	TOTAL
Assets & Commercial Development									
Capital Receipt Enhancement	0.170	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.170
Commercial - Commercial Investment	24.849	12.500	12.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	49.849
Depot & Office Strategy	4.160	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.160
Disabled Facilities Grants	5.000	4.000	4.000	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000	28.000
Facilities Management Operational Estate	2.651	3.250	2.500	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000	18.401
Gypsies and Travellers Projects	1.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.300
Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)	7.501	21.121	37.581	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	66.203
Porton Science Park	3.709	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.709
Health and Wellbeing Centres - Live Schemes	7.850	0.441	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	8.336
Non-Commercial Property Purchases	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.059
North Wiltshire Schools PFI Playing Fields	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.300
Operational Property Energy Efficiency and Generation	8.400	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	8.400
Park & Ride Solar Panel Canopys	3.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.500
Salisbury Central Car Park & Maltings	32.630	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	32.630
Facilities Management Investment Estate	0.630	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	2.380
Social Care Infrastructure & Strategy	0.634	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.634
Assets & Commercial Development Total	**103.343**	**41.562**	**56.876**	**5.250**	**5.250**	**5.250**	**5.250**	**5.250**	**228.031**

Scheme name	Revised 22/23 Budget	Revised 23/24 Budget	Revised 24/25 Budget	Revised 25/26 Budget	Revised 26/27 Budget	Revised 27/28 Budget	Revised 28/29 Budget	Revised 29/30 Budget	TOTAL
Capital Loans									
Stone Circle Housing Company Loan	33.488	12.227	0.799	0.019	0.119	0.141	0.163	0.309	47.265
Stone Circle Development Company Loan	11.050	8.751	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	19.801
Capital Loans Total	**44.538**	**20.978**	**0.799**	**0.019**	**0.119**	**0.141**	**0.163**	**0.309**	**67.066**

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

Annex 7 – Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2029/30

Scheme name	Revised 22/23 Budget	Revised 23/24 Budget	Revised 24/25 Budget	Revised 25/26 Budget	Revised 26/27 Budget	Revised 27/28 Budget	Revised 28/29 Budget	Revised 29/30 Budget	TOTAL
Information Services									
ICT Applications	4.258	2.914	2.914	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	10.086
ICT Business as Usual	1.627	2.284	1.575	0.721	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	6.207
ICT Other Infrastructure	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.200
ICT Get Well	3.474	1.607	1.504	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	6.585
Information Services Total	**9.759**	**7.205**	**6.393**	**0.721**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**24.078**
Highways & Transport									
Churchyards & Cemeteries	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
CIL Funded Schemes	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Farmers Roundabout	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Parking Contactless Machines	0.127	0.127	0.126	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.380
Fleet Vehicles	4.091	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	7.591
Highway flooding prevention and Land Drainage schemes	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Integrated Transport	1.781	1.781	1.781	1.781	1.781	1.781	1.781	1.781	14.248
Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Groups	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	6.400
LED Street Lighting	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.200
Major Road Network (MRN)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Pothole Fund Grant	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Structural Maintenance & Bridges	16.140	16.139	16.139	16.139	16.139	16.139	16.139	16.139	129.113
Churchfields Depot Drainage and Traffic Management	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Passenger Transport RTPI	0.695	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.695
Drainage Improvements	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.500
Major Road Network M4 Junction 17	1.007	1.233	17.033	8.567	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	27.840
A338 Salisbury Junction Improvements MRN	0.759	0.561	10.136	4.114	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	15.570
A350 Chippenham Bypass (Ph 4&5) MRN	1.091	19.056	11.070	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	31.217
A3250 Melksham Bypass LLM - Full Scheme	2.825	5.630	5.795	5.935	44.056	87.435	84.355	0.000	236.031
Highways & Transport Total	**30.016**	**46.327**	**63.880**	**37.836**	**63.276**	**106.655**	**103.575**	**19.220**	**470.785**

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

Annex 7 – Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2029/30

Scheme name	Revised 22/23 Budget	Revised 23/24 Budget	Revised 24/25 Budget	Revised 25/26 Budget	Revised 26/27 Budget	Revised 27/28 Budget	Revised 28/29 Budget	Revised 29/30 Budget	TOTAL
Economy & Regeneration									
Boscombe Down	1.191	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.191
Salisbury Future High Streets	5.005	3.214	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	8.219
Trowbridge Future High Streets	5.827	8.363	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	14.190
Carbon reduction	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.027
Wiltshire Online	0.847	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.138
Economy & Regeneration Total	**12.879**	**11.683**	**0.106**	**0.097**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**24.765**
Environment									
Waste Services	1.019	0.719	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	4.738
HRC Savings Infrastructure	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.100
Environment Total	**1.119**	**0.719**	**0.500**	**0.500**	**0.500**	**0.500**	**0.500**	**0.500**	**4.838**
Leisure Culture & Communities									
Area Boards and LPSA PRG Reward Grants	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	3.200
Community Projects	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.400
Fitness Equipment for Leisure Centres	0.800	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	2.550
Libraries - Self Service	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.500
Trowbridge Leisure Centre	2.000	13.000	10.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	25.000
Leisure Requirements	3.912	1.215	5.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	10.127
Leisure Culture & Communities Total	**8.012**	**14.865**	**15.650**	**0.650**	**0.650**	**0.650**	**0.650**	**0.650**	**41.777**
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	**261.956**	**167.106**	**161.194**	**48.773**	**73.445**	**116.796**	**113.688**	**29.429**	**972.387**

Wiltshire Council Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

Annex 7 – Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2029/30

Scheme name	Revised 22/23 Budget	Revised 23/24 Budget	Revised 24/25 Budget	Revised 25/26 Budget	Revised 26/27 Budget	Revised 27/28 Budget	Revised 28/29 Budget	Revised 29/30 Budget	TOTAL
HRA - Council House Build Programme (Phase 2)	1.387	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.387
HRA - Council House Build Programme (Phase 3.1)	10.326	0.277	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	10.603
HRA - Council House Build Programme (Phase 3.2)	12.125	2.499	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	14.624
HRA - Council House Build Programme (Phase 3.3)	4.032	17.858	20.537	20.847	21.472	22.117	22.780	23.464	153.107
HRA - Refurbishment of Council Stock	17.289	17.675	15.854	15.587	16.149	16.819	17.423	18.049	134.845
Housing Revenue Total	**45.159**	**38.309**	**36.391**	**36.434**	**37.621**	**38.936**	**40.203**	**41.513**	**314.566**

	Revised 22/23 Budget	Revised 23/24 Budget	Revised 24/25 Budget	Revised 25/26 Budget	Revised 26/27 Budget	Revised 27/28 Budget	Revised 28/29 Budget	Revised 29/30 Budget	TOTAL
GENERAL FUND & HRA TOTAL	**307.115**	**205.415**	**197.585**	**85.207**	**111.066**	**155.732**	**153.891**	**70.942**	**1,286.953**

Capital Programme Funding:

	Revised 22/23 Budget	Revised 23/24 Budget	Revised 24/25 Budget	Revised 25/26 Budget	Revised 26/27 Budget	Revised 27/28 Budget	Revised 28/29 Budget	Revised 29/30 Budget	TOTAL
Grants	73.152	79.999	101.497	40.574	62.232	99.055	96.387	24.720	577.616
Contributions	2.198	7.162	7.739	2.962	0.542	0.000	0.000	0.000	20.603
HRA	45.159	38.309	36.391	36.434	37.621	38.935	40.203	41.512	314.564
Capital Receipts	3.439	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	5.189
Borrowing - Funded by Revenue Saving in Service	100.787	33.478	13.299	0.019	0.119	0.141	0.163	0.309	148.315
Borrowing	82.380	44.217	38.409	4.968	4.150	4.151	4.150	4.151	186.576
Other	0.000	2.000	0.000	0.000	6.152	13.200	12.738	0.000	34.090
Total Funding	**307.115**	**205.415**	**197.585**	**85.207**	**111.066**	**155.732**	**153.891**	**70.942**	**1,286.953**

ANNEX 8 - GENERAL FUND RESERVE - RISK ASSESSED BALANCE

Key Financial Risks (Weighted Impact)

Risk	Quantification	ASSESSED FOR 2022/23		
		Potential Magnitude £M	Likelihood %	Weighted Magnitude £M
Non Delivery of Savings	Level of 2022/23 savings built into the budget - potential for an element of non delivery during the year based on previous years delivery rates	25.000	25%	6.250
Drop in demand for key income streams for services	Current levels to meet estimated income levels fluctuate beyond expected market conditions & customer behavioural trends	45.000	10%	4.500
Adult Social Care Contractual Costs & Care Provider Market	A number of factors may impact upon price inflation for commissioned care costs. One of the most significant being insufficient supply of workforce resulting in wage inflation and therefore higher costs of services. The lack of capacity in some sectors of the care market, as well as changing behaviour and need as a result of the pandemic, creates challenges around market shaping, market growth, and ultimately competitive commissioning rates. Based upon gross commissioned care expenditure of circa £130m per annum, a price inflation of 10% (above budgeted assumptions) driven by lack of capacity would equate to a cost pressure of £13m.	13.000	25%	3.250
Risk of adverse weather conditions	Extreme weather instances are increasing, coupled with reduced budgets	15.000	15%	2.250
Impact of key Adult Social Care large homecare contractor and/or care home going into administration / liquidation	Would require a new provider to carry out the service	20.000	10%	2.000
Realisation of future 'Accountable Body' liabilities	Financial exposure on funding being directed through SWLEP and other projects where the Council acts as the Accountable body	200.000	1%	2.000
Collection Fund Volatility	Volatility in Collection Fund on collection rates, bad debts - assume 0.5% of total Collection Fund collectable for Wiltshire Council	350.000	0.5%	1.750
Children's Social Care increased demand for services above that built into the MTFS	Increased pressured on child in care placements, this is also a national concern & heightened given the recent high profile cases in relation to social care. Wiltshire placements have increased significantly in the last two years, there is a risk this trajectory could continue beyond preventative measures. A 10% increase in the gross expenditure of Children Social Care would be circa £6m. This is the equivalent of 12 high-end agency residential placements.	6.000	25%	1.500
Adult Social Care reduction in the level of income received.	The move to gross payments to care providers, client debt recovery has/is become the responsibility of the Council, may increase the council's risk of irrecoverable debt.	3.000	25%	0.750
Universal Credit reducing the level of housing subsidy reclaimable from DWP as well as increasing demand for services & cost through Local Council Tax Support	The level of Universal Credit claimants has not reduced in 2021/22 to pre-pandemic levels. This results in potential for increased overpayment recoveries from DWP as a result of the introduction of Universal Credit, and an increased demand for services and reduced level of Council Tax receipts	7.000	10%	0.700
Potential non-delivery of capital receipts to fund the capital programme	Subject to property market and asset rationalisation programme / devolution	10.000	5%	0.500
Investment Loss	Based on an assessment of risk within the Council's General Fund Treasury Cash Investment Portfolio	100.000	0.5%	0.500
Adult Social Care increased demand for services above that built into the MTFS	Increased demand / demographic - with increasing demand for services nationally, and an ageing population being an acute pressure in Wiltshire, this could be higher.	3.000	15%	0.450
2021/22 & 2022/23 national pay deal to be negotiated with the Unions	The pay deal for 2021/22 & 2022/23 are both still an unknown quantity. Negotiations will need to take place but this risk is based on being 1% of pay over & above budgeted assumptions compounded for both	2.800	15%	0.420
Loss of VAT Partial Exemption	Total impact of losing exemption	3.800	10%	0.380
Abortive Costs on Capital Programme	Approved Capital Programme £300m - assumed 3% default on loans to Stone Circle due to schemes not being successful and 2% abortive costs on remainder being mainly fees on schemes that prove not to be	6.800	5%	0.340
Planning Appeals	Estimated cost to the Council of successful planning appeals, no longer mitigated through other reserves	0.500	15%	0.075
Total				**27.615**

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 1)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Licensing - dangerous wild animals	per licence	£260.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Licensing - Dangerous wild animal - renewal	per renewal	£190.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Licensing - Dangerous wild animal - amendment of existing licence	per licence	£40.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Licensing - Zoo - initial application	per application	£945.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Licensing - Zoo - initial application under 14(1)a	per application	£135.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Licensing - Zoo - initial application under 14(1)b	per application	£185.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Licensing - Zoo - initial application under 14(2)	per application	£185.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Licensing - Zoo - grant/renewal (including annual visits) under 14(1) b	per application	£235.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Licensing - Zoo - grant/renewal (including annual visits) under 14(2)	per application	£530.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Licensing - Zoo - grant/renewal (including annual visits) full zoo licence	per licence	£1,150.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Licensing - Zoo - amendment existing licence	per licence	£40.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Animal Boarding: Home Boarding (Dogs) up to 6 animals - application renewal	per application	£100.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Animal Boarding: Home Boarding (Dogs) up to 6 animals - grant fee yr 1 renewal	per application	£175.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Animal Boarding: Home Boarding (Dogs) up to 6 animals - grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£215.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Animal Boarding: Home Boarding (Dogs) up to 6 animals grant fee yr 3 renewal	per application	£250.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Animal Boarding: Home Boarding (Dogs) 7-10 animals - application renewal	per application	£115.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Animal Boarding: Home Boarding (Dogs) 7-10 animals - grant fee yr 1 renewal	per application	£195.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Animal Boarding: Home Boarding (Dogs) 7-10 animals - grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£235.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Animal Boarding: Home Boarding (Dogs) 7-10 animals - grant fee yr 3 renewal	per application	£295.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Animal Boarding: Home Boarding (Dogs) 11 and over animals - application renewal	per application	£130.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Animal Boarding: Home Boarding (Dogs) 11 and over animals - grant fee yr 1 renewal	per application	£220.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Animal Boarding: Home Boarding (Dogs) 11 and over animals - grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£285.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Animal Boarding: Home Boarding (Dogs) 11 and over animals - grant fee yr 3 renewal	per application	£340.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - up to 6 animals - application renewal	per application	£100.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - up to 6 animals - grant fee yr 1 renewal	per application	£175.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - up to 6 animals - grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£215.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - up to 6 animals - grant fee yr 3 renewal	per application	£250.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 7-10 animals - application renewal	per application	£115.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 7-10 animals - grant fee yr 1 renewal	per application	£195.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 7-10 animals - grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£235.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 7-10 animals - grant fee yr 3 renewal	per application	£295.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 11 to 30 animals - application renewal	per application	£130.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 11 to 30 animals - grant fee yr 1 renewal	per application	£220.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 11 to 30 animals - grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£285.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 11 to 30 animals - grant fee yr 3 renewal	per application	£340.00

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 2)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 31 to 60 animals - application renewal	per application	£150.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 31 to 60 animals - grant fee yr 1 renewal	per application	£235.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 31 to 60 animals - grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£295.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 31 to 60 animals - grant fee yr 3 renewal	per application	£340.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 61 and over animals -application renewal	per application	£165.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 61 and over animals -grant fee yr 1 renewal	per application	£245.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 61 and over animals -grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£300.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Day Care (Dogs) - 61 and over animals -grant fee yr 3 renewal	per application	£340.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - up to 10 animals - application renewal	per application	£125.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - up to 10 animals - grant fee yr 1 renewal	per application	£195.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - up to 10 animals - grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£235.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - up to 10 animals - grant fee yr 3 renewal	per application	£295.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 11 to 30 animals - application renewal	per application	£140.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 11 to 30 animals - grant fee yr 1 renewal	per application	£220.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 11 to 30 animals - grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£285.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 11 to 30 animals - grant fee yr 3 renewal	per application	£340.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 31 to 60 animals -application renewal	per application	£170.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 31 to 60 animals -grant fee yr 1 renewal	per application	£235.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 31 to 60 animals -grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£295.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 31 to 60 animals -grant fee yr 3 renewal	per application	£340.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 61 to 99 animals -application fee	per application	£225.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 61 to 99 animals -application renewal	per application	£190.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 61 to 99 animals -grant fee yr 1 renewal	per application	£245.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 61 to 99 animals -grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£300.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 61 to 99 animals -grant fee yr 3 renewal	per application	£340.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 100+ animals - application renewal	per application	£215.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 100+ animals - grant fee yr 1 renewal grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£250.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 100+ animals - grant fee yr 2 renewal	per application	£310.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Catteries, Kennels - 100+ animals - grant fee yr 3 renewal	per application	£340.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 1-5 Bitches - application fee	per application	£230.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 1-5 Bitches - Renewal fee	per application	£185.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 1-5 Bitches - grant fee yr 1	per application	£295.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 1-5 Bitches - grant fee yr 2	per application	£380.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 1-5 Bitches - grant fee yr 3	per application	£455.00

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 3)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 6-10 Bitches - application fee	per application	£265.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 6-10 Bitches - Renewal fee	per application	£215.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 6-10 Bitches - grant fee yr 1	per application	£295.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 6-10 Bitches - grant fee yr 2	per application	£380.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 6-10 Bitches - grant fee yr 3	per application	£455.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 11+ Bitches - application fee	per application	£310.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 11+ Bitches - Renewal fee	per application	£250.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 11+ Bitches - grant fee yr 1	per application	£270.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 11+ Bitches - grant fee yr 2	per application	£345.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Dog Breeding - 11+ Bitches - grant fee yr 3	per application	£415.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Hiring of horses - 1-20 horses - application renewal	per application	£100.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Hiring of horses - 20+ horses - application renewal	per application	£125.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Hiring of horses - 1+ horses renewal grant yr 1	per application	£115.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Hiring of horses - 1+ horses renewal grant yr 2	per application	£160.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Hiring of horses - 1+ horses renewal grant yr 3	per application	£200.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Selling Animals as Pets (under 10 species) licence renewal yr1	per application	£245.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Selling Animals as Pets (under 10 species) licence renewal yr2	per application	£315.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Selling Animals as Pets (under 10 species) licence renewal yr3	per application	£380.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Selling Animals as Pets (over 10 species) licence renewal Y1	per application	£270.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Selling Animals as Pets (over 10 species) licence renewal Y2	per application	£340.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Selling Animals as Pets (over 10 species) licence renewal Y3	per application	£390.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection-Kennel Charge (1 Day)	per day	£17.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection-Kennel Charge (2 Days)	per day	£34.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection-Kennel Charge (3 Days)	per day	£50.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection-Kennel Charge (4 Days)	per day	£66.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection-Kennel Charge (5 Days)	per day	£84.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection-Kennel Charge (6 Days)	per day	£100.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection-Kennel Charge (7 Days)	per day	£118.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection-Kennel Charge (8 Days)	per day	£134.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Stray Dog Administration Fee	per admin fee	£26.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Skin Piercing - initial application (premises & 1 person)	per application	£180.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Skin Piercing - additional person	per application	£45.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Skin Piercing - additional activity to existing registration	per activity	£80.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Skin Piercing - transfer of premises registration	per registration	£180.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Skin Piercing - change of address for personal registration	per registration	£18.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Food Safety - Unfit food - voluntary surrender certificate (up to £1,000 value)	per certificate	£120.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Food Safety - Unfit food - voluntary surrender certificate (£1,000 to £10,000)	per certificate	£140.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Food Safety - Unfit food - voluntary surrender certificate (over £10,000)	per certificate	£150.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Food Safety - Export Certificate (each)	per certificate	£125.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Food Safety - Food Safety Premises Endorsement for Export Certificate	per certificate	£75.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Food Safety - Food labelling advice (per hour)	per hour	£90.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Food Safety - Food Hygiene Rating System revisit charge	per visit	£180.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - weights & measures - first nozzle tested per site	per site	£175.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - weights & measures - equipment submitted under the measuring instruments (EEC Requirements) Regulations - per hour including travel time	per hour	£90.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - weights & measures - Public weigh bridge operator training	per hour	£90.00

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 4)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Trading Standards - file search fees	per search	£90.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Trading Standards - Business advice fee	per search	£90.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Contaminated land search	per search	£145.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Contaminated land search	per search	£190.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Verified air quality data	per verification	£165.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Public Protection - Exhumation (coordination and attendance)	per exhumation	£270.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Rodents for up to 3 visits	3 visits	£120.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Rodents for up to 3 visits - concessionary price	3 visits	£60.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Rodents (additional charge per visit if required to complete existing treatment)	per visit	£36.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Rodents (additional charge per visit if required to complete existing treatment) - concessionary price	per visit	£18.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Wasps	per visit	£72.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Wasps additional nest at same time	additional nest	£17.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Wasps - concessionary price	per visit	£44.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Wasps -additional nest at same time concessionary price	additional nest	£11.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Cluster flies including 2 loft spaces	2 loft spaces	£115.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Cluster flies - each additional loft	additional loft	£22.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Cluster flies including 2 loft spaces - concessionary price	2 loft spaces	£75.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Cluster flies - each additional loft- concessionary price	additional loft	£14.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Fleas up to 2 bedrooms	2 bedrooms	£120.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Fleas up to 2 bedrooms - concessionary price	2 bedrooms	£75.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Fleas up to 3 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	£140.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Fleas up to 3 bedrooms - concessionary price	3 bedrooms	£90.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Fleas up to 4 bedrooms	4 bedrooms	£160.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Fleas up to 4 bedrooms - concessionary price	4 bedrooms	£103.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Fleas over 5 bedrooms price on application	5 bedrooms	price on application
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Carpet moths 1 bedrooms	1 bedroom	£100.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Carpet moths 2 bedrooms	2 bedrooms	£120.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Carpet moths 2 bedrooms- concessionary price	2 bedrooms	£75.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Carpet Moths up to 3 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	£140.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Carpet Moths up to 3 bedrooms - concessionary price	3 bedrooms	£90.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Carpet Moths 4 bedrooms	4 bedrooms	£160.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Carpet Moths up to 4 bedrooms - concessionary price	4 bedrooms	£103.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Carpet Moths over 5 bedrooms price on application	5 bedrooms	price on application
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Ants up to 3 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	£140.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Ants up to 3 bedrooms - concessionary price	3 bedrooms	£90.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Ants - each additional bedroom	additional bedroom	£28.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Mink and rabbits - per hour	per hour	£103.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Squirrel Trapping (max. of 2 weeks treatment) customer to check trap	per treatment	£156.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Squirrels (max. of 2 weeks treatment) - customer to check trap concessionary price	per treatment	£100.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Squirrels per hour min 2 hours (where pest control check the traps)	per hour	£104.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Squirrels per hour min 2 hours (where pest control check the traps) - concessionary price	per hour	£70.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Squirrels bait Only where officers feels appropriate Indoor only	per treatment	£120.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Squirrels bait Only where officers feels appropriate Indoor only - concessionary price	per treatment	£73.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Cockroaches (2 visits)	2 visits	£305.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Cockroaches (2 visits) - concessionary price	2 visits	£196.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Cockroaches (additional visit)	additional visit	£110.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Cockroaches (additional visit) - concessionary price	additional visit	£71.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Bedbugs 1 Bedroom House	1 bedroom	£305.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Bedbugs 1 Bedroom House - concessionary price	1 bedroom	£196.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Bedbugs each additional bedroom	additional bedroom	£110.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Bedbugs each additional bedroom - concessionary price	additional bedroom	£71.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Bedbug survey fee	per survey	£78.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Bedbug survey fee - concessionary price	per survey	£51.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Advice visit fee if no treatment necessary	per advice	£42.00

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 5)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Drain smoke test only as part of pest treatment	per test	£50.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Drain CCTV survey only as part of pest treatment	per test	£140.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Drain CCTV survey concessionary price	per test	£92.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Visits where no material used	per visit	£68.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Additional cost if invoice required	per invoice	£42.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - End of tenancy/house purchase inspection	per inspection	£55.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Moles (max. of 2 weeks treatment) customer to check trap	per treatment	£156.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Moles (max. of 2 weeks treatment) - customer to check trap concessionary price	per treatment	£100.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Moles per hour min 2 hours (where pest control check the traps)	per hour	£104.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Rodents per hour (External or both Internal & External)	per hour	£103.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Squirrels per hour	per hour	£103.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Wasps - advance payment	per payment	£73.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Wasps invoiced	per invoice	£115.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Multiple wasp nest in same visit	per visit	£17.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Bedbugs / cockroaches per hour	per hour	£103.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Insects per hour	per hour	£103.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Call out fee if no treatment necessary	call out	£54.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Contract rate	per contract	£99.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Invoice fee if not commercial	per invoice	£42.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Rodents Internal treatment Up to 3 visits	per treatment	£200.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Additional per visit to follow on Rodents internal	per visit	£70.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - EFK Servicing with sticky traps & Bulbs	per service	£50.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - EFK Servicing with bulbs	per service	£40.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - EFK Servicing no materials	per service	£30.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - EFK Servicing as a Contract Visit Sticky Traps & Bulbs	per service	£40.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - EFK Servicing as a Contract Visit Sticky Traps	per service	£30.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - EFK Servicing as a contract visit no materials	per service	£20.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Wasp trap (during treatment)	per trap	£17.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Wasp trap (with survey fee)	per trap	£48.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Drain stopper 4 inch (100mm)	per item	£24.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Drain stopper 4 inch (100mm) fitted	per item	£66.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Drain stopper 6 inch (150 mm)	per item	£31.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Drain stopper 6 inch (150 mm) fitted	per item	£72.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Rat Wall 4 inch fitted	per item	£195.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Rat Wall 6 inch fitted	per item	£240.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Bayer Flying Insect spray or similar	per item	£15.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Moth trap - Diamond	per item	£4.90
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Moth trap - Blk & white	per item	£5.50
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Odour Control - Odour Counteractant	per item	£7.90
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Insect identification	per item	£22.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - bed bug moats	per item	£27.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - sealing around pipes (with a treatment)	per item	£32.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - air vents small Plastic	per item	£28.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - air vents Small stainless steel	per item	£34.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - air vents medium Plastic	per item	£31.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - air vents medium stainless steel	per item	£38.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - air vents large Plastic	per item	£34.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - air vents large stainless steel	per item	£42.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Mole trap pack	per item	£70.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Electric Fly Killer(EFK) White (Exc fitting)	per item	£170.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Electric fly Killer (EFK) Silver (Exc fitting)	per item	£200.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Electric Fly Killer (EFK) Cluster Flies White (Exc fitting)	per item	£180.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Pest Control - Redtop fly trap	per item	£19.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Anti-Social Behaviour - Charge for closure orders under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014	per order	£400.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Photocopies A3 black & white	per item	£1.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Photocopies A4 black & white	per item	£0.70
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Photocopies A3 colour	per item	£2.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Photocopies A4 colour	per item	£1.30
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Computer screen prints colour	per item	£1.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Prints from Microforms A4	per item	£1.20
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Prints from Microforms A3	per item	£1.75
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Cost of prints made by staff A4	per item	£2.70
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Cost of prints made by staff A3	per item	£3.40

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 6)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Sale of duplicate microfiche (per fiche)	per item	£5.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Photographs - 1 digital image emailed	per item	£8.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Photographs - saved to CD	per item	£8.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Digital image printed on A4 photographic paper	per item	£9.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Digital image printed on 6" x 4" photographic paper	per item	£8.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Reproduction Fee minimum by negotiation	per fee	£45.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - UK and World rights, minimum by negotiation	per negotiation	£95.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Facility fee for filming & location work - by negotiation, minimum	per fee	£150.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Damaged Stock - hardback - minimum	per item	£30.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Damaged Stock - paperback - minimum	per item	£14.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Research Fee - 1/2 hour	per 1/2 hour	£18.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Research Fee - hour	per hour	£36.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Research Express Service	per service	£72.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Minimum charge for sending items by post	per item	£9.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Heritage - Minimum charge premium service for scanning and emailing documents in one day	per day	£14.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Services -Green Waste collection charge	per bin	£60.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Services - VCSE household recycling centre permit 6 visits	6 visits	£61.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Services - VCSE household recycling centre permit 12 visits	12 visits	£98.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Section 106 Waste Container Contribution (SPD) - per Household	per household	£101.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Section 106 Waste Container Contribution (SPD) - Flats 1-5 per apartment	Flats 1-5 per apartment	£101.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Section 106 Waste Container Contribution (SPD) - Flats 6-10 per bin store	Flats 6-10 per bin store	£815.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Section 106 Waste Container Contribution (SPD) - Flats 11-14 per bin store	Flats 11-14 per bin store	£1,545.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Section 106 Waste Container Contribution (SPD) - Flats 15-18 per bin store	Flats 15-18 per bin store	£2,276.00
Corporate Director Place	Environment	Waste Management - Bulky Waste collection fee £28 per item to fully recover contract costs	per item	£28.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways	STANDARD VEHICLE CROSSING APPLICATION - For the creation of a vehicle access/For the extension of a vehicle access	per application	£222.35
Corporate Director Place	Highways	RETROSPECTIVE VEHICLE CROSSING APPLICATION - For a certificate of lawful use of an access that has been unlawfully created	per application	£333.53
Corporate Director Place	Highways	COMMERCIAL VEHICLE CROSSING APPLICATION - For the creation of a vehicle access onto a commercial development/For the creation of a vehicle access onto a new development - first access	per application	£222.35
Corporate Director Place	Highways	COMMERCIAL VEHICLE CROSSING APPLICATION - For the creation of a vehicle access onto a commercial development/For the creation of a vehicle access onto a new development - per additional access	per application	£111.18
Corporate Director Place	Highways	ADMINISTRATION FEE - For re-issuing of a licence/For a change of contractor on a licence and re-issue/For copies of licences or completion certificates following their misplacement	per application	£27.32
Corporate Director Place	Highways	ADDITIONAL INSPECTION FEE - For any inspection conducted after 18 months of the licence being issued	per application	£67.50
Corporate Director Place	Highways	TRANSFER OF APPLICATION FEE - For changing the applicant to a new applicant on live applications/For changing the applicant to a new applicant on granted applications that have not been signed off as completed to highway specification	per application	£36.42
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Local Highways - Skips & Scaffolding fees and charges £85 - More than 3 days notice	per licence	£85.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Local Highways - Skips & Scaffolding fees and charges £100 - less than 3 days notice	per licence	£100.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Post 16 standard charge £850	per person	£850.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Post 16 lower charge £300	per person	£300.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Spare seat charges - Primary - less than 3 miles	per term	£130.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Spare seat charges - Primary - 3 miles or more	per term	£185.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Spare seat charges - Secondary - less than 3 miles	per term	£172.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Spare seat charges - Secondary - 3 miles or more	per term	£213.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Spare seat charges - Post 16 (Sixth From/College) - less than 3 miles	per term	£253.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Spare seat charges - Post 16 (Sixth From/College) - 3 miles or more	per term	£356.00

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 7)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Resources	IT	Street Naming & Numbering Fees - Addition of house/Company Name or House/Company Renaming	per house/company	£66.70
Corporate Director Resources	IT	Street Naming & Numbering Fees - New Developments first address	First address	£146.70
Corporate Director Resources	IT	Street Naming & Numbering Fees - New Developments additional address	additional address	£53.36
Corporate Director People	Living & Ageing Well	Gypsies & Traveller - Rent per traveller pitch per week (old site)	per week	£70.79
Corporate Director People	Living & Ageing Well	Gypsies & Traveller - Rent per traveller pitch per week (new site, old tenant)	per week	£98.90
Corporate Director People	Living & Ageing Well	Gypsies & Traveller - Rent per traveller pitch per week (new site, new tenant)	per week	£106.18
Corporate Director People	Living & Ageing Well	Kingsbury Hostel - flats & crash pads	Per week	£109.31
Corporate Director People	Living & Ageing Well	Kingsbury Hostel - bungalow x 3 as room rather than one unit	Per week	£137.41
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre-Application Planning Advice - Do I need planning permission	Per request	£55.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre-Application Planning Advice - Planning history of a site	Per request	£55.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre-Application Planning Advice - Level 1 - Householder and minor works	Per request	£100.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre-Application Planning Advice - Level 2 - Small residential and commercial	Per request	£230.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre-Application Planning Advice - Level 3 - Medium scale residential and commercial	Per request	£400.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre-Application Planning Advice - Level 4 - large scale residential and commercial	Per request	£750.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre-Application Planning Advice - Level 5 - Small scale major	Per request	£1,500.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre-Application Planning Advice - Level 6 - Large scale major	per request	10% of the planning application fee
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre-Application Planning Advice - Solar Energy - under 1 hectare	per request	£100.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre-Application Planning Advice - Solar Energy - over 1 hectare	per request	10% of the planning application fee
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre-Application Planning Advice - Wind turbines and Battery Storage Units - under 1 hectare	per request	£500.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre-Application Planning Advice - Wind turbines and Battery Storage Units - over 1 hectare	per request	10% of the planning application fee
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre-Application Planning Advice - additional meetings	per request	£220.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Waste & Mineral developments - 1,000 – 9,999m2 gross floor area and local scale waste facilities	per request	£953.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Waste & Mineral developments - Over 10,000m2 gross floor area and strategic scale waste facilities	per request	£1,270.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Waste & Mineral developments - Any new quarry or mine and any extensions to existing	per request	£698.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Waste & Mineral developments - All other quarry proposals	per request	£254.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - High Hedge Complaints	Per complaint	£500.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Admin fee for returning applications	per application	£20.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - LLC1 Residential	per search	£30.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - LLC1 Commercial	per search	£30.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Expedited LLC1 Residential	per search	£50.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Expedited LLC1 Commercial	per search	£50.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Con 29 Residential	per search	£145.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Con 29 Commercial	per search	£200.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Expedited Con 29 Residential	per search	£225.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Expedited Con 29 Commercial	per search	£300.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Con 29O (each) Residential	per search	£22.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Con 29O (each) Commercial	per search	£22.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Expedited Con 29O (each) Residential	per search	£33.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Expedited Con 29O (each) Commercial	per search	£33.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Parcels (Residential) LLC1	Per parcel	£5.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Parcels (Residential) Con 29	Per parcel	£12.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Parcels (Commercial) LLC1	Per parcel	£5.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Parcels (Commercial) CON 29	Per parcel	£20.00

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 8)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Expedited Parcels (Residential) LLC1	Per parcel	£7.50
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Expedited Parcels (Residential) Con 29	Per parcel	£18.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Expedited Parcels (Commercial) LLC1	Per parcel	£7.50
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Expedited Parcels (Commercial) Con 29	Per parcel	£30.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Solicitors enquiry (Residential and Commercial)	per enquiry	£30.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Expedited Solicitors enquiry (Residential and Commercial)	per enquiry	£45.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Duplicate copy of search	per copy	£10.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Planning - Local Land Charges - Cancellation fee (application before search progressed)	Per search	£20.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building control - Table A New Dwelling (up to 200m2) - 1 Dwellings	per application	£948.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building control - Table A New Dwelling (up to 200m2) - 2 Dwellings	per application	£1,326.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building control - Table A New Dwelling (up to 200m2) - 3 Dwellings	per application	£1,626.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building control - Table A New Dwelling (up to 200m2) - 4 Dwellings	per application	£2,100.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building control - Table A New Dwelling (up to 200m2) - 5 Dwellings	per application	£2,394.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building control - Table A New Dwelling (up to 200m2) - 6 Dwellings	per application	£2,724.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building control - Table A New Dwelling (up to 200m2) - 7 Dwellings	per application	£3,054.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building control - Table A New Dwelling (up to 200m2) - 8 Dwellings	per application	£3,354.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building control - Table A New Dwelling (up to 200m2) - 9 Dwellings	per application	£3,672.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building control - Table A New Dwelling (up to 200m2) - 10 Dwellings	per application	£4,032.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table B - Conversion of garage in to living accommodation	per application	£354.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table B - Garage and Car Ports up to 40m²	per application	£360.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table B - Electrical works (Non-competent persons scheme)	per application	£516.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table B - Garage and Car Ports over 40m² up to 60m²	per application	£426.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table B - Extensions and Loft Conversions up to 10m²	per application	£528.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table B - Extensions and Loft Conversions over 10m² up to 20m²	per application	£624.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table B - Extensions and Loft Conversions over 20m² up to 40m²	per application	£654.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table B - Extensions and Loft Conversions over 40m² up to 60m²	per application	£780.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table B - Extensions and Loft Conversions over 60m² up to 80m²	per application	£906.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table C - Estimated cost of works - 0-2000	per application	£258.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table C - Estimated cost of works - 2001-5000	per application	£312.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table C - Estimated cost of works - 5001-10000	per application	£420.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table C - Estimated cost of works - 10001-15000	per application	£522.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table C - Estimated cost of works - 15001-20000	per application	£558.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table C - Estimated cost of works - 20001-30000	per application	£672.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table C - Estimated cost of works - 30001-40000	per application	£786.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table C - Estimated cost of works - 40001-50000	per application	£840.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table C - Estimated cost of works - Replacement windows	per application	£210.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table C - Estimated cost of works - Copy of completion certificate	per application	£48.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Demolition Notice	per notice	£130.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Re roofing	per application	£306.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Table C - Estimated cost of works - Fire Risk Assessments (based on number of hours/hourly rate) hourly rate	per hour	£75.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Pre application advice (to be taken off the application fee when submitted)	per application	£75.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Building Control - Electrical works	per application	£475.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Re opening of old applications (payable to reopen an application that has not had a site inspection in the previous five years)	per application	£110.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	Fastrack options available on application fees	per application	10% of the application fee

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 9)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Place	Planning	S106 Monitoring Fees - Fixed fee for £250 per non-financial obligations	per obligation	£250.00
Corporate Director Place	Planning	S106 Monitoring Fees - S106 financial obligations 1% of the total financial contribution	per agreement	1% of total financial contribution
Corporate Director Resources	Finance	A&BS Light Touch package (Schools)	per package	£722.00
Corporate Director Resources	Finance	A&BS Core package (Schools)	per package	£1,620.00
Corporate Director Resources	Finance	A&BS Enhanced package (Schools)	per package	£2,256.00
Corporate Director Resources	Finance	A&BS New Bursar / Finance Officer Support Package (Schools)	per package	£787.00
Corporate Director Resources	Finance	A&BS Headteachers' Financial Management Programme (Schools)	per package	£722.00
Corporate Director Resources	Finance	A&BS operational site visits (Schools)	per half day	£235.00
Corporate Director Resources	Finance	A&BS Helpdesk (Schools)	per package	£280.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	BSS Advisory teacher (Schools)	per day	£461.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	BSS Behaviour Assistant (Schools)	per day	£218.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	EY Support package for registered childminders (Schools)	per package	£67.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	ELSA Supervision (Schools)	per package	£151.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	EWO Support (Schools)	per day	£346.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Support for Travellers package: 6 week intervention (Schools)	per package	£1,741.60
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Support for Travellers package: 12 week intervention (Schools)	per package	£3,257.61
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Bilingual assistant package: short term 6 sessions (3 hours) (Schools)	per package	£690.65
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Bilingual assistant package: full year 36 sessions (3 hours) (Schools)	per package	£4,061.59
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	EMTAS Advisory Teacher (Schools)	per day	£460.73
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	EMTAS Advisory Teacher session (Schools)	per half day	£251.31
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	EMTAS Advisory Teacher session (Schools)	per hour	£106.91
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	EMTAS Bilingual Assistant (Schools)	per day	£218.48
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	EMTAS Bilingual Assistant session (Schools)	per half day	£118.86
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	EMTAS Bilingual Assistant session (Schools)	per hour	£53.46
Corporate Director Resources	Finance	Free School Meals Eligibility Checking Service (Schools)	per pupil	£0.74
Chief Executive	Public Health	Health & Safety package secondary (Schools)	per package	£1,601.00
Chief Executive	Public Health	Health & Safety package large primary/special (Schools)	per package	£901.00
Chief Executive	Public Health	Health & Safety package small primary (Schools)	per package	£433.00
Chief Executive	Public Health	Learning outside the classroom and EVOLVE (Schools)	per pupil	£236 <200 NOR, >201 NOR £1.18 per NOR
Chief Executive	Public Health	HR Advisory (Schools)	per staff headcount	£48.97
Chief Executive	Public Health	HR Advisory LA schools package (Schools)	per package	£197.91 flat rate plus £4.95 per NOR
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	LRH Platinum subscription (Schools)	per pupil	£15.95
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	LRH Gold subscription (Schools)	per pupil	£15.25
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	LRH Silver subscription (Schools)	per pupil	£4.50
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	LRH Bronze subscription (Schools)	per package	£598.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	LRH School visitor (Schools)	per class	£153.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	LRH School Library advice (Schools)	per hour	£78.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	LRH Early Years package (Schools)	per package	£419.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	LRH Childminder package (Schools)	per package	£97.00

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 10)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Payroll Premium package (Schools)	per staff headcount	£77.06
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Payroll Standard package (Schools)	per staff headcount	£62.89
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	payroll LA school package (Schools)	per package	HR admin base cost £421.26 plus £4.21 per pupil & Payroll £44.30 per employee
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Wiltshire Rewards (Schools)	per staff headcount	£3.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Headship recruitment administration (Schools)	per package	£260.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Basic x10 (LA) (Schools)	per package	£332.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Basic x10 (Academy) (Schools)	per package	£807.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Basic x10 (External) (Schools)	per package	£1,187.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Standard x10 (LA) (Schools)	per package	£522.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Standard x10 (Academy) (Schools)	per package	£997.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Standard x10 (External) (Schools)	per package	£1,377.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Premium x10 (LA) (Schools)	per package	£665.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Premium x10 (Academy) (Schools)	per package	£1,140.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Premium x10 (External) (Schools)	per package	£1,520.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Basic x20 (LA) (Schools)	per package	£630.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Basic x20 (Academy) (Schools)	per package	£1,530.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Basic x20 (External) (Schools)	per package	£2,250.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Standard x20 (LA) (Schools)	per package	£990.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Standard x20 (Academy) (Schools)	per package	£1,890.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Standard x20 (External) (Schools)	per package	£2,610.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Premium x20 (LA) (Schools)	per package	£1,260.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Premium x20 (Academy) (Schools)	per package	£2,160.00
Chief Executive	HR&OD and Transformation	Advertising Premium x20 (External) (Schools)	per package	£2,880.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Bikeability (Schools)	per pupil	£5.70
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Scootability (Schools)	per pupil	£5.70
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	School Effectiveness Advice & support (Schools)	per 2 hour	£170.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	School Effectiveness Advice & support (Schools)	per half day	£271.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	School Effectiveness Advice & support (Schools)	per day	£453.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	School Effectiveness Individual school training (Schools)	per 2 hour	£230.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	School Effectiveness Individual school training (Schools)	per half day	£300.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	School Effectiveness Individual school training (Schools)	per day	£500.00

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 11)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Headteacher recruitment package (Schools)	per package	£1,178.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Mark for Impact package (LA) (Schools)	per package	£800.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Mark for Impact package (Academy) (Schools)	per package	£1,500.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	School Improvement package (Schools)	per package	£1,850.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Headteacher performance management (Schools)	per package	£374.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Pupil premium evaluation (Schools)	per package	£416.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Spotlight pupil premium (Schools)	per package	£624.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Early Career Teacher Appropriate Body Service (Schools)	per package	£100.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Early Career Teacher Appropriate Body Service (Schools)	per package	£200.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Moderation & Monitoring Registration (Schools)	per package	£55.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Data package (Schools)	per package	£686.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	Perspective Lite (Schools)	per package	£312.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	School Governance Core package (Schools)	per package	£1,203.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	School Governance Clerking Service (Schools)	per package	£1,849.00
Corporate Director People	Education & Skills	School Governance review (Schools)	per package	£989.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Burial fees -Burial in a grave -Burial of a body (coffin)	Per burial	£942.70
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Burial fees -Burial in a grave - Large Coffin Surcharge	Per burial	£258.55
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Burial fees -Burial of cremated remains -Burial of a body (ashes)	Per burial	£319.20
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Burial Fees-Use of Chapels Bradford-on-Avon,Trowbridge or Westbury	Per chapel use	£163.85
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Burial Fees - Exclusive rights of Burial -Grave (Coffin) for 40 years	Per grave	£844.83
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Burial Fees - Exclusive rights of Burial -Grave (Coffin) extension 10 years	Per grave	£211.21
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Burial Fees - Exclusive rights of Burial -Grave for 40 years (Child under 15 years)	Per grave	£425.60
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Burial Fees - Exclusive rights of Burial -Grave extension (Child-under 15 years old) 10 years	Per grave	£106.40
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Burial Fees - Exclusive rights of Burial - Ashes plot 40 years	Per plot	£425.60
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Burial Fees - Exclusive rights of Burial - Ashes plot extension	Per plot	£106.40
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Traditional -Style- Headstone 36 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Traditional -Style- Headstone (for kerbs) 36 x 36	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Traditional -Style- Kerbs and or cover stone 36 x 84	Per Kerb or stone cover	£401.12
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Traditional -Style- Vase 12 x 12 x 12	Per vase	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Traditional -Style- Statue (height 36)	Per statue	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Traditional -Style- Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 12)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Cremated Remains -Style- Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Cremated Remains -Style- Book Memorial 31 x 24 x 12	Per book memorial	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Cremated Remains -Style- Tablet 24 x 24	Per tablet	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Cremated Remains -Style- Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Children's section -Style- Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Children's section -Style- Headstone (for Kerbs) 31 x 36	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Children's section -Style- kerbs and or cover stone 36 x 60	Per Kerb or stone cover	£234.08
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Children's section -Style- Tablet 24 x 24	Per tablet	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Children's section -Style- Vase 12 x 12 x 12	Per vase	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Children's section -Style- Statue (height 36)	Per statue	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Children's section -Style- Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Hilperton -traditional section -Style Headstone 36 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Hilperton -traditional section -Style Headstone (for Kerbs) 36 x 36	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Hilperton -traditional section -Style-Kerbs and or cover stone 36 x 36	Per Kerb or stone cover	£401.12
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Hilperton -traditional section -Style - Vase 12 x 12 x 12	Per vase	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Hilperton -traditional section -Style - Statue (height 36)	Per statue	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Hilperton -traditional section -Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Hilperton -Lawn section -Style -Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Hilperton -Lawn section -Style -Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Hilperton -Cremated Remains section - Style - Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Hilperton -Cremated Remains section - Style - Book Memorial 31 x 24 x 12	Per book memorial	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Hilperton -Cremated Remains section - Style - Tablet 24 x 24	Per tablet	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Hilperton -Cremated Remains section - Style - Garden of remembrance 16 x 12 x 3	Per stone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Hilperton -Cremated Remains section - Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Holt-traditional section -Style Headstone 36 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Holt -traditional section -Style Headstone (for Kerbs) 36 x 36	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Holt -traditional section -Style-Kerbs and or cover stone 36 x 36	Per Kerb or stone cover	£401.12
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Holt -traditional section -Style - Vase 12 x 12 x 12	Per vase	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Holt -traditional section -Style - Statue (height 36)	Per statue	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Holt -traditional section -Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Holt -Lawn section -Style -Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Holt -Lawn section -Style -Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 13)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Holt -Cremated Remains section - Style - Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Holt -Cremated Remains section - Style - Book Memorial 31 x 24 x 12	Per book memorial	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Holt -Cremated Remains section - Style - Tablet 24 x 24	Per tablet	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Holt -Cremated Remains section - Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials -Melksham -traditional section -Style Headstone 36 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham -traditional section -Style Headstone (for Kerbs) 36 x 36	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham -traditional section -Style-Kerbs and or cover stone 36 x 36	Per Kerb or stone cover	£401.12
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham -traditional section -Style - Vase 12 x 12 x 12	Per vase	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham -traditional section -Style - Statue (height 36)	Per statue	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham -traditional section -Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham -Lawn section -Style -Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham -Lawn section -Style -Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham -Cremated Remains section - Style - Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham -Cremated Remains section - Style - Book Memorial 31 x 24 x 12	Per book memorial	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham -Cremated Remains section - Style - Tablet 24 x 24	Per tablet	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham -Cremated Remains section - Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham - Children's Section - Style -Headstone 31 x 24 x12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham - Children's Section - Style -Headstone (for kerbs) 31 x 36	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham - Children's Section - Style - Kerbs and or cover stone 36 x 60	Per Kerb or stone cover	£234.08
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham - Children's Section - Style - Tablet 24 x 24	Per tablet	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham - Children's Section - Style - Vase 12 x 12 x 12	Per vase	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham - Children's Section - Style - Statue (height 36)	Per statue	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Melksham - Children's Section - Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge -traditional section -Style Headstone 36 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge -traditional section -Style Headstone (for Kerbs) 36 x 36	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge -traditional section -Style-Kerbs and or cover stone 36 x 36	Per Kerb or stone cover	£401.12
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge -traditional section -Style - Vase 12 x 12 x 12	Per vase	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials -Trowbridge -traditional section -Style - Statue (height 36)	Per statue	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge -traditional section -Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge -Lawn section -Style -Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge -Lawn section -Style -Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 14)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge - Cremated Remains section - Style - Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge -Cremated Remains section - Style - Book Memorial 31 x 24 x 12	Per book memorial	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge -Cremated Remains section - Style - Tablet 24 x 24	Per tablet	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge -Cremated Remains section - Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials -Trowbridge - Children's Section - Style -Headstone 31 x 24 x12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge - Children's Section - Style -Headstone (for kerbs) 31 x 36	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge - Children's Section - Style - Kerbs and or cover stone 36 x 60	Per Kerb or stone cover	£234.08
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge - Children's Section - Style - Tablet 24 x 24	Per tablet	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge - Children's Section - Style - Vase 12 x 12 x 12	Per vase	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge - Children's Section - Style - Statue (height 36)	Per statue	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Trowbridge - Children's Section - Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Warminster -Lawn section -Style -Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Warminster -Lawn section -Style -Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Warminster - Cremated Remains section - Style - Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Warminster -Cremated Remains section - Style - Book Memorial 31 x 24 x 12	Per book memorial	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Warminster -Cremated Remains section - Style - Tablet 24 x 24	Per tablet	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Warminster -Cremated Remains section - Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials -Westbury -traditional section -Style Headstone 36 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury -traditional section -Style Headstone (for Kerbs) 36 x 36	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury -traditional section -Style-Kerbs and or cover stone 36 x 36	Per Kerb or stone cover	£401.12
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury -traditional section -Style - Vase 12 x 12 x 12	Per vase	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury -traditional section -Style - Statue (height 36)	Per statue	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury -traditional section -Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury -Lawn section -Style -Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury -Lawn section -Style -Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury -Cremated Remains section - Style - Headstone 31 x 24 x 12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury -Cremated Remains section - Style - Book Memorial 31 x 24 x 12	Per book memorial	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury -Cremated Remains section - Style - Tablet 24 x 24	Per tablet	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury -Cremated Remains section - Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 15)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury - Children's Section - Style -Headstone 31 x 24 x12	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury - Children's Section - Style -Headstone (for kerbs) 31 x 36	Per headstone	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury - Children's Section - Style - Kerbs and or cover stone 36 x 60	Per Kerb or stone cover	£234.08
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury - Children's Section - Style - Tablet 24 x 24	Per tablet	£254.29
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury - Children's Section - Style - Vase 12 x 12 x 12	Per vase	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury - Children's Section - Style - Statue (height 36)	Per statue	£46.82
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Memorials - Westbury - Children's Section - Style - Additional Inscription	Per additional inscription	£114.91
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Fleet Services - MOTs - Staff / services such as police / ambulances - class 4, standard car	Per Mot	£57.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Fleet Services - MOTs -Staff / services such as police / ambulances - class 5, 13-16 seat minibus	Per Mot	£62.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Fleet Services - MOTs -Staff / services such as police / ambulances - class 7 Good Vehicles between 3 tonnes and 3.5 tonnes	Per Mot	£61.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Fleet Services - MOTs - Public - class 4, standard car	Per Mot	£57.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Fleet Services - MOTs - Public - class 5, 13-16 seat minibus	Per Mot	£62.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Fleet Services - MOTs -Public - class 7 Good Vehicles between 3 tonnes and 3.5 tonnes	Per Mot	£61.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Fleet Services - Other chargeable services - Fleet Lifting Operations & Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) - per examination	Per examination	£83.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Fleet Services - Other chargeable services - Fleet Driver Training - Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme - per person per day	Per person, Per day	£120.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Fleet Services - Other chargeable services - Fleet Vehicles for hire to schools, community groups and voluntary groups. Cost per vehicle per day includes insurance, excludes driver, excludes fuel	Per vehicle, per day	£93.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	General Markets - Continental Markets	per day	£290.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Events - Use of Council Land	per day	£290.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Administration Fee	Per admin fee	£32.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Town Traders - Annual Street Trading Consent all days of the year, including Bank Holidays	Annual	£4,133.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Town Traders Daily Street Trading Consent - All days of the week, including Bank Holidays where these fall on the days included in the consent.	Per day	£52.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Town Traders - Block Street Trading Consent	Per day	£290.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	All other traders - Annual Street Trading Consent - all days of the year, including Bank Holidays	Annual	£2,206.15
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Daily Street Trading Consent - All days of the week, including Bank Holidays	Per day	£23.95
Corporate Director Place	Highways Operations	Block Street Trading Consent	Per day	£290.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	DBS - Enhanced check	Per check	£40.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	DBS - Standard check	Per check	£23.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	DBS - Basic Check	Per check	£23.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Admin charge to be added	Per check	£16.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Development fees -Paediatric First Aid	Per course	£130.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Development fees -Paediatric First Aid (group of 8-12 at client venue)	Per group course	£1,000.00

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 16)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Development fees -Cancellation charge - more than 14 days notice	Per course	Cancellation 6-19 days 50% + £20 admin charge
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Development fees - Cancellation charge - less than 14 days notice	Per course	Cancellation under 5 days no refund
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Development fees - Basic First Aid	Per course	£65.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Development fees - Basic First Aid (group of 8-15 at client venue)	Per group course	£325.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Development fees - Manual Handling & Moving People practical	Per course	£115.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Development fees - Manual Handling & Moving People (group of 8-15 at client venue)	Per group course	£850.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Development fees - Safeguarding for Front Line Staff	Per course	£50.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Development fees - Safeguarding for Front Line Staff (group of 8-15 at client venue)	Per group course	£325.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Development fees - Managers Safeguarding	Per course	£65.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Development fees -Managers Safeguarding (group of 8-15 at client venue)	Per group course	£375.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Developments fees -Autism support- Understanding Autism	Per course	£50.00
Corporate Director Resources	HR&OD and Transformation	Learning & Development fees - Autism support- Understanding Autism (group of 8-15 at client venue)	Per group course	£325.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Marriage/CP Ceremony in small registration office ceremony room max 40 Mon - Thu	Per Ceremony	£250.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Marriage/CP Ceremony in small registration Office ceremony room (40) Fri	Per Ceremony	£300.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Marriage/CP Ceremony in small registration office ceremony room (40) Sat	Per Ceremony	£330.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Marriage/CP Ceremony in large Registration Office ceremony room (60-70) Mon - Thu	Per Ceremony	£300.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Marriage/CP Ceremony in large Registration Office ceremony room (60-70), Fri	Per Ceremony	£350.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration- Marriage/CP Ceremony in large Registration Office ceremony room (60-70), Sat	Per Ceremony	£380.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Marriage/CP in an Approved Venue Monday to Thursday	Per Ceremony	£475.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Marriage/CP in an Approved Venue Friday	Per Ceremony	£500.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Marriage/CP in an Approved Venue Saturday	Per Ceremony	£525.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Combination ceremony package includes small stat ceremony, 2nd celebratory ceremony & inspection fee	Per Ceremony	£625.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Conversion of CP to Marriage - Registration only in an Approved Venue Mon to Friday	Per Ceremony	£250.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Conversion of CP to Marriage - Registration only in an Approved Venue Saturday	Per Ceremony	£290.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Conversion of CP to Marriage - Registration only in an Approved Venue Sunday	Per Ceremony	£325.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Conversion of CP to Marriage - Registration only in an Approved Venue Bank Holiday	Per Ceremony	£350.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Licence for Approved Premises for Marriage or Civil Partnership includes naming and celebration of marriage (formerly renewal of vows) ceremonies (valid for 3 years)	per licence	£1,850.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Licence For Religious Buildings to be Approved Premises for Civil Partnership Registrations	per licence	£1,850.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Fee for Request to Review Decision regarding Approved Venue/Religious Building Licence	per licence	£300.00

Annex 9 – Fees and Charges (page 17)

Corporate Directorate	Service	Fee	Unit	2022/23 Price
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Welcoming Ceremony (Naming) or Celebration of Marriage/CP at a Registration Office Sat	Per Ceremony	£330.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Welcoming Ceremony (Naming) or Celebration of Marriage/CP at a Registration Office Sat	Per Ceremony	£380.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Welcoming Ceremony (Naming) or Celebration of Marriage/CP in an Approved Venue Mon to Thu	Per Ceremony	£475.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Welcoming Ceremony (Naming) or Celebration of Marriage/CP in an Approved Venue Friday	Per Ceremony	£500.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Welcoming Ceremony (Naming or Celebration of Marriage/CP in an Approved Venue (Sat)	Per Ceremony	£525.00
Chief Executive	Legal & Governance	Registration - Proof of Life certification/PD2 form completion for change of name on passport	per passport	£20.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Highways Information - hourly rate	per hour	£77.18
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Highways and Rights of Way - hourly rate	per hour	£100.28
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Public Rights of Way only - hourly rate	per hour	£55.44
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Common Land and Village Green - per enquiry	per enquiry	£26.78
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Highway Statement or Declaration only	per statement / declaration	£236.25
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	Public Path Orders	per order	£2,388.75
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	ROW - Correction of the Commons or Town and Village Green Registers for non-registration or mistaken registration of land	per correction	£2,156.00
Corporate Director Place	Highways & Transport	ROW - searching for land to which rights of common attach	per hour	£70.00
Total				

*NB

Does not include:-

    Statutory charges

    Rents and Service charges

    Leisure Centre charges - please refer to Cabinet Member Decision paper 03rd August 2021 - titled Alignment of Fees, Charges and Memberships

    Parking fees and charges will follow the Traffic Regulation Order process or consultation

    All private sector lease properties and temporary accommodation rents will increase by 4.1%

Appendix 2 – Capital Strategy 2022/23

1. This report presents the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 which sets out the proposed Capital Programme for 2022/23 with future years projected to 2029/2030.

2. The Capital Strategy is an annual requirement that must be approved by Full Council.

3. The purpose of the Capital Strategy is to clearly set out the priorities and framework within which Wiltshire Council determines its resourcing priorities for capital investment, decides the level of borrowing, the affordability of the borrowing and sets the level of the risk appetite.

BACKGROUND

4. The Prudential code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (2017) introduced a new requirement for Local Authorities to prepare an annual Capital Strategy to be authorised by Full Council.

5. The purpose of the Capital Strategy is to clearly set out the priorities and framework within which Wiltshire Council determines its resourcing priorities for capital investment, decides the level of borrowing, the affordability of the borrowing and sets the level of the risk appetite.

6. The prudential code sets out that the Capital Strategy is intended to give a high level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future sustainability.

7. The Capital Strategy does not duplicate more detailed policies, procedures or plans; it is intended to sit above and reference these to allow those seeking more detail to know where to find it.

8. Capital Expenditure is defined within the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Accounting Code of Practice as; Expenditure that results in the acquisition, construction, or the enhancement of non-current assets (tangible or intangible) in accordance with proper practices… All other expenditure must be accounted for as revenue expenditure unless specifically directed by the Secretary of State.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital Programme

9. The Capital Programme is approved by Full Council. The proposed Capital Programme 2022/23-2029/30 is attached in Appendix 1, annex 7, and totals £1,286.953m. A summary position is set out in the tables below for both the capital spend and how it is planned to be financed.

	Revised 22/23 Budget £'m	Revised 23/24 Budget £'m	Revised 24/25 Budget £'m	Revised 25/26 to 29/30 Budget £'m	TOTAL £'m
Corporate Director - People	47.308	21.267	16.990	18.000	103.565
Corporate Director - Resources	162.622	72.245	64.068	27.722	326.657
Corporate Director - Place	52.026	73.594	80.136	336.409	542.165
General Fund Total	**261.956**	**167.106**	**161.194**	**382.131**	**972.387**
Housing Revenue Account	**45.159**	**38.309**	**36.391**	**194.707**	**314.566**
Total Capital Programme	**307.115**	**205.415**	**197.585**	**576.838**	**1,286.953**

Funding	Revised 22/23 Budget £'m	Revised 23/24 Budget £'m	Revised 24/25 Budget £'m	Revised 25/26 to 29/30 Budget £'m	TOTAL £'m
Grants	73.152	79.999	101.497	322.968	577.616
Contributions	2.198	7.162	7.739	3.504	20.603
HRA	45.159	38.309	36.391	194.705	314.564
Capital Receipts	3.439	0.250	0.250	1.250	5.189
Flexible Capital Receipts	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Borrowing - Funded by revenue saving in service	100.787	33.478	13.299	0.751	148.315
Borrowing	82.380	44.217	38.409	21.570	186.576
Other	0.000	2.000	0.000	32.090	34.090
Total Capital Programme Funding	**307.115**	**205.415**	**197.585**	**576.838**	**1,286.953**

10. The Capital Programme sets out the capital projects that the Council plans to invest in over the next 8 years from 2022/23 to 2029/30; the amount of budget per project per year and the indicative sources of funding.

11. The Capital Programme has been reviewed and all figures validated, amended and reprofiled in consultation with Capital Project leads where necessary.

12. The revenue impact of financing capital investments are two fold, external interest payable and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). For the proposed capital programme 2022/23-2029/30 these have been factored into the 2022/23 revenue budget setting process and MTFS.

13. The key objectives of Wiltshire Council's Capital Programme are to ensure;

- Capital assets are used to support the delivery of business plan priorities and the delivery of council services, including the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) in line with the Council's 4 key business plan principles;
    - Thriving Economy
    - Resilient Society
    - Sustainable Environment
    - Empowered People

- Expenditure is aligned to the Council's Asset Management Plans and HRA Business Plan to ensure that buildings and infrastructure, such as schools, roads and housing dwellings are fit for purpose and in a suitable condition to deliver services to the communities they serve.
- All investments are affordable, sustainable and financially prudent;
- Expenditure supports and enhances service delivery and/or generates revenue savings or income streams.

14. In setting the Capital Programme, the Council will consider projects that can generate new or additional future on-going income revenues to replace reducing grant funding and enable services that are required by the community to be provided. Opportunities will also be explored to develop new ways of relieving future pressures. These projects will meet wider Council priorities for example support economic activity, development or regeneration so will not be purely for yield.

15. The Council will look to maximise opportunities to secure external funds and work with partners, both private and other government agencies, to increase the overall level of investment within Wiltshire to support priorities and economic development.

People (£103.565m in the period 2022/23-2029/30)

Scheme name	Revised 22/23 Budget £'m	Revised 23/24 Budget £'m	Revised 24/25 Budget £'m	Revised 25/26 to 29/30 Budget £'m	TOTAL £'m
Education & Skills					
Access and Inclusion	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.500	0.800
Basic Need	18.221	4.355	2.042	2.000	26.618
Stonehenge School Replacement of Lower Block	3.342	0.750	0.053	0.000	4.145
Devolved Formula Capital	0.500	0.500	0.500	2.500	4.000
Schools Maintenance & Modernisation	6.557	5.300	4.750	13.000	29.607
Early Years Buildings	1.170	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.170
Special Schools	16.068	10.262	9.545	0.000	35.875
Abnormal Costs in Development of SEND Free School	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.350
Education & Skills Total	**46.308**	**21.267**	**16.990**	**18.000**	**102.565**
Families & Children's					
Children's Home	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000
Families & Children's Total	**1.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**1.000**
People Total	**47.308**	**21.267**	**16.990**	**18.000**	**103.565**

16. We want to give the children of Wilshire the best start in life as it is a fundamental part of improving their long-term life chances and affords them the best opportunity to live long, full and healthy lives. Wiltshire invests in Early Years and Schools to ensure places are available, offering choice and inclusivity and ensuring buildings are in a good condition and provide the right environment for learning and to keep children safe.

17. Included within the programme are significant schemes that cover the planned maintenance of Wiltshire schools from roof replacements to heating systems and provide for expansions and new schools as well as ensuring facilities are accessible for pupils with additional needs.

18. As part of 2022/23 budget setting additional investment of £4.170m has been added to the programme. £3m is to allow for mobile and pratten classrooms to be replaced with permanent extensions and £1.170m to contribute towards the replacement of 4 temporary early year setting buildings that are no longer fit for purpose and to ensure services can continue and that Wiltshire Council meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient childcare across the county. A longer term strategy for Early Year setting building will be developed in 2022.

19. The capital programme for these works totals £66.340m and is funded by a mixture of Council borrowing, Government grant and developer contributions.

20. The Silverwood and SEND Special School capacity and alternative provision programmes will deliver significant additional places from September 2023 for learners with SEND. A new centre of excellence will be delivered at Rowdeford near Devizes, a budget of £36.225m has been allocated for this programme and is largely funded by Council borrowing.

21. This will be a purpose-built special school which will address the demand needs for additional SEND places for Wiltshire while providing:

- Attractive buildings - safe, friendly, calm and engaging places with wide corridors and lots of natural light
- Strong links with mainstream schools, with a special outreach provision (or resource base) in at least one primary and one secondary school in each key locality
- New world class facilities and support: hydro-pools, sensory rooms, physio, open outdoor space, speech and language therapy, family care
- Strong and vibrant community links – with cafés, community gardens and public playing fields – with inclusive businesses and civic spaces and services that facilitate and advocate independent living for all
- Improved inclusion and outcomes for children with SEND at secondary age
- Effective links with specialist nurseries, offering children with special needs seamless attention from the time they are tots to their teenage years
- Good transport routes and means of transport between the sites, central to the home locations of children and young people with SEND

22. A budget of £1m is included to increase the provision of local placements for looked after children. Options are being developed and finalised in 2021/22 to ensure that provision is available for when placements into family based care is not appropriate. Local provision is essential so that children and young people can remain close to their home and communities to enable them to continue with their education and maintain positive relationships. Being safe throughout life and all its facets is a foundation that all should be provided with.

Resources (£326.657m in the period 2022/23-2029/30)

Scheme name	Revised 22/23 Budget £'m	Revised 23/24 Budget £'m	Revised 24/25 Budget £'m	Revised 25/26 to 29/30 Budget £'m	TOTAL £'m
Finance					
Evolve Project	4.982	2.500	0.000	0.000	7.482
Finance Total	**4.982**	**2.500**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**7.482**
Assets & Commercial Development					
Capital Receipt Enhancement	0.170	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.170
Commercial - Commercial Investment	24.849	12.500	12.500	0.000	49.849
Depot & Office Strategy	4.160	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.160
Disabled Facilities Grants	5.000	4.000	4.000	15.000	28.000
Facilities Management Operational Estate	2.651	3.250	2.500	10.000	18.401
Gypsies and Travellers Projects	1.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.300
Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)	7.501	21.121	37.581	0.000	66.203
Porton Science Park	3.709	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.709
Health and Wellbeing Centres - Live Schemes	7.850	0.441	0.045	0.000	8.336
Non-Commercial Property Purchases	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.059
North Wiltshire Schools PFI Playing Fields	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.300
Operational Property Energy Efficiency and Generation	8.400	0.000	0.000	0.000	8.400
Park & Ride Solar Panel Canopys	3.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.500
Salisbury Central Car Park & Maltings	32.630	0.000	0.000	0.000	32.630
Facilities Management Investment Estate	0.630	0.250	0.250	1.250	2.380
Social Care Infrastructure & Strategy	0.634	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.634
Assets & Commercial Development Total	**103.343**	**41.562**	**56.876**	**26.250**	**228.031**
Capital Loans					
Stone Circle Housing Company Loan	33.488	12.227	0.799	0.751	47.265
Stone Circle Development Company Loan	11.050	8.751	0.000	0.000	19.801
Capital Loans Total	**44.538**	**20.978**	**0.799**	**0.751**	**67.066**
Information Services					
ICT Applications	4.258	2.914	2.914	0.000	10.086
ICT Business as Usual	1.627	2.284	1.575	0.721	6.207
ICT Other Infrastructure	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	1.200
ICT Get Well	3.474	1.607	1.504	0.000	6.585
Microsoft Cloud Navigator	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Information Services Total	**9.759**	**7.205**	**6.393**	**0.721**	**24.078**
Resources Total	**162.622**	**72.245**	**64.068**	**27.722**	**326.657**

23. The council's Asset Management Plans set out the approach to managing the council's land and property assets. The Council has asset management policy frameworks which support the overall approach of managing assets by portfolio and include areas such as disposals and acquisitions, as well as active management of the council's operational, commercial, and rural estate.

24. The council continues to focus on the most efficient use of its buildings, which includes sharing space. Wiltshire is moving to a market rent position for its tenants and has implemented a third party charging policy.

25. Wiltshire has developed community campuses and hubs in towns across Wiltshire to enable public services to co-locate and improve customer service. This programme has enabled the Council to reduce and rationalise the number of buildings it owns and their associated repair and maintenance costs. Melksham Campus is due to complete in 2023.

26. New ways of working across the County brought about by increased home working in response to COVID -19 will free up additional buildings. This will create opportunities for commercial lettings of spare space or development opportunities for jobs and homes.

27. Wiltshire Council is on the path to carbon neutral and included within the programme are schemes and projects for the estate that will assist with this, these projects include lighting upgrades, PV installations, upgraded air handling units and installation of air source heat pumps.

28. As part of the 2022/23 capital budget setting additional investment of £5.130m has been added to the programme to address essential health and safety work on the structure and lighting of car parks, repair works at Salisbury Library and for essential compliance and improvements works to the commercial and rural estate to ensure they can be marketed and relet quickly and for the best returns.

29. These programmes, totalling £47.849m, allow Wiltshire Council to deliver its statutory duties by ensuring the estate is maintained to a good standard and services can operate safely, efficiently, and effectively.

30. £31.560m is included within the capital programme for Information Services and the Evolve programme, which will implement a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system for the Council. Wiltshire Council invests in digital infrastructure to underpin all of Wiltshire operations and services and ensure communities and business can engage and transact responsively and seamlessly. The majority of these programmes are funded through borrowing.

31. The Chippenham Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) scheme relates to the delivery of significant infrastructure works in and around Chippenham. The budget for this scheme over this capital programme is £66.203m and is funded by external grants from Central Government following a successful application to Central Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). This scheme will provide the infrastructure upfront to unlock housing supply to ensure people can live and work locally and play an active part in their community.

32. Stone Circle Housing and Development companies were established in 2019 to meet a range of Wiltshire's strategic housing needs and undertake residential development, predominantly on Council owned land to ensure these needs are met while increasing the potential return to the Council.

33. The aim of Stone Circle Housing Company is to meet a range of strategic housing needs facing the council that cannot easily be addressed by the Council's current approaches. Accommodation to meet the needs of specific vulnerable households in a timely manner from the existing housing stock in Wiltshire is not a priority for the Council's registered provider partners. The Council procures accommodation for homeless households that is costly and the quality and cost could be improved by private rented sector accommodation provided by a local housing company. The Stone Circle Business Plan aims to purchase 250 properties by 2025.

34. The Council has a successful programme of asset disposal. Over the next three years the Council estimates that it may be able to offer to the market sites capable of residential development which subject to planning permission could deliver over 500 units of accommodation. The Council has established Stone Circle Development Company to enable the strategic housing needs across the County to be better met while increasing the potential return that could be generated from the developments.

35. Improving housing supply is critical for ensuring people can live and work locally and play an active part in their community. We want to ensure that residents have easy access to high quality and affordable housing that's close to their family, that's right for them and in beautiful places.

36. The total budget for these schemes over the period 2021/22-2029/30 is £67.066m and will be financed by external borrowing which will be funded by returns from the Stone Circle Housing and Development companies.

37. The commercial investment capital allocation of £53.349m exists to finance investment with a service or regeneration benefit where it is also possible to achieve a return above costs. This allocation will also enable the Council to seek investment in acquisitions that could further bio-diversity net gain and it is intended that in 2022/23 a policy is adopted to support such an approach. Investment in solar panel canopies on Council sites will not only generate energy to offset the Council's energy costs but will also address the climate emergency thus furthering the Council energy carbon reductions programme in its own estate.

38. Disabled Facility programme is funded by Government grant and is forecast to be £26m across this capital programme period. This programme enables vulnerable households to remain in their homes through means tested adaptations.

39. A £31.2m budget is held over the potential future development and regeneration at the Maltings and Central Car Park sites in Salisbury. The Council had been in discussions with a lease owner around a potential acquisition to enable a strategic land assembly for future re-development, however the site and lease has recently been sold to a new owner. It is anticipated that discussions will take place with the new owner and that a decision on the likely next steps for this scheme will be made in 2022/23.

Place (£542.165m in the period 2022/23-2029/30)

Scheme name	Revised 22/23 Budget £'m	Revised 23/24 Budget £'m	Revised 24/25 Budget £'m	Revised 25/26 to 29/30 Budget £'m	TOTAL £'m
Highways & Transport					
Parking Contactless Machines	0.127	0.127	0.126	0.000	0.380
Fleet Vehicles	4.091	0.500	0.500	2.500	7.591
Integrated Transport	1.781	1.781	1.781	8.905	14.248
Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Groups	0.800	0.800	0.800	4.000	6.400
LED Street Lighting	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.200
Structural Maintenance & Bridges	16.140	16.139	16.139	80.695	129.113
Passenger Transport RTPI	0.695	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.695
Drainage Improvements	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	1.500
Major Road Network M4 Junction 17	1.007	1.233	17.033	8.567	27.840
A338 Salisbury Junction Improvements MRN	0.759	0.561	10.136	4.114	15.570
A350 Chippenham Bypass (Ph 4&5) MRN	1.091	19.056	11.070	0.000	31.217
A3250 Melksham Bypass LLM - Full Scheme	2.825	5.630	5.795	221.781	236.031
Highways & Transport Total	**30.016**	**46.327**	**63.880**	**330.562**	**470.785**
Economy & Regeneration					
Boscombe Down	1.191	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.191
Salisbury Future High Streets	5.005	3.214	0.000	0.000	8.219
Trowbridge Future High Streets	5.827	8.363	0.000	0.000	14.190
Carbon reduction	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.000	0.027
Wiltshire Online	0.847	0.097	0.097	0.097	1.138
Economy & Regeneration Total	**12.879**	**11.683**	**0.106**	**0.097**	**24.765**
Environment					
Waste Services	1.019	0.719	0.500	2.500	4.738
HRC Savings Infrastructure	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.100
Environment Total	**1.119**	**0.719**	**0.500**	**2.500**	**4.838**
Leisure Culture & Communities					
Area Boards and LPSA PRG Reward Grants	0.400	0.400	0.400	2.000	3.200
Community Projects	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.400
Fitness Equipment for Leisure Centres	0.800	0.250	0.250	1.250	2.550
Libraries - Self Service	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.500
Trowbridge Leisure Centre	2.000	13.000	10.000	0.000	25.000
Leisure Requirements	3.912	1.215	5.000	0.000	10.127
Leisure Culture & Communities Total	**8.012**	**14.865**	**15.650**	**3.250**	**41.777**
Place Total	**52.026**	**73.594**	**80.136**	**336.409**	**542.165**

40. We have vibrant, well-connected communities where people can get around easily and access good services, including through digital channels. This will help grow the local economy in a sustainable way. Wiltshire invests in it infrastructure, this includes the resurfacing of roads, reactive patching, surface dressing, drainage and pothole repairs and Real Time Passenger Information. The total budget for these schemes over the period is £160.127m and is funded by a combination of external grants from central government , borrowing and developer contributions.

41. A total of £4.485m investment has been added to the capital programme for Highways and Transport projects this will enable £1.5m drainage improvement works to be undertaken to highway and land drainage assets at locations known to be vulnerable to flooding; improving safety and protecting property. Investment in the

council vehicle fleet of £1.910m will ensure front line service continue to operate effectively, the Fleet Strategy will be taken to Cabinet in 2022/23 with an emphasis on carbon neutral fleet and setting out the long terms requirements. £0.380m has been invested to replace 95 outdated car parking machines with contactless machines in Wiltshire car parks over a three year programme. £0.695m will be used to replace the current real time passenger information system which provides live data on how buses are running to the public to encourage the use of busses reducing congestion and emissions.

42. Wiltshire is currently developing major road improvements to facilitate population and employment growth, and improve the local transport infrastructure. £74.627m investment has been added for three Major Road Network Schemes; M4 Junction 17 Improvements, A338 Salisbury Junction Improvements and A350 Chippenham Bypass (ph 4 & 5) and £236.021m for Local Major scheme, the A350 Melksham Bypass.

43. The Major Road Network Schemes will be funded by a combination of Department for Transport (DfT) grant and Wiltshire Council match funding from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 contributions and will only proceed to construction upon confirmation of DfT grant funding. DfT grant funding has been confirmed for the A350 Chippenham Bypass.

44. The council is committed to progressing the A350 Melksham Bypass. It is a Local Major scheme which is expected to take about seven years until it is completed and will have to go through a number of stages, including planning approvals, statutory orders, public inquiry and procurement. At present funding has been included within the capital programme to full construction however financing has only been assigned to Full Business Case stage, which is expected to be submitted in 2026, and this will be through a combination of DfT grant and CIL funding.

45. The construction stage will require further funding of up to £32m from 2026/27 onwards, will depend on the successful progress through the statutory procedures and on the actual contribution required by the DfT at that time. In the meantime, the council will continue to work with the DfT to deliver this scheme to ensure the necessary funding is available.

46. The council was successful in securing Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (MHCLG) grant funding for future high streets and combined with a local contribution will deliver projects in Trowbridge and Salisbury.

47. Salisbury Future High street budget of £8.219m for this period will focus on the Station Forecourt and Fisherton Street in Salisbury. This will enhance the public realm and improve accessibility to make it easier, safer, and more convenient to travel into the city centre.

48. Trowbridge Future High Streets budget of £14,190m, will deliver a range of projects aiming to strengthen the sustainability of Trowbridge Town centre by creating a more diverse offer and increasing footfall. Ensuring this long-term sustainability involves maximising the use of some key buildings, bringing vacant retail units back into use,

as well as improving connectivity, the public realm and active travel opportunities within the town centre.

49. An additional £0.838m has been added for Waste services to ensure facilities and closed sites are monitored and achieve the required environmental standards and investment at Household Recycling Centres to increase recycling.

50. £25m investment has been added to the programme to create a new Leisure facility to serve Trowbridge and the surrounding area. The facility will offer swimming, gym and sports hall services and will be part of the Trowbridge Place shaping strategy that is being developed for 2022. An additional £8.627m has also been added for improvement and refurbishment at Leisure Centres to ensure leisure services can operate effectively and commercially and become a sustainable service. These programmes directly link to the Business Plan principle of Empowering People to stay active; keeping socially, physically and mentally active has direct and positive impacts on brain function, weight management, reducing disease and the ability to enjoy life. Improving all these factors for residents will lead to greater happiness and improved independence. These scheme's will be funded by borrowing, the new facility will be a more energy efficient building than the current facilities with a reduced carbon footprint so will enable the Council to deliver a more environmentally sustainable Leisure service.

Housing Revenue Account

Scheme name	Revised 22/23 Budget £'m	Revised 23/24 Budget £'m	Revised 24/25 Budget £'m	Revised 25/26 to 29/30 Budget £'m	TOTAL £'m
Housing Revenue Account					
HRA - Council House Build Programme (Phase 2)	1.387	0.000	0.000	0.000	al Strat Tables
HRA - Council House Build Programme (Phase 3.1)	10.326	0.277	0.000	0.000	10.603
HRA - Council House Build Programme (Phase 3.2)	12.125	2.499	0.000	0.000	14.624
HRA - Council House Build Programme (Phase 3.3)	4.032	17.858	20.537	110.680	153.107
HRA - Refurbishment of Council Stock	17.289	17.675	15.854	84.027	134.845
Housing Revenue Total	**45.159**	**38.309**	**36.391**	**194.707**	**314.566**

51. The Council House Build Programme is aligned to the remodelled Housing Revenue Account (HRA) business plan 2021-2051 that was approved by Cabinet in January 2021. The total budget for this scheme over the period is £179.721m and will be funded by a mixture of grants & contributions, HRA capital receipts or by the HRA, either directly or via external borrowing (funded by the HRA). The aim of the new programmes is to deliver 1000 new homes, and where the Council is in control of development these will be carbon zero new builds.

52. The Refurbishment of Council Stock programme is for the cyclical repairs and maintenance on the council's housing stock e.g. bathrooms, kitchens, roofs boilers etc. The total budget for this scheme over the period is £134.845 million in line with the HRA business plan. The capital programme was increased for investment in all existing stock to achieve energy performance rating B.

Capital Financing

53. The Capital Programme financing can be summarised as follows:

Funding	Revised 22/23 Budget £'m	Revised 23/24 Budget £'m	Revised 24/25 Budget £'m	Revised 25/26 to 29/30 Budget £'m	TOTAL £'m
Grants	73.152	79.999	101.497	322.968	577.616
Contributions	2.198	7.162	7.739	3.504	20.603
HRA	45.159	38.309	36.391	194.705	314.564
Capital Receipts	3.439	0.250	0.250	1.250	5.189
Flexible Capital Receipts	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Borrowing - Funded by Revenue Saving in	100.787	33.478	13.299	0.751	148.315
Borrowing	82.380	44.217	38.409	21.570	186.576
Other	0.000	2.000	0.000	32.090	34.090
Total Capital Programme Funding	**307.115**	**205.415**	**197.585**	**576.838**	**1,286.953**

54. The Council seeks to utilise a wide range of funding to support its Capital Programme, maximising external funding opportunities, such as grants and contributions, and limiting internal sources, such as revenue funding. Capital funding sources are described below.

55. **Grants & Contributions -** Grant funding is one of the largest sources of financing for the Capital Programme. The majority of grants are awarded by Central Government departments, but some are received from other external bodies. Grants can be specific to a scheme, have conditions attached (such as time and criteria restrictions), or are for general use. S106 deposits account for the majority of capital contribution funding; these deposits are paid by developers and are ringfenced for particular projects as defined in the individual S106 agreements. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) can be used to fund capital expenditure in line with the council's CIL policy.

56. **HRA** – Capital expenditure for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is ringfenced from general fund capital expenditure and is financed by a combination of HRA borrowing and use of the ring-fenced HRA major repairs reserve.

57. **Capital Receipts -** The income received over the value of £0.010m from the disposal of Fixed Assets or the repayment of loans for capital purposes is defined as a capital receipt. They can normally only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt. Some capital receipts have additional restrictions on their use. The council seeks to obtain the highest possible receipt achievable from each disposal after considering wider community or service benefits. HRA receipts generated from the disposal of HRA assets are ringfenced to fund HRA projects.

58. **Borrowing (funded by revenue savings in service) –** There are a small number of schemes in the Capital Programme that are funded by borrowing where the anticipated revenue saving arising from the capital investment will be utilised to fund the costs of borrowing. These schemes, and the associated amount of borrowing to be funded from savings and income generated are:

Scheme name	Revised 22/23 Budget £'m	Revised 23/24 Budget £'m	Revised 24/25 Budget £'m	Revised 25/26 to 29/30 Budget £'m	TOTAL £'m
Commercial - Commercial Investment	24.849	12.500	12.500	0.000	49.849
Stone Circle Housing Company Loan	33.488	12.227	0.799	0.751	47.265
Stone Circle Development Company Loan	11.050	8.751	0.000	0.000	19.801
LED Street Lighting	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.200
Salisbury Central Car Park & Maltings	31.200	0.000	0.000	0.000	31.200
Total Funding	**100.787**	**33.478**	**13.299**	**0.751**	**148.315**

59. **Borrowing -** The council can determine the level of its borrowing for capital financing purposes, based upon its own views regarding the affordability, prudence and sustainability of that borrowing, in line with the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance. Borrowing levels for the Capital Programme are therefore constrained by this assessment and by the availability of the revenue budget to meet the cost of this borrowing which is built into the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

60. **Revenue Funding** - The Council can use revenue resources to fund capital projects on a direct basis. However, given the pressures on the revenue budget of the Council, there are currently no plans to finance any of the current capital programme by revenue funding and it is unlikely that the Council will choose to undertake this method of funding in the future if other sources are available.

Capitalisation

61. The Council has a set of Accounting Policies that are approved annually by the Audit Committee that set out the Council's approach to capitalisation and are based upon guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and take account of local circumstances.

62. The approved Accounting Policies are published within the Statement of Accounts and include policies on all the key accounting matters that affect the figures and disclosures in the statements.

63. Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense to the revenue account when it is incurred.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

64. The Capital Strategy has been developed by Officers of the Council, who have relevant knowledge and technical skills. In addition, external advice and management is employed by the Council procuring and appointing suitably qualified advisors and managers to support the development, operation and design of the programmes.

Consultants

65. The Council will use external consultancy services where there is a requirement to do so. A contract is in place for Treasury Management advice which includes advice on borrowing.

Training

66. In order to ensure that members and Statutory Officers have appropriate capacity and skills regarding their involvement in the investment decision making the following steps are required:

- Training given to Members in all aspects of the Statutory Guidance, the assessment of individual investments and risk.

- Technical training given to Statutory officers and those officers negotiating commercial deals in the technical fields of investment evaluation and requirements of the statutory guidance and prudential code.

- Briefings to members of the relevant committees in advance of any investment decision making prior to a decision being brought forward to the committee covering all aspects of the assessment as well as the strategic fit.

67. The Corporate Governance arrangements around decisions on non-financial investments will follow the rigour of our normal committee arrangements. The relevant Cabinet Members will be fully briefed in terms of the full details of the assessment including external advisor reports. Scrutiny will review all such individual decisions in advance of a Cabinet decision.

Financial Implications

68. These have been examined and are implicit throughout the report.

69. The revenue implications (Minimum Revenue Provision and External Interest) of funding the capital programme have been estimated and have been included in the council's 2020/2021 revenue budget setting report as well as in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and are summarised as follows:

Scheme name	Revised 22/23 Budget	Revised 23/24 Budget	Revised 24/25 Budget	TOTAL
Revenue Cost of Capital Financing	26.841	35.774	39.257	101.872

Workforce Implications

70. Staff who are working on specific schemes within the capital programmes will be funded from the capital programme for the duration of the programme of work and therefore will be funded temporarily. This means that there may be implications for those staff at the end of the programme of work. However, the council has in place robust policies and procedures to support this.

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Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject: **Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23**

Cabinet member: **Cllr Richard Clewer – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member responsible for MCI, Economic Development, Heritage, Arts, Tourism and Health & Wellbeing and Interim Cabinet Member responsible for Finance & Procurement, Commissioning and Commercialisation**

Key Decision: **Non Key**

Executive Summary

This report presents the Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 including:

a) Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the next three years

b) Debt management decisions required for 2022/23 that do not feature within the Prudential or Treasury Indicators (paragraphs 59 to 63)

c) Minimum Revenue Provision Policy 2022/23

d) Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23

This report has been prepared in accordance with CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services 2011, as revised December 2017. Any relevant changes within the code of practice have been reflected within the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23.

Proposals

The Cabinet is requested to recommend that the Council:

a) Adopt the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy (paragraph 25 – 27)

b) Adopt the Prudential and Treasury Indicators (paragraphs 19 – 24, 36 – 42 and Appendix A)

c) Adopt the Annual Investment Strategy (paragraph 66 onwards).

d) Delegate to the Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) the authority to vary the amount of borrowing and other long-term liabilities within the Treasury Indicators for the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary

e) Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) to agree the restructuring of existing long-term loans where savings are achievable or to enhance the long-term portfolio

f) Agree that short term cash surpluses and deficits continue to be managed through temporary loans, deposits and money market funds

g) Agree that any surplus cash balances not required to cover borrowing are placed in the most appropriate specified or non-specified investments, particularly where this is more cost effective than short term deposits; and delegate to the Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) the authority to select such funds

h) Approve the use of Property Funds (paragraph 73 - 75)

Reasons for Proposals

To enable the Council to agree a Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23 and set Prudential Indicators that comply with statutory guidance and reflect best practice.

Andy Brown
Corporate Director of Resources, Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer)

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject:	**Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23**
Cabinet member:	**Cllr Richard Clewer – Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member responsible for MCI, Economic Development, Heritage, Arts, Tourism and Health & Wellbeing and Interim Cabinet Member responsible for Finance & Procurement, Commissioning and Commercialisation**
Key Decision:	**Non Key**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report asks the Cabinet to consider and recommend that the Council approve the Prudential and Treasury Indicators, together with the Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23.

Background

2. The Council is required to operate a balanced budget. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure that this cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Surplus monies are invested in appropriately risk assessed counterparties or instruments commensurate within the Council's risk appetite set out in the Strategy, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering investment return.

3. The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning, to ensure that the Council can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans or using longer-term cash flow surpluses. On occasion, when it is prudent and economic, any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

4. The contribution that the treasury management function makes to the Council is critical, as the balance of debt and investment operations ensure liquidity or the ability to meet spending commitments as they fall due, either on day to day revenue

or for larger capital projects. The treasury operations will see a balance of the interest costs of debt and the investment income arising from cash deposits affecting the available budget. Since cash balances generally result from reserves and balances, it is paramount to ensure adequate security of the sums invested, as a loss of principal will in effect result in a loss to the General Fund Balance.

5. CIPFA defines treasury management as:

"The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."

6. Whilst any commercial initiatives or loans to third parties will impact on the treasury function, these activities are generally classed as non-treasury activities, (arising usually from capital expenditure), and are separate from the day to day treasury management activities. Further details on non-financial investments are given in the Capital Strategy 2022/23.

Reporting Requirements - Capital Strategy

7. The CIPFA revised 2017 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes require for 2022/23, all local authorities to prepare an additional report, the capital strategy, which will provide the following,

   - a high-level long term overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services
   - an overview of how the associated risk is managed
   - the implications for future financial sustainability

8. The aim of the capital strategy is to ensure that members fully understand the overall long-term policy objectives and resulting capital strategy requirements, governance procedures and risk appetite.

Reporting Requirements – Treasury Management Reporting

9. Each year, the Council is required to receive and approve, as a minimum, three main reports, which incorporate a variety of policies, estimates and actuals.

   a) Treasury Management Strategy Statement including prudential and treasury indicators, which covers the following,
      - the capital plans (including prudential indicators);
      - a minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy (how residual capital expenditure is charged to revenue over time);

- the treasury management strategy (how the investments and borrowings are to be organised) including treasury indicators; and
- an investment strategy (the parameters on how investments are to be managed).

b) Mid-year Treasury Management Report, which will update members with the progress of the capital position, amending prudential indicators as necessary, and whether any policies require revision.

c) Annual Treasury Report, which is an outturn position document that provides details of actual performance against a selection of prudential and treasury indicators and actual treasury operational performance compared to the estimates within the strategy for the financial year.

Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23

10. The strategy for 2022/23 covers two main areas,

Capital Issues
- the capital expenditure plans and the associated prudential indicators;
- the minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy.

Treasury Management Issues
- the current treasury position;
- treasury indicators which limit the treasury risk and activities of the Council;
- prospects for interest rates;
- the borrowing strategy;
- policy on borrowing in advance of need;
- debt rescheduling;
- the investment strategy;
- creditworthiness policy; and
- the policy on use of external service providers.

11. These elements cover the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, the CIPFA Prudential Code, MHCLG Guidance, the CIPFA Treasury Management Code and MHCLG Investment Guidance.

12. In December 2021 CIPFA published updates to the Prudential and Treasury Management Codes. These updates include changes which will impact on future TMSS reports and the associated risk management framework. A full implementation of these codes will be required for the TMSS 2023/24.

13. In addition to the above, the DLUHC is proposing to tighten up regulations around local authorities financing capital expenditure on investments in commercial projects for yield, and has already closed access to all PWLB borrowing if such schemes are included in an authority's capital programme. The new CIPFA codes have also adopted a similar set of restrictions to discourage further capital expenditure on commercial investments for yield.

Training

14. The CIPFA Code requires the responsible officer to ensure that members with responsibility for treasury management receive adequate training in treasury management. This especially applies to members responsible for scrutiny. Training will be arranged as required.

15. The training needs of treasury management officers are periodically reviewed.

Treasury Management Consultants

16. The Council uses Link Group, Treasury Solutions, as its external treasury management advisors.

17. The Council recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions remains with the organisation at all times and will ensure that undue reliance is not placed upon our external service providers. All decisions will be undertaken with regards to all available information, including, but not solely, our treasury advisers.

18. It also recognises that there is value in employing external providers of treasury management services in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. The Council will ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented and subjected to regular review.

Capital Prudential Indicators (2022/23 –2024/25)

19. The Council's capital expenditure plans are the key driver of treasury management activity. The output of the capital expenditure plans is reflected in the prudential indicators, which are designed to assist members' overview and confirm capital expenditure plans.

Capital Expenditure and Financing

20. This prudential indicator is a summary of the Council's capital expenditure plans, both those agreed previously, and those forming part of this budget cycle. The Capital Programme 2022/23 will be submitted to Cabinet and Council in February

2022. The estimates for future years are based on indicative figures, as part of the Capital Programme, and are therefore subject to change.

Capital Expenditure	2020/21 Actual £million	2021/22 Estimate £million	2022/23 Estimate £million	2023/24 Estimate £million	2024/25 Estimate £million
General Fund	97.093	131.304	217.419	149.128	160.395
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	10.114	20.956	45.159	38.309	36.391
Commercial Activities/Non-financial investments*	3.030	11.561	44.538	20.978	0.799
Total	107.237	163.821	307.116	205.415	197.585

* Commercial activities/non-financial investments relate to loans to third parties.

21. The table below summarises the above capital expenditure plans and how these plans are being financed by capital or revenue resources. Any shortfall of resources results in a funding borrowing need.

Financing of Capital Expenditure	2020/21 Actual £million	2021/22 Estimate £million	2022/23 Estimate £million	2023/24 Estimate £million	2024/25 Estimate £million
Capital Grants & Contributions	51.416	72.873	75.350	87.162	109.236
Capital Receipts	1.703	3.237	3.439	0.250	0.250
Revenue	1.164	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Other	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.000	0.000
HRA	8.486	20.409	26.159	20.309	20.391
Total Financing (non-borrowing)	62.769	96.519	104.948	109.721	129.877
Net Financing Need – General Fund	44.468	67.302	183.168	77.694	51.708
Net Financing Need – HRA	0.000	0.000	19.000	18.000	16.000
Total Net Financing Need (Borrowing)	44.468	67.302	202.168	95.694	67.708
Total Financing	107.237	163.821	307.116	205.415	197.585

The Council's Borrowing Need (the Capital Financing Requirement)

22. The second prudential indicator is the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is the total historic outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the Council's indebtedness and so its underlying borrowing need. Any capital

expenditure which has not immediately been paid for, through a revenue or capital resources, will increase the CFR.

23. The CFR does not increase indefinitely, as the minimum revenue provision (MRP) is a statutory annual revenue charge which broadly reduces the indebtedness in line with the asset life, and so charges the economic consumption of capital assets as they are used.

24. The CFR includes any other long-term liabilities (e.g. PFI schemes, finance leases). While these increase the CFR, and therefore the Council's borrowing requirement, these types of schemes include a borrowing facility by the lease/PFI provider, and so the Council is not required to separately borrow for these schemes. The Council currently has £64.502m of such schemes within the CFR. The CFR projections are summarised in the table below,

	2020/21 Actual £million	2021/22 Estimate £million	2022/23 Estimate £million	2023/24 Estimate £million	2024/25 Estimate £million
CFR – General Fund	461.606	509.281	670.466	718.435	737.864
CFR – HRA	107.864	99.864	118.864	136.864	152.864
Total CFR	**569.470**	**609.145**	**789.330**	**855.299**	**890.728**
Movement in CFR	**23.295**	**39.675**	**180.185**	**65.969**	**35.428**
Represented by					
Net Financing Need	44.468	67.302	202.168	95.694	67.708
Less MRP/VRP	(12.955)	(15.172)	(17.425)	(24.924)	(27.115)
Less Other Long Term Liabilities (PFI)	(4.218)	(4.455)	(4.557)	(4.801)	(5.165)
Less Other Financing Movements (inc HRA)	(4.000)	(8.000)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Movement in CFR	**23.295**	**39.675**	**180.185**	**65.969**	**35.428**

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement

25. The minimum revenue provision (MRP) is the amount set aside for the repayment of the debt as a result of borrowings made to finance capital expenditure.

26. The Council is required to pay off an element of the accumulated General Fund capital spend each year (the CFR) through a revenue charge (the MRP). It is also allowed to undertake additional voluntary revenue payments (VRP) if required.

27. DLUHC regulations have been issued which require full Council to approve an MRP statement in advance of each year. The following MRP policy (section a to d) was

approved in October 2017 following a full review. It is recommended that Council approves the same MRP policy for 2022/23.

a. MRP for capital expenditure incurred wholly or partly by prudential borrowing or credit arrangements: equal Instalments to be determined by reference to the expected life of the asset. Asset life is deemed to begin once the asset becomes operational. MRP will commence from the financial year following the one in which the asset becomes operational.

b. MRP in respect of prudential borrowing: equal Instalments taken to meet expenditure, which is treated as capital expenditure by virtue of either a capitalisation direction or regulations, will be determined in accordance with the asset life method as recommended by the statutory guidance.

c. The Council retains the right to make additional voluntary payments to reduce debt if deemed prudent.

d. Where the Council issues capital loans to third parties (including to its own commercial companies), the expectation is that the funds lent will be re-paid in full at a future date. Therefore, no MRP will set aside in respect of these loans. MRP will however need to be applied as appropriate if it is determined at any point that any such loan will not be re-paid in full. The position of each loan will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Chief Finance Officer.

Borrowing

28. The capital expenditure plans set out in paragraph 20 provide details of the service activity of the Council. The treasury management function ensures that the Council's cash is organised in accordance with the relevant professional codes, so that sufficient cash is available to meet this service activity and the Council's capital strategy. This will involve both the organisation of the cash flow and, where capital plans require, the organisation of appropriate borrowing facilities. The strategy covers the relevant treasury/prudential indicators, the current and projected debt positions and the annual investment strategy.

Current Portfolio Position

29. The overall treasury management portfolio as at 31 March 2021 and for the position as at 31 December 2021 are shown below for both borrowing and investments.

Treasury Portfolio				
	Actual 31/03/2021 £million	Actual 31/03/2021 %	Current 31/12/2021 £million	Current 31/12/2021 %
Treasury Investments				
Banks	79.975	52.63	114.984	62.19
Building Societies	0.000	0.00	10.000	5.41
Local Authorities	25.500	17.90	0.00	0.00
Money Market Funds	41.977	29.47	59.903	32.40
Total Treasury Investments	**142.452**	**100.00**	**184.887**	**100.00**
Treasury Borrowing				
PWLB	270.123	80.35	268.123	79.91
Market Loans	61.000	18.15	61.000	18.18
Salix	5.034	1.50	6.417	1.91
Total External Borrowing	**336.157**	**100.00**	**335.540**	**100.00**
Net Treasury Investments/ (Borrowing)	**(193.705)**		**(150.653)**	

30. The Council's forward projections for borrowing are summarised in the tables below. These tables show the actual external gross debt, against the underlying capital borrowing need (the CFR), highlighting any over or under borrowing, for both the general fund and the HRA.

External Debt General Fund	2020/21 Actual £million	2021/22 Estimate £million	2022/23 Estimate £million	2023/24 Estimate £million	2024/25 Estimate £million
Debt at 1 April	**231.327**	**234.157**	**233.540**	**416.708**	**494.402**
Actual/Estimated Change in Debt	2.830	(0.617)	183.168	77.694	51.708
Debt at 31 March	**234.157**	**233.540**	**416.708**	**494.402**	**546.110**
CFR	461.606	509.281	670.466	718.435	737.864
PFI Liability	68.957	64.502	59.944	55.143	49.978
Under/ (Over) Borrowing	**158.492**	**211.239**	**193.814**	**168.890**	**141.776**

External Debt HRA	2020/21 Actual £million	2021/22 Estimate £million	2022/23 Estimate £million	2023/24 Estimate £million	2024/25 Estimate £million
Debt at 1 April	**106.000**	**102.000**	**94.000**	**113.000**	**131.000**
Actual/Estimated Change in Debt	(4.000)	(8.000)	19.000	18.000	16.000
Debt at 31 March	**102.000**	**94.000**	**113.000**	**131.000**	**147.000**
CFR	107.864	99.864	118.864	136.864	152.864
Under/ (Over) Borrowing	**5.864**	**5.864**	**5.864**	**5.864**	**5.684**

31. Within the range of prudential indicators there are a number of key indicators to ensure that the Council operates its activities within well-defined limits. One of these is that the Council needs to ensure that its gross debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2022/23 and the following two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years but ensures that borrowing is not undertaken for revenue or speculative purposes.

32. The Corporate Director of Resources confirms that the Council complied with this prudential indicator in the current year and does not envisage difficulties for the future. This takes into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in this report.

Stone Circle

33. Included in the planned capital programme are loans made to Stone Circle. The amounts are as follows.

Capital Expenditure	2020/21 Actual £million	2021/22 Estimate £million	2022/23 Estimate £million	2023/24 Estimate £million	2024/25 Estimate £million
Loans to Stone Circle	3.030	11.561	44.538	20.978	0.799

34. The Stone Circle loans have been funded entirely by borrowing, which will be funded by revenue savings generated through financial returns from the company, through mark up on the loans and through future dividends. As the Council has maintained an under borrowed position, this means that borrowing has not yet been undertaken to fund this element of the capital programme.

35. Borrowing undertaken to fund capital expenditure, including the loans to Stone Circle, is owned and financed by the Council, regardless of whether any income is

received from third party investments. This creates additional credit risk for the Council.

Treasury Indicators: Limits to Borrowing Activity

Operational Boundary

36. The operational boundary is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed. In most cases, this would be a similar figure to the CFR, but may be lower or higher depending on the levels of actual debt and the ability to fund under borrowing by other cash resources.

37. The operational boundary is based on a prudent estimate of the most likely maximum level of external borrowing for both capital expenditure and cash flow purposes, which is consistent with other budget proposals. The basis of the calculation for HRA borrowing 2022/23 is the HRA CFR.

Operational Boundary	2021/22 £million	2022/23 £million	2023/24 £million	2024/25 £million
General Fund Debt	533.735	695.023	743.236	763.028
HRA Debt	99.864	118.864	136.864	152.864
Other Long-Term Liabilities	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200
Operational Boundary	**633.799**	**814.087**	**880.300**	**916.092**

Authorised Limit for External Debt

38. The authorised limit for debt is a key indicator which represents a control on the maximum level of borrowing. This represents a legal limit beyond which external debt is prohibited, and this limit needs to be set or revised by the full Council. It reflects the level of external debt which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term.

39. The authorised limit is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003. The Government retains an option to control either the total of all councils' plans, or those of a specific council, although this power has not yet been exercised.

40. The authorised limit is the operational boundary, including an allowance for unplanned and irregular cash movements. It is proposed that an allowance of 2.5% is continued for General Fund borrowing for 2022/23 to 2024/25, but this will be kept under review. The allowance provides for the possibility of additional borrowing during the year as a result of Government support for further schemes and provides headroom where the projection proves too optimistic (payments made earlier or receipt of income delayed against that forecast).

41. There is no allowance in respect of HRA borrowing, so it has been decided that this borrowing should not exceed the CFR.

Authorised Limit	2021/22 £million	2022/23 £million	2023/24 £million	2024/25 £million
General Fund Debt	547.078	712.399	761.817	782.104
HRA Debt	99.864	118.864	136.864	152.864
Other Long-Term Liabilities	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200
Authorised Limit	**647.142**	**831.463**	**898.881**	**935.168**

42. The following bar/line graph shows external debt against the CFR, operation boundary and authorised limit.

External Debt, CFR, Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit
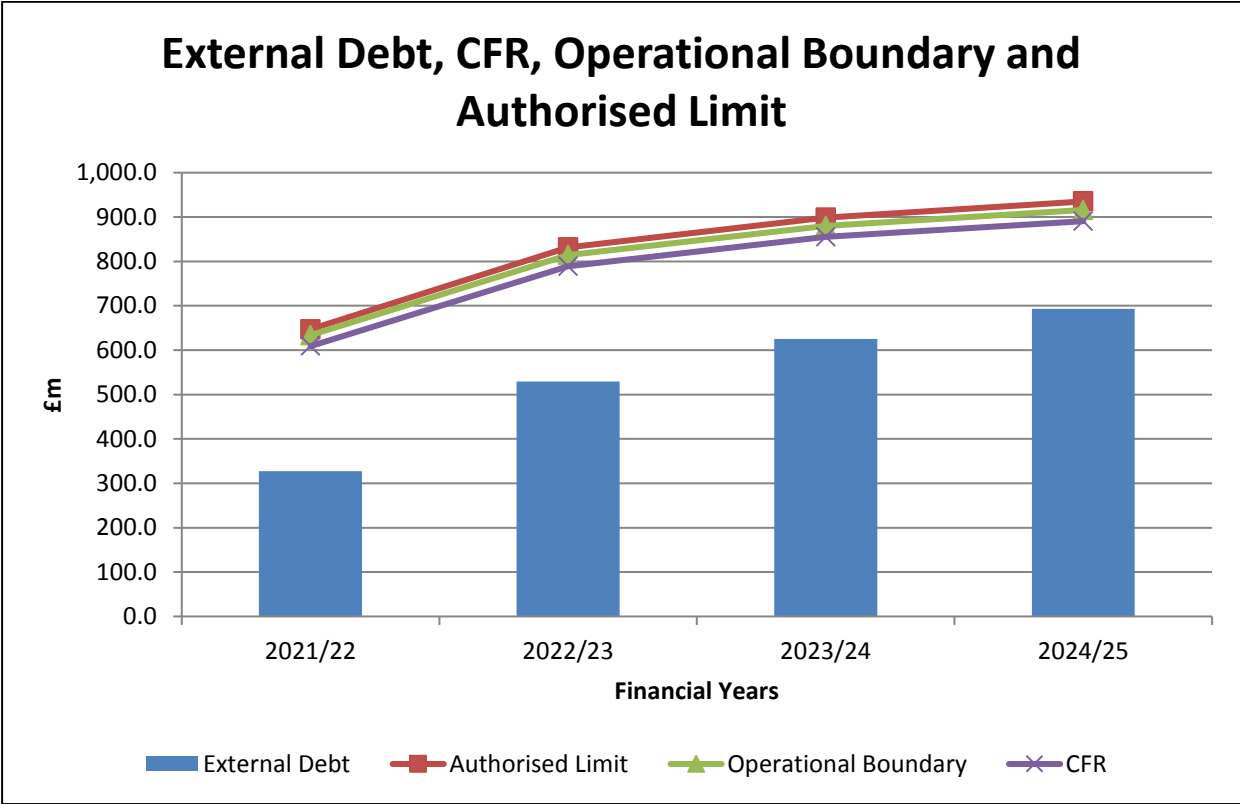
Monitoring and Reporting of the Prudential Indicators

43. Progress will be monitored throughout the year, particularly against the two borrowing limits (operational boundary and authorised limit) above. Cabinet will be kept informed of any issues that arise, including potential or actual breaches.

44. The elements within the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary, for borrowing and other long-term liabilities require the approval of the Council. In order to give operational flexibility, members are asked to delegate to the Corporate

Director of Resources, the ability to effect movements between the two elements where this is considered necessary. Any such changes will be reported to members.

45. The operational boundary is a key management tool for in-year monitoring. It will not be significant if the operational boundary is breached temporarily on occasions due to variations in cash flow. However, a sustained or regular trend above the operational boundary is considered significant and will lead to further investigation and action as appropriate.

46. Any breach of the operational boundary will be reported to members at the earliest meeting following the breach. The authorised limit will in addition need to provide headroom over and above the operational boundary, sufficient for unusual cash movements, for example, and should not be breached.

Borrowing Strategy

47. The Council is currently maintaining an under-borrowed position. This means that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement) has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow have been used as a temporary measure (internal borrowing). This strategy is prudent, as investment returns are low and counterparty risk is still an issue that needs to be considered.

48. Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution will be adopted with the 2022/23 treasury operations. The Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) will, through delegation and reporting, monitor interest rates in financial markets and adopt a pragmatic approach to changing circumstances:

   a) if it was considered that there was a significant risk of a sharp fall in long and short-term rates, (e.g. due to a marked increase of risks around relapse into recession or of risks of deflation), then long term borrowings will be postponed.

   b) if it was considered that there was a significant risk of a much sharper rise in long and short-term rates than that currently forecast, perhaps arising from an acceleration in the rate of increase in central rates in the USA and UK, an increase in world economic activity or a sudden increase in inflation risks, then the portfolio position will be re-appraised. Most likely, fixed rate funding will be drawn whilst interest rates are lower than projected to be in the next few years.

49. Any decisions will be reported to Cabinet at the earliest meeting following the decision.

Rate and Timing of Borrowing

50. In 2022/23 one PWLB loan will mature and become repayable as follows,
    - £8m in March 2023 (HRA)

51. This loan may be refinanced depending on the Council's overall internal borrowing position, and the nature of the current economic climate

52. The timing of any borrowing is crucial in terms of interest rates and the potential to minimise interest costs. Prior to any actual borrowing the treasury team will, in conjunction with our treasury advisers, proactively manage the interest rate position, using all information available to inform the borrowing decision.

53. It is not always possible to obtain the lowest rates of interest, as there is a risk that unforeseen events can significantly alter the level of rates, however, ongoing active monitoring of rates will mitigate against this risk.

Short Term Cash Deficits

54. Temporary loans, where both the borrower and lender have the option to redeem the loan within twelve months, are used to offset short term revenue cash deficits. They may also be used to cover short term capital requirements until longer term loans become more cost effective. The majority of these loans will be at fixed interest rates, maturing on specific dates. The strategy is that the Council shall utilise temporary loans for any short-term cash deficits that arise in respect of revenue and/or capital.

Short Term Cash Surpluses

55. It is anticipated that temporary short term (up to three months) cash surpluses will arise regularly during the year, due to timing differences between income streams and payments. Investment of these surpluses will be in specific investments (e.g. short-term Sterling investments of less than one year). Such investments will normally be short term deposits maturing on specific dates that reflect cash flow requirements at the date the deposit is made. However, under certain market conditions, money market funds will be used, particularly if they provide improved returns.

Longer Term Cash Surpluses (over three months, up to one year)

56. Some cash surpluses, for example core revenue balances, net creditors, accrued reserves and special funds such as those for insurance and PFI can be invested on a long-term basis. These cash surpluses may be used for capital financing requirements, where longer term interest rates mean that it is less cost effective to take out longer-term loans.

57. Improved returns may be obtained by placing these surpluses in money market funds. The Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) has delegated authority to select money market funds and appoint external cash managers within the current approved strategy and it is proposed that this authority is retained.

58. The proposed Investment Strategy for 2022/23 continues to include the use of unspecified investments (e.g. more than 12 months to maturity and for which external professional advice is required) that the Council's treasury adviser may recommend for investment of longer term cash surpluses.

Policy on Borrowing in Advance of Need

59. The Prudential Code issued by CIPFA requires that a council should not borrow more than, or in advance of need purely to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. This Statutory Guidance requires that where borrowing in advance is enacted by a council that the rationale for the decision is clearly set out to ensure that external auditors, tax payers and interested parties are able to hold the council to account for the reasons for the borrowing. This will be included in the decision-making process

60. The Council will not borrow more than or in advance of its needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. Any decision to borrow in advance will be within forward approved Capital Financing Requirement estimates and will be considered carefully to ensure that value for money can be demonstrated and that the Council can ensure the security of such funds.

61. Risks associated with any borrowing in advance activity will be subject to prior appraisal and subsequent reporting through the mid-year or annual reporting mechanism.

Debt Rescheduling

62. Rescheduling of current borrowing within the current debt portfolio is unlikely, as there is a very large difference between premature redemption rates and new borrowing rates.

63. Any rescheduling will be reported to members in a treasury report at the earliest meeting following its action.

Sources of Borrowing

64. Currently the PWLB certainty rate is set at gilts plus 80 basis points for both HRA and Non-HRA borrowing. However, consideration may still need to be given to funding from the following sources for the following reasons,

   a. Local Authorities – Primarily shorter dated maturities out to 3 years or so, as this is cheaper than the certainty rate
   b. Financial Institutions – Primarily insurance companies and pension funds but also some banks, out of forward dates where the objective is to avoid the 'cost of carry' or to achieve refinancing certainty over the next few years

65. Our advisors will keep the Council informed as to the relative merits of each of these alternative funding sources.

Annual Investment Strategy

Investment Policy – Management of Risk

66. The DLUHC and CIPFA have extended the meaning of investments to include both financial and non-financial investments. This report deals solely with financial investments, (managed by the treasury management team). Non-financial investments, i.e. the purchase of income yielding assets, are covered in the Capital Strategy.

67. Council's investment policy has regard to the following,
   - DLUHC Guidance on Local Government Investments ("the Guidance")
   - CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes 2017 ("the Code").
   - CIPFA Treasury Management Guidance Notes 2018.

68. The Council's investment priorities will be security first, portfolio liquidity second, then yield (return).

69. The above guidance from the MHCLG and CIPFA place a high priority on the management of risk. The Council has adopted a prudent approach to managing risk and defines its risk appetite by the following means,

   a) Minimum acceptable credit criteria are applied in order to generate a list of highly creditworthy counterparties. This also enables diversification and thus avoidance of concentration risk. The key ratings used to monitor counterparties are the short term and long-term ratings.

b) Other information ratings will not be the sole determinant of the quality of an institution; it is important to continually assess and monitor the financial sector on both a micro and macro basis and in relation to the economic and political environments in which institutions operate. The assessment will also take account of information that reflects the opinion of the markets. To achieve this consideration the Council will engage with its advisors to maintain a monitor on market pricing such as credit default swaps and overlay that information on top of the credit ratings.

c) Other information sources used will include the financial press, share price and other such information pertaining to the banking sector in order to establish the most robust scrutiny process on the suitability of potential investment counterparties.

d) The Council has defined the list of types of investment instruments that the treasury management team are authorised to use. There are two lists in Appendix B under the categories of 'specified' and 'non-specified' investments.

    a) Specified Investments are those with a high level of credit quality and subject to a maturity limit of one year. Or have less than one year to run until maturity, if originally they were classified as being non-specified investments solely due to the maturity period exceeding one year.
    b) Non-specified investments are those with less high credit quality, may be for periods in excess of one year, and/or are more complex instruments which require greater consideration by members and officers before being authorised for use.

e) Non-specified investments limit. The Council has determined that it will limit the maximum total exposure to non-specified investments to be £30m, in line with the limits for investments for longer than 365 days.

f) Lending Limits, (amounts and maturity) for each counterparty will be set through applying the matrix in paragraph 83 and 85.

g) The Council will set a limit for the amount of its investments which are invested for longer than 365 days (see paragraph 100)

h) Investments will only be placed with counterparties from countries with a specified minimum sovereign rating (see paragraph 85)

i) The Council has engaged external consultants (see paragraphs 16 - 18) to provide expert advice on how to optimise an appropriate balance on security, liquidity and yield, given the risk appetite of the Council in the context of the expected level of cash balances and need for liquidity throughout the year.

j) All investments will be denominated in sterling.

k) As a result of the change in accounting standards for 2020/21 under IFRS 9, the Council will consider the implications of investment instruments which could result in an adverse movement in the value of the amount invested and resultant charges at the end of the year to the General Fund. (In November 2018, the MHCLG concluded a consultation for a temporary override to allow English local authorities time to adjust their portfolio of all pooled investments by announcing a statutory override to delay implementation of IFRS 9 for five years ending 31 March 2023)

70. The Council will also pursue value for money in treasury management and will monitor the yield from investment income against appropriate benchmarks for investment performance (see paragraph 89). Regular monitoring of investment performance will be carried out during the year.

71. Property funds offer enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Authority to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Council's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.

72. The Council will consider an investment in the CCLA Property Fund (a fund tailored to Local Authorities), and investment limits have been set as per non-specified investments.

73. For 2022/23, the Council request approval to consider investments into other Property funds in addition to CCLA. This would provide additional diversification of the Council's investments and the potential for earning a higher investment yield on the core investment balance without detriment to security for this type of investment.

74. Investment in property funds generates an elevated rate of return, and this will almost always introduce a greater level of risk. By carefully considering and understanding the nature of these risks, an informed decision as to the appropriateness of an investment into property funds can be taken.

75. The use of property funds can be deemed capital expenditure, and as such will be an application, (spending), of capital resources. Officers of the Council will seek guidance on the status of any fund it may consider using. Appropriate due diligence will also be undertaken before investment of this type is undertaken.

Third Party Loans

76. The Council has the power to lend monies to third parties. Appendix F sets out the Council's framework within which it may consider advancing loans to third party organisations. This has been reviewed by officers, who have concluded that it is still relevant and fit for purpose.

Changes in Investment Policy from 2021/22

77. The following changes have been made to the investment policy from the previous year.

   •   The use of property funds (in addition to the CCLA fund) has been added to investment policy.   An investment in this type of instrument will be used in line with guidance from the Council's treasury advisors, and appropriate levels of core cash balances.

Creditworthiness Policy

78. The Council applies the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services. This service employs a sophisticated modelling approach, utilising credit ratings from the three main credit rating agencies - Fitch, Moodys and Standard & Poors. The credit ratings of counterparties are supplemented with the following overlays:
   •   Watches and outlooks from credit rating agencies;
   •   CDS spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings;
   •   Sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.

79. The above modelling approach combines credit ratings, credit watches and credit outlooks in a weighted scoring system which is then combined with an overlay of CDS spreads for which the end product is a series of colour coded bands which indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties. These colour codes are used by the Council to determine the suggested duration for investments. The Council will therefore use counterparties within the following durational bands:

Colour	Maximum Investment
Yellow	5 years
Dark Pink	5 years (for ultra-short dated bond funds with a credit score of 1.25)
Light Pink	5 years (for ultra-short dated bond funds with a credit score of 1.5)
Purple	2 years
Blue	1 year (only applies to nationalised or semi nationalised UK banks)
Orange	1 year
Red	6 months
Green	100 days
No colour	not to be used

80. The Link creditworthiness service uses a wider array of information other than just primary ratings. Furthermore, by using a risk weighted scoring system, it does not give undue preponderance to just one agency's ratings.

81. All credit ratings will be monitored daily. The Council is alerted to changes to ratings of all three agencies through its use of the Link Asset Services' creditworthiness service.

- If a downgrade results in the counterparty/investment scheme no longer meeting the Council's minimum criteria, its further use as a new investment will be withdrawn immediately.
- In addition to the use of credit ratings the Council will be advised of information in movements in credit default swap spreads against the iTraxx benchmark and other market data on a daily basis via its Passport website, provided exclusively to it by Link Asset Services. Extreme market movements may result in downgrade of an institution or removal from the Council's lending list.

82. Sole reliance will not be placed on the use of this external service. In addition, the Council will also use market data and market information, information on any external support for banks to help support its decision making process.

83. In addition to the above creditworthiness criteria, the following limits will be applied to the total cumulative investments placed with an individual institution (or group of institutions where there is common ownership):

Monetary Limit	Counterparties
Up to £30 million	Money Market Funds
Up to £15 million	UK incorporated banks with a long term credit rating of at least AA
	Overseas banks that have a long term credit rating of at least AA
	Multilateral development banks
	Local authorities and other public bodies
Up to £12 million	Government backed UK banks and UK building societies and their subsidiaries
Up to £10 million	UK incorporated banks with a long term credit rating of less than AA
	Overseas banks with a long term credit rating of less than AA
	UK Building societies
	Government backed overseas banks and their subsidiaries
	HSBC (for balances within the bank account, held on an overnight basis - to differentiate from above bank limit for fixed term deposits)

Changes in Creditworthiness Policy from 2021/22

84. There have been no changes to the Creditworthiness Policy from the previous year.

Other Limits

85. Due care will be taken to consider the exposure of the Council's total investment portfolio to non-specified investments, countries, groups and sectors.

   a. Non-specified investment limit. The Council has determined that it will limit the maximum total exposure to non-specified investments as being £30m.

   b. Country limit. The Council has determined that it will only use approved counterparties from the UK and countries with a minimum sovereign credit rating of AA- from Fitch (or equivalent). The list of countries that qualify using this credit criteria as at the date of this report are shown in Appendix C. This list will be added to, or deducted from, by officers should ratings change in accordance with this policy.

   c. Other limits. Limits in place above will apply to a group of counterparties.

Investment Strategy

86. Investments will be made with reference to the core balance and cash flow requirements and the outlook for short term interest rates (i.e. rates for investments up to 12 months)

87. Greater returns are usually obtainable by investing for longer periods. While most cash balances are required to manage the ups and downs of cash flow, where cash

sums can be identified that could be invested for longer periods, the potential value from longer term investments will be carefully assessed.

- If it is thought that Bank Rate is likely to rise significantly within the time horizon being considered, then consideration will be given to keeping most investments as being short term
- Conversely, if it is thought that Bank Rate is likely to fall within that time period, consideration will be given to locking in higher rates currently obtainable, for longer periods.

Investment Returns Expectations

88. The current forecast for the next increase in bank rate (from 0.25% to 0.50%) is in May 2022.

89. The suggested budgeted investment earnings rates for returns on investments places for periods up to about 3 months during each financial year are as follows,

Year	Budgeted Earnings Rate
2022/23	0.50%
2023/24	0.75%
2024/25	1.00%
2025/26	1.25%
Later Years	2.00%

90. Given the above, for its cashflow generated balances, the treasury officers will seek to utilise the money market funds and short dated deposits, in order to benefit from the compounding of interest.

Changes to Investment Strategy

91. There are now several alternative types of investment opportunities, providing a different approach to funds being invested in traditional money markets.

- Ultra-Short Dated Bond Funds
- Corporate Bonds
- Property Funds

92. There are varying degrees of risks associated with the above investments, which require comprehensive appreciation and assessment. It is not just credit risk that needs to be understood, but liquidity and interest rate/market risk as well, although these can often be intertwined.

93. Investments in property represent a higher level of risk than that taken in the current portfolio, but this is offset by the higher possible level of return. Given the higher level of core cash balances, a potential investment in property funds will form an active part of the investment strategy in this financial year.

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Investments

94. ESG Investments are becoming more a commonplace discussion within the wider investment community, including Local Authorities.

95. Potential changes to the CIPFA Treasury Management Code 2020 will see ESG considerations and possible investments incorporated into the TMSS 2023/24.

96. Our treasury advisors have clarified that the most important issue is ensuring that there is a clear understanding of the ESG risks that the Council is exposed to and evaluating how well it manages these risks

97. In terms of ESG risks, Governance needs to be the most important one when considering treasury investments. This is because poor governance can have a more immediate impact on the financial circumstances of an entity and the potential for a default event that would impact the amount the local authorities receive back from their investments. Those financial institutions that are viewed as having poor/weak corporate governance are generally less well rated in the first instance or have a higher propensity for being subject to negative rating action. So, this element of ESG is of high importance to the Council, as we follow investment guidance with the security, liquidity and yield principle at the core.

98. As highlighted above, there are already touchpoints with the Council's investment strategy, including the incorporation of ESG metrics into credit rating agency assessments. There are also a small, but growing number of financial institutions and fund managers promoting "ESG" products (short term cash investments), which the Council may able to utilise, whilst maintaining the critical principles of security, liquidity and yield.

Investment Treasury Indicator and Limit

99. This investment treasury indicator limits the total funds invested for greater than 365 days. These limits are set with regard to the Council's liquidity requirements and to reduce the need for any unnecessary borrowing. They are based on the availability of funds after each year end.

100. The Council is asked to approve the treasury indicator and limit:

Upper Limit for Principal Sums Invested for longer than 365 days			
	2022/23	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
Principal sums invested for longer than 365 days	£30m	£30m	£30m
Current Investments as at 31 December 2021 in excess of 365 days maturing in each year	£0m	£0m	£0m

Investment Risk Benchmarking

101. The Council will use an investment benchmark to assess the investment performance of its investment portfolio of the relevant SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Average) rate dependant on the average duration of the fund.

End of Year Investment Report

102. At the end of the financial year, the Council will report on its investment activity as part of its Annual Treasury Report.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

103. The Financial Planning Task Group will consider this report, with any comments reported to the Cabinet meeting.

Safeguarding Implications

104. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Public Health Implications

105. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Procurement Implications

106. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

107. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

108. Wiltshire Council will not intentionally invest in any investment that is not ethical and would not be consistent with our environmental and social policy objectives.

109. Where appropriate, the Council will consider investments that deliver environmental and social benefits, whilst maintaining our Security, Liquidity and Yield criteria.

Risks Assessment

110. The primary treasury management risks to which the Council is exposed are adverse movements in interest rates and the credit risk of its investment counterparties.

111. The Prudential & Capital Indicators and the Annual Investment Strategy take account of the forecast movement in interest rates and allow sufficient flexibility to be varied if actual movements in interest rates are not in line with the forecast.

112. The Council's treasury adviser is currently reporting the following in terms of investment and borrowing rates,

a) Investment returns are expected to improve in 2022/23. However, while markets are pricing in a series of bank rate rises, actual economic circumstances may see the rates fall short of these elevated expectations.

b) Borrowing interest rates fell to historically very low levels as a result of the covid crisis and the quantitative easing operations of the Bank of England. However, the policy of avoiding new borrowing by using spare cash balances has served the Council well over the last few years.

113. As Link's long-term forecast (beyond 10 years) for Bank Rate is 2.00%, and some PWLB rates are currently under 2.00%, there remains value in considering long-term borrowing from the PWLB where appropriate.

114. While the Council will not be able to avoid borrowing to finance new capital expenditure in the future, or to replace maturing debt, there will be a cost of carry (the difference between higher borrowing costs and lower investment returns), to any new short or medium term borrowing that causes a temporary increase in cash balances, and this position will, most likely, incur a revenue cost.

Financial Implications

115. Capital Programme figures included within this report are based on the Capital Programme budget that forms part of the overall budget setting for the council. The capital budget for 2022/23 is higher than the value of programme that has been delivered in previous years. If programme delivery is in line with previous years, using the capital programme figures has the effect of overstating some of the

estimated figures in the report, such as the Capital Financing Requirement and the under-borrowed position of the council.

116. Other financial implications have been examined and are implicit throughout the report.

Workforce Implications

117. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Legal Implications

118. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Options Considered

119. Future consideration will be given to alternative borrowing and investment options to improve the cost effectiveness of and return on treasury activities for the Council.

120. The options in relation to the revenue and capital budgets in these proposals are fully consistent with the figures included within the budget considerations.

121. The Cabinet is requested to recommend that the Council approves and adopts the Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23, as follows,

  a) Adopt the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy (paragraph 25 – 27)

  b) Adopt the Prudential and Treasury Indicators (paragraphs 19 – 24, 36 – 42 and Appendix A)

  c) Adopt the Annual Investment Strategy (paragraph 66 onwards).

  d) Delegate to the Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) the authority to vary the amount of borrowing and other long-term liabilities within the Treasury Indicators for the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary

  e) Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) to agree the restructuring of existing long-term loans where savings are achievable or to enhance the long-term portfolio

  f) Agree that short term cash surpluses and deficits continue to be managed through temporary loans, deposits and money market funds

  g) Agree that any surplus cash balances not required to cover borrowing are placed in the most appropriate specified or non-specified investments, particularly where this is more cost effective than short term deposits; and delegate to the

Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) the authority to select such funds

h) Approve the use of Property Funds (paragraph 73 - 75)

Andy Brown
Corporate Director of Resources, Deputy Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive

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Background Papers

None.

Appendices

Appendix A   Prudential and Treasury Indicators 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25
Appendix B   Specified and non-specified Investments
Appendix C   Approved countries for investments
Appendix D   Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation
Appendix E   Role of the Section 151 Officer
Appendix F   Third Party Loans Policy

Capital Prudential and Treasury Indicators for 2022/23 – 2024/25

1. The Prudential and Treasury Management Codes and Treasury Guidelines require the Council to set a number of Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the financial year ahead. This appendix sets out the indicators required by the latest code.

Affordability Prudential Indicators

2. The previous sections cover the overall capital and control of borrowing prudential indicators, but within this framework prudential indicators are required to assess the affordability of the capital investment plans. These provide an indication of the impact of the capital investment plans on the Council's overall finances. The Council is asked to approve the following indicators,

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

3. This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long-term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream

	2020/2021 Actual (%)	2021/22 Estimate (%)	2022/23 Estimate (%)	2023/24 Estimate (%)	2024/25 Estimate (%)
General Fund	6.4	5.9	6.3	9.0	12.0
HRA	13.7	12.9	11.7	13.6	15.5

4. The estimates in financing costs above include current commitments and the proposals in this budget report.

Maturity Structure of Borrowing

5. These gross limits are set to reduce the Council's exposure to large fixed rate sums falling due for refinancing, and are required for upper and lower limits.

6. In order to protect the Council from interest rate risk and to safeguard the continuity of treasury management financing costs, the following limits have been adopted. This sets out the structure of our debt portfolio and limits the exposure to changes in interest rates.

Maturity Structure of Fixed Interest Rate Borrowing 2022/23		
	Lower (%)	Upper (%)
Under 12 months	0	25
12 months to 2 years	0	25
2 years to 5 years	0	45
5 years to 10 years	0	75

10 years and above	0	100

7. In addition to the indicators (above) it is considered prudent that, under normal circumstances, no more than 15% of long term loans, excluding LOBO loans, should fall due for repayment within any one financial year and 25% in the case of LOBO loans, where maturity is deemed to be the "next call option date".

Treasury Management Practice (TMP) 1
Credit and Counterparty Risk Management

Specified Investments.

1. All such investments will be sterling denominated, with maturities up to a maximum of 1 year, meeting the minimum 'high' quality criteria.

Non-Specified Investments.

2. These are any investments which do not meet the specified investment criteria.

3. A maximum of £30 million will be held in aggregate non-specified investments.

Credit and Counterparty Risk

4. A variety of instruments will be used, subject to the credit quality of the institution, and depending on the type of investment made, it will fall into one of the above categories.

5. The criteria applying to institutions or investment vehicles are as follows,

	Minimum credit criteria/ colour band	Maximum maturity period
Specified Investments		
DMADF – UK Government	N/A	6 months
UK Government Gilts	UK sovereign rating	12 months
UK Government Treasury Bills	UK sovereign rating	12 months
Bonds issued by multilateral development banks	AAA	6 months
Money Market Funds CNAV	AAA	Liquid
Money Market Funds LVNAV	AAA	Liquid
Money Market Funds VNAV	AAA	Liquid
Ultra Short Dated Bonds (1.25)	AAA	
Ultra Short Dated Bonds (1.5)	AAA	
Local Authorities	N/A	12 months
Term Deposits with Banks and Building Societies	Blue	12 months
	Orange	12 months
	Red	6 months
	Green	100 days
	No Colour	Not for use
Certificates of Deposit or Corporate Bonds	Blue	12 months
	Orange	12 months
	Red	6 months
	Green	100 days

	No Colour	Not for use
Gilt Funds	UK sovereign rating	
Non-Specified Investments		
Term Deposits with Banks and Building Societies	Purple Yellow	2 years 5 years
UK Government Gilts	UK sovereign rating	50 years
Property Fund (CCLA)	N/A	N/A
Property Funds	N/A	N/A

6. The criteria in this appendix are intended to be the operational criteria in normal times. At times of heightened volatility, risk and concern in financial markets, this strategy may be amended by temporary operational criteria further limiting investments to counterparties of a higher creditworthiness and / or restricted time limits.

Accounting treatment of investments.

7. The accounting treatment may differ from the underlying cash transactions arising from investment decisions made by this Council. To ensure that the Council is protected from any adverse revenue impact, which may arise from these differences, we will review the accounting implications of new transactions before they are undertaken.

Monitoring of Investment Counterparties

8. The credit rating of counterparties will be monitored regularly. The Council receives credit rating information from Link as and when ratings change, and counterparties are checked promptly. On occasion, ratings may be downgraded when an investment has already been made. The criteria used are such that a minor downgrading should not affect the full receipt of the principal and interest. Any counterparty failing to meet the criteria will be removed from the list immediately, and if required new counterparties which meet the criteria will be added to the list.

Approved Countries for Investments

This list is based on those countries which have sovereign ratings of AA- or higher (the lowest rating from Fitch, Moody's and S&P is shown) and also, (except - at the time of writing - for Hong Kong, Norway and Luxembourg), have banks operating in sterling markets which have credit ratings of green or above in the Link Asset Services credit worthiness service.

Rating	Country
AAA	Australia
	Denmark
	Germany
	Luxembourg
	Netherlands
	Norway
	Singapore
	Sweden
	Switzerland
AA+	Canada
	Finland
	U.S.A.
AA	Abu Dhabi (UAE)
	France
AA-	Belgium
	Hong Kong
	Qatar
	UK

Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation

Full Council

1. Receiving and reviewing reports on treasury management policies, practices and activities;

2. Budget consideration and approval;

3. Approval of annual strategy.

Cabinet

1. Approval of/amendments to the organisation's adopted clauses, treasury management policy statement and treasury management practices;

2. Budget consideration and proposal;

3. Approval of the division of responsibilities;

4. Receiving and reviewing regular monitoring reports and acting on recommendations;

Scrutiny – Finance Task Group

1. Reviewing the treasury management policy and procedures and making recommendations to the responsible body.

The Treasury Management Role of the Section 151 Officer

1. Recommending clauses, treasury management policy/practices for approval, reviewing the same regularly, and monitoring compliance;

2. Submitting regular treasury management policy reports;

3. Submitting budgets and budget variations;

4. Receiving and reviewing management information reports;

5. Reviewing the performance of the treasury management function;

6. Ensuring the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills, and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function;

7. Ensuring the adequacy of internal audit, and liaising with external audit;

8. Approving the selection of external service providers and agreeing terms of the appointment.

9. Preparation of a capital strategy to include capital expenditure, capital financing, non-financial investments and treasury management, with a long term timeframe.

10. Ensuring that the capital strategy is sustainable, affordable and prudent in the long term and provides value for money

11. Ensuring that due diligence has been carried out on all treasury and non-financial investments and is in accordance with the risk appetite of the Council

12. Ensuring that the Council has appropriate legal powers to undertake expenditure on non-financial assets and their financing

13. Ensuring the proportionality of all investments so that the Council does not undertake a level of investing which exposes the Council to an excessive level of risk compared to its financial resources

14. Ensuring that an adequate governance process is in place for the approval, monitoring and ongoing risk management of all non-financial investments and long term liabilities

15. Provision to members of a schedule of all non-treasury investments including material investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures, loans and financial guarantees

16. Ensuring that members are adequately informed and understand the risk exposures taken on by the Council

17. Ensuring that the Council has adequate expertise, either in house or externally provided, to carry out the above

18. Creation of Treasury Management Practices which specifically deal with how non-treasury investments will be carried out and managed.

Third Party Loans Policy

1. Government changes in the way councils are funded has prompted local authorities to look at more innovative ways of supporting business plan objectives.

2. The primary aims of any investment, in order of priority, are the security of its capital, liquidity of its capital and to obtain a return on its capital commensurate with levels of security and liquidity. These aims are crucial in determining whether to proceed with a potential loan.

3. Whilst the Council does not wish to become a commercial lender in the market place it can use its ability to borrow, at relatively economic rates, to support the delivery of improved outcomes for the residents of Wiltshire. At the same time this will facilitate the creation of a relatively modest income stream to support the Council's overall financial resilience. All third party loans must demonstrate alignment to the Council's core objectives and priorities.

4. The intention of this policy is therefore to establish a framework within which the Council may consider advancing loans to third party organisations.

Types of Loan

Loans Defined as Capital Expenditure

5. The acquisition of share capital or loan capital in any corporate body is defined as capital expenditure under Regulation 25(1) (d) of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003.

6. A loan, grant or financial assistance provided by this Council to another body will be treated as capital expenditure if the Council would define the other bodies use of those funds as capital had it undertaken the expenditure itself.

7. Loans of this nature will be included in the Council's approved capital programme.

8. The Council's Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy sets out the MRP requirements in respect of capital loans.

Other Loans

9. Other loans refers to loans that do not meet the definitions of capital expenditure but still support the delivery of the Council's core objectives and priorities. Examples of this type of loan include working capital loans to the Council's Local Authority Trading Companies (LATC's) and loans to Wiltshire Schools to enable Academy conversion.

Loan Framework

10. All loans, with the exception of loans to Wiltshire Schools to enable Academy conversion, must be secured against an asset or guaranteed by a public sector organisation with tax raising powers.

11. The maximum loan to value will not exceed 80%.

12. The maximum duration of the loan will be 25 years but the loan period must not exceed the useful life of the asset.

13. An independent valuation of the asset upon which the loan is secured will be undertaken by the Council.

14. A robust business case must be developed that demonstrates that the loan repayments are affordable.

15. The on-going value of the asset(s) that the loan has been secured against will be valued on a 5 year basis. A charge to revenue may be required if the equity value falls below the debt outstanding or if it becomes clear that the borrowing organisation is unable to service the debt.

16. Guarantees will be called upon if the lending organisation falls into arrears of more than 12 months.

17. Given the administrative costs incurred in both establishing and managing loans of this nature an administration/arrangement fee will be applied to each loan made. The arrangement fee will be no more than 1.0% of the value of the loan value.

18. All loan proposals (including any loan re-scheduling) must be agreed with the Corporate Director of Resources in conjunction with the Council's Treasury Management team.

Limits

19. No specific maximum limits are proposed but all loans must be approved as set out above.

20. Loans less than £0.250 million will not be considered.

Subsidy Control and Interest Rates

21. Following the UK exit from the EU the State Aid Rules ceased to have effect. The UK then became subject to the subsidy control provisions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), existing Free Trade Arrangements (FTA), and those of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). This change came into effect on 1 January 2021. These three set of controls have different definitions and provisions. However, it is unlikely that Wiltshire Council will be in breach of WTO and FTA arrangements if it observes the TCA Subsidy Control Provisions. It is expected that the control regime will be monitored and enforced by a body established by HM Government similar to the Competition and Markets Authority. HM Government's Technical Note on Subsidy Control observes that there may be a consultation in early 2021 to determine a "bespoke approach" with secondary legislation to follow. Nonetheless the TCA subsidy controls are enforceable now through the UK Courts.

22. The principles and terminology contained in the TCA subsidy control reflect State Aid legislation. It is to be expected that the new regulator and the Courts when implementing TCA subsidy control will have in mind the previous State Aid procedures and that there will be analogous reasoning. In general, the parameters of the new scheme will not permit subsidies from state bodies that amount to "financial assistance" to be made which confers an economic advantage on one or more economic actors not available on market terms. This, the TCA specifically identifies, includes a direct or contingent transfer of funds such as direct grants, loans or loan guarantees. Not for profit organisations often undertake commercial activities in order to support the delivery of non-commercial activities and so can be classified as "economic actors" falling into this control regime. An economic advantage given to an actor will not be a subsidy if the state is acting in a way that a rational private investor would, for example in providing loans or capital on terms that would be acceptable to a genuine private investor who is motivated by return and not policy objectives. This is because the beneficiary is not considered to be obtaining an advantage from the State but on the same terms that it could have obtained on the open market.

23. Until further certainty is given by proposed legislation and regulators the actual interest rate charged on third party loans will be set with reference to the minimum permitted within State Aid rules operational in the EU at the time of fund advance and the Council's cost of borrowing plus an appropriate credit risk margin, whichever is higher.

24. If there is any doubt as to whether Subsidy Control may be an issue, Legal advice must be sought.

Governance Arrangements

25. Loans Defined as Capital Expenditure require Cabinet approval in order to be added to the Capital Programme supported by a full business case.

26. The Corporate Director of Resources has delegated authority for awarding loans to schools, in order to assist with their conversion process to become an academy. Specific delegation was awarded by Cabinet at their meeting of 17 May 2016, minute number 63.

27. All other loans must be approved by Cabinet supported by a full business case. Specific details in relation to drawdown of approved loan facilities must be specified as part of each business case.

28. Due-diligence checks will be undertaken to test the underlying assumptions set out in each business case. These checks will include but are not limited to independent credit checks and future cashflow forecasts.

Financial Risk

29. Where the Council issues capital loans to third parties (including to its own commercial companies), the expectation is that the funds lent will be re-paid in full at a future date.

30. However, the Council is required to consider the potential impairment of all loans that it issues to third parties on an annual basis to comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS 9). Where it is considered that there is a risk that any loan will not be re-paid, the Council will need to consider the level of any impairment, in full or in part) as appropriate. Impairments represent a real financial cost to the Council and are charged to the Council's General Fund revenue budget.

Exemptions

31. Exemptions to this policy may be considered but any exemption will need to be approved by Full Council.

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject:	Financial Year 2021/2022 - Quarter Three Revenue Budget Monitoring
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Richard Clewer Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for MCI, Economic Development, Heritage, Arts, Tourism and Health & Wellbeing and Interim Cabinet Member responsible for Finance & Procurement, Commissioning and Commercialisation
Key Decision:	Non-Key

Executive Summary

This report informs members of the third quarterly revenue budget monitoring forecast position (as at 31 December 2021) for the financial year 2021/22, including an update on the specific COVID-19 funding received. It also provides and update on the MTFS and budget gap for the financial year 2022/23.

Quarter 3 Revenue Budget Monitoring

Quarter 3 budget monitoring forecasts are based on information known as at 31 December 2021.

The Net Budget set by Full Council for 2021/22 is £412.562m, this budget was set as a one year holding position and recognised the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on funding and income generating services for example Car Parking, Planning and Leisure. Included within the budget is the planned earmarked reserve drawdowns totalling £8.444m from the Budget Equalisation and Collection Fund Volatility reserve which were set up in 2020/21 to mitigate the impact on services and manage the Collection Fund deficit from 2020/21 over the next 3 years.

The budget funding is supported by £20.301m one off Hardship and Emergency Funding Grant from Government in 2021/22.

The quarter 3 position forecasts an underspend for the year of £14.824m. Its is requested to transfer £2m of this balance into the Pay Award reserve to provide additional funding for the pay award for 2021/22 that has still not been agreed nationally. The intention is to transfer the balance of the underspend once the final year end position is known and this will be requested as part of the outturn report.

Proposal(s)

Cabinet is asked to approve:

a) the transfer of £1.4m into the General Fund reserve, £3.299m into a Transformation reserve and £0.397m into a Business Plan Priority reserve as a result of the earmarked reserve review;

b) the transfer of £2m into the Pay Award reserve;

c) The transfer of £0.500m into a new an ear marked reserve for Depot Phase Two Feasibility in 2022/23 from the 2021/22 underspend in Assets and Commercial budget.

Cabinet is asked to note:

a) the current revenue budget is forecast to underspend by £14.824m by the end of the financial year

b) the current savings delivery performance for the year

c) the current forecast position of the use of Capital Receipts flexibilities of £3.905m

d) the forecast level of reserves and budgeted draw down of £10.444m and £34.076m of section 31 Grant

e) the in-year savings achieved through contractual activity and subsequent budget movements

Reason for Proposal(s)

To inform effective decision making and ensure sound financial management as part of the Councils overall control environment.

To inform Cabinet on the forecast revenue financial position of the Council for the financial year 2021/22 as at quarter 3 (31 December 2021), including delivery of approved savings for the year.

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject:	**Financial Year 2021/2022 - Quarter Three Revenue Budget Monitoring**
Cabinet Member:	**Cllr Richard Clewer Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for MCI, Economic Development, Heritage, Arts, Tourism and Health & Wellbeing and Interim Cabinet Member responsible for Finance & Procurement, Commissioning and Commercialisation**
Key Decision:	**Non-Key**

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members of the Revenue Budget Monitoring position 2021/22 Quarter 3 (31 December 2021) for the financial year 2021/22 with suggested actions as appropriate.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. Budget monitoring and reporting supports effective decision making and the alignment of resources and financial performance to the Council's priorities and objectives as laid down in the Business Plan.

Background

COVID FUNDING 2021/22

3. Included in the budget monitoring reports last year was a regular update on the financial impact of COVID-19 on the council's finances. The council is receiving additional funding this year as well as funding some COVID-19 related support from the grants that were set aside last year in earmarked reserves. Detail of the impact on services is included in the narrative for each service area where it is significant and set out below are the grants for this financial year that support some specific on-going interventions and support for the public and businesses. Of the £52.696m expected grant and other funding in excess of £40m is passported to either businesses or families and individuals. There are also some specific residual COVID-19 related costs and income that are detailed in paragraphs 83 & 84.

Grant Description	Earmarked Reserve £m	2021/22 Expected Allocation £m	Total 2021/22 £m
Covid 19 New Burden Grant	0.000	-0.353	-0.353
Wellbeing for Education Return *	-0.080	-0.072	-0.152
Winter Grant / Local Grant / Household Support Grant *	0.000	-2.729	-2.729
Contain Outbreak Management Fund	-8.041	-2.807	-10.848
Business Grants *	-9.212	-29.326	-38.539
Infection Control & Testing 2021/22 *	0.000	-3.615	-3.615
Test & Trace *	0.000	-1.033	-1.033
Sales Fees & Charges Support	0.000	-1.704	-1.704
Catch up Schools *	0.000	-0.900	-0.900
CBSSG Restart *	0.000	-0.223	-0.223
Mass Test Funding Schools *	0.000	-0.224	-0.224
Infection Cont & Testing Round 4 *	0.000	-2.474	-2.474
Vulnerable - Clinical *	-0.535	-0.801	-1.336
Hospital Discharge / NHS funding	0.000	-6.434	-6.434
TOTAL	**-17.868**	**-52.696**	**-70.564**

* Denotes where grants are passported to businesses, households or individuals

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22 – QUARTER 3

4. The Council approved a net budget for 2021/22 of £412.561m at its meeting on 23 February 2021.

5. The following paragraphs focus on forecast outturn variances against the approved budget based on information as at 31 December 2021.

6. This is the third report for the financial year and includes a summary of the movements of the budget since the budget was set by Full Council in February 2021. This summary can be seen in Appendix A.

Main Considerations for the Council

Revenue Budget

7. The following elements of this report reflect the management responsibility in line with the current management hierarchy. The breakdown of the projected year end position is set out in table 1 below.

Table 1 – Forecast as at Quarter 3 2021/22 Summary Position

Overview of Quarter 3 Monitoring

	Original Budget A £m	Revised Budget B £m	Full Year Forecast C £m	Full Year Variance D (C-B) £m	Revised Variance Q2 £m	Movement since Q2 £m
Corporate Director People						
Living and Ageing Well	52.372	67.927	69.647	1.720	1.547	0.173
Whole Life Pathway	78.007	80.698	76.824	(3.874)	(3.874)	(0.000)
Education & Skills	20.398	20.477	19.427	(1.050)	(0.606)	(0.444)
Family & Children Services	62.475	60.781	58.670	(2.111)	(1.364)	(0.747)
TOTAL PEOPLE	*213.252*	*229.883*	*224.568*	*(5.315)*	*(4.297)*	*(1.018)*
Corporate Director Resources						
Finance	5.000	3.708	3.422	(0.286)	(0.224)	(0.062)
Assets & Commercial Development	15.498	15.715	15.510	(0.205)	(0.239)	0.034
ICT	11.406	11.689	11.415	(0.274)	(0.354)	0.080
Procurement & Commissioning	26.198	8.118	7.235	(0.883)	(0.278)	(0.605)
TOTAL RESOURCES	*58.102*	*39.230*	*37.582*	*(1.648)*	*(1.095)*	*(0.553)*
Corporate Director Place						
Highways & Transport	37.734	36.898	37.008	0.110	0.504	(0.394)
Economy & Regeneration	2.121	2.777	2.580	(0.197)	(0.112)	(0.085)
Planning	2.493	2.373	2.373	-	0.003	(0.003)
Environment	44.340	42.880	40.687	(2.193)	(1.486)	(0.707)
Leisure Culture & Communities	9.726	9.132	7.535	(1.597)	(1.191)	(0.406)
TOTAL PLACE	*96.414*	*94.060*	*90.183*	*(3.877)*	*(2.282)*	*(1.595)*
Chief Executive Directorates						
Public Health	1.541	1.508	1.508	-	-	-
Legal & Governance	10.895	8.672	8.185	(0.487)	(0.043)	(0.444)
HR&OD and Transformation	4.385	6.505	5.553	(0.952)	(0.544)	(0.408)
Corporate Directors & Members	3.284	3.227	3.104	(0.123)	(0.093)	(0.030)
Commercial Savings	0.102	0.102	-	(0.102)	(0.102)	-
TOTAL CEX DIRECTORATES	*20.207*	*20.014*	*18.350*	*(1.664)*	*(0.782)*	*(0.882)*
Corporate						
Movement on Reserves	(8.444)	(8.487)	(8.676)	(0.189)	(0.189)	-
Capital Financing	25.320	27.167	25.240	(1.927)	(1.927)	-
Corporate Costs	1.085	4.069	4.069	-	-	-
Corporate Levies	6.625	6.625	6.625	-	-	-
Covid	-	-	(0.204)	(0.204)	(0.204)	-
TOTAL CORPORATE	*24.586*	*29.374*	*27.054*	*(2.320)*	*(2.320)*	*-*
TOTAL COUNCIL GENERAL FUND	**412.561**	**412.561**	**397.737**	**(14.824)**	**(10.776)**	**(4.048)**
WC Funding						
General Government Grants	(57.045)	(57.045)	(57.045)	-	-	-
Council Tax	(297.016)	(297.016)	(297.016)	-	-	-
Business Rates Retention Scheme	(58.500)	(58.500)	(58.500)	-	-	-
TOTAL WC FUNDING	*(412.561)*	*(412.561)*	*(412.561)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
COUNCIL GENERAL FUND NET OF FUNDING	**(0.000)**	**(0.000)**	**(14.824)**	**(14.824)**	**(10.776)**	**(4.048)**

8. Overall, the quarter 3 report identifies a potential net year end forecast underspend of £14.824m. This is a significant movement from the financial position reported at Q2 and details of the significant variances within service areas are included below.

CORPORATE DIRECTOR - PEOPLE

Table 2 – Forecast as at Quarter 3 2021/22 Corporate Director People Position

		Original Budget A £m	Revised Budget Q3 B £m	Forecast at Q3 C £m	Variance at Q3 D (C-B) £m
Corporate Director People					
Living and Ageing Well	Gross	80.548	103.879	104.297	0.418
	Income	(28.176)	(35.952)	(34.650)	1.302
	Net Exp	**52.372**	**67.927**	**69.647**	**1.720**
Whole Life Pathway	Gross	89.114	92.480	92.723	0.243
	Income	(11.107)	(11.782)	(15.899)	(4.117)
	Net Exp	**78.007**	**80.698**	**76.824**	**(3.874)**
Education & Skills	Gross	118.536	125.060	124.157	(0.903)
	Income	(98.138)	(104.583)	(104.730)	(0.147)
	Net Exp	**20.398**	**20.477**	**19.427**	**(1.050)**
Family & Children Services	Gross	68.507	66.834	64.723	(2.111)
	Income	(6.032)	(6.053)	(6.053)	-
	Net Exp	**62.475**	**60.781**	**58.670**	**(2.111)**
TOTAL PEOPLE	**Gross**	**356.705**	**388.253**	**385.900**	**(2.353)**
	Income	**(143.453)**	**(158.370)**	**(161.332)**	**(2.962)**
	Net Exp	**213.252**	**229.883**	**224.568**	**(5.315)**

Children & Young People with Social Care Needs: Budget £60.781m – (£2.111)m underspend

9. This is a demand driven service area although the anticipated latent demand for children in care is yet to come to fruition this, together with the successful cost control programmes (paragraphs 14 and 15 below refer) are contributing to the forecast underspend in the children in care (CIC) external placement budget of (£0.731m.) The Council is committed to providing placements for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children current numbers stand at 78 and 29 of these young people are under 18 years of age. We are expecting more young people to come via the new regional arrangements over the next few financial years.

10. The budgeted number of children in care for 2021-22 financial year is 485. The actual number of children in care is 430 (November 2021) and forecast estimate of children in care for the year is lower than budgeted, at 443 excluding the anticipated 8-12 unaccompanied asylum seeking children for whom grant funding is available to contribute to or cover costs.

11. We still anticipate the number of new entrants into care increasing throughout the year as a consequence of the pandemic. Demand modelling undertaken jointly with Police and CCG shows a significant increase in safeguarding work as a result of latent and new demand following COVID-19 related pressure including extended periods of relative isolation for children and families throughout 'lockdown'. Previous forecasts suggested children in care numbers may exceed 500 by March 2021, which did not come to fruition however, the referral rate is rising and for this reason the forecast includes the impact of a lower level of scenario costing. The assessment of latent demand on services and the ongoing, full year impact of this will create pressure in current and future financial years although with a later timescale than originally anticipated.

12. There are a number of plans in progress to mitigate cost pressure including the "move forward" programme enabling children to move from residential to foster care or semi-independence and investment in the sufficiency of Wiltshire placements.

13. Good progress continues to be made with the Fostering Excellence project with end of year targets for 2020-21 met.

14. Upward trends for special guardianship and adoption placements have been slower than anticipated leading to an underspend of (£0.252m.)

15. SEN social care external placement budgets are forecasting additional budget pressure £1.146m due to both current and anticipated numbers of children in our care and those with special educational needs and disability. The reason for the forecast overspend is unit cost. At the time of setting the budget, the average unit cost was calculated at £570 per week. The overall average as at quarter 3 is £746, largely driven by three young people with complex needs whose annual costs exceed £1.0m. There are two underlying reasons for the other cost pressures, some children are presenting with more complex needs as a result of the pandemic and additionally, there is pressure for placements for children in a marketplace which has been impacted by the pandemic in both unit price and availability.

16. The demand for complex SEN social care placements has increased and this is partially linked to those children with complex needs who have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Demand and recovery actions for this group of children and young people is detailed in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) section of this report; paragraphs 90 to 96. In addition, a SEND placement budget project has been set up to examine and understand the drivers and propose recovery actions as appropriate.

17. The service has on going recruitment campaigns for certain key management posts and social workers, despite this there have been significant vacancies. As part of this campaign, Wiltshire is committed to "growing its own" social workers so a greater number of staff on the ASYE (assessed and supported year in employment) for newly qualified social workers have been employed this year, a by-product of this approach is that these staff are at the beginning of their careers and there are economic benefits. These factors lead to a forecast underspend of £0.979M in the support and safeguarding service and the and children in care teams (£0.186m). In order to reduce the overall cost pressure, use of agency staff has been kept to a minimum to date however, there are concerns that if future recruitment campaign success is limited, agency staff will need to be considered for key posts.

18. A number of small variances comprise the balance of the forecast underspend.

Education & Skills (School Effectiveness, SEN & Inclusion): Budget £20.477m – (£1.050)m underspend

19. The services continue to respond and support early years settings and schools to align to the updated government COVID-19 guidance for education settings and directly support the impact of the pandemic on school closures, staff

shortages in schools and ensuring our most vulnerable pupils access education. The services also continue to fulfil numerous statutory duties. Therefore, most services are forecast to largely be aligned with budget – the forecast underspend in service teams of (£0.361m) relates vacant posts across the service. Some of these posts have been held vacant to offset reduced trading income.

20. All 5-16-year-old school children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are entitled to free school transport. The forecast based on the new academic year includes transport for 2,518 students and shows a 1.6% increase in student numbers since the end of the last financial year. This is countered by transport marketplace difficulties and a contingent amount is included in the forecast to represent pressures. Overall, the demand is less than anticipated and as such a forecast underspend of (£0.605m) is reported for quarter 2.

21. Maintained schools can convert to an academy through two routes, sponsored and or, converter. Sponsored academy status is designed for 'underperforming' schools where action is needed to raise standards and additional DfE funding is available to the school and sponsor to facilitate the conversion. When a maintained school with a deficit budget converts to an academy on a sponsored basis, the local authority has responsibility for this deficit. A number of small, historical school deficits are therefore written off in this quarter totalling £0.269m. There are a number of schools with budget pressures and deficit positions, and this is for a variety of reasons including falling birth rates and falling number on roll, and parental admissions preferences. There is a considerable amount of support for schools provided from finance and school improvement working together to bring budgets back into balance whilst ensure high quality teaching is available for Wiltshire pupils. As a last resort, the local authority has the ability to withdraw financial delegation and operate the school's budget.

Living and Ageing Well: Budget £67.927m – £1.720m overspend

22. Living and Ageing Well budgets are projecting a variance of £1.720m overspend. The most significant variances are an underspend on salaries in the ongoing support teams (£0.592m); salary underspends across all the other teams within the directorate amounting to (£0.192m), and then, most significant of all, overspends on care package costs of £3.043m offset by contributions from the Better Care Fund of (£0.557m).

23. The budget position for Living and Ageing Well also includes the impact of COVID-19, specifically the Hospital Discharge programme. Since March 2020, hospital discharges have been funded for a period through the NHS. With effect from 1 September 2020 until 30 June 2021 the NHS funded the first 6 weeks, and from the 1 July to 30 September 2021 they funded the first 4 weeks, now confirmed as staying in place until 31 March 2022. After this initial period people transfer to their normal funding arrangements if they have eligible care needs. It is unclear to what extent these funding arrangements will fall on the Council, and how much they will cost; it is also unclear the extent to which there will be demand, and the cost of that demand, for discharges after the funding arrangement stops, so risk and uncertainty is present within this service area.

24. The forecasts assume demand will continue at the same level throughout the financial year, and that 50% of the costs of support at the end of the funded period will fall on the Council. On this basis, the risk had been estimated at £2m, but following funding announcements in year was reduced to £1m. As each month passes the risks of costs of future demand in year reduces, and as such the risk has been reduced to £0.660m, which is included in the care package variance reported above.

25. The underspend in the Ongoing Support Teams of (£0.592m) is comprised of salary savings due to a significant number of vacancies in those teams and difficulties recruiting to the vacant posts.

26. In respect of Purchased Care there is a variance of £3.043m against a budget of £58.419m. There had been a discernible shift towards people being supported at home. The picture has now been complicated by the reduction in the number of block contract care home beds available, which are funded from Commissioning budgets and a corresponding increase in the number of care home placements that are therefore made in spot contract care home beds, which the Access & Reablement budget funds.

27. The variances on Purchased Care budgets are as follows: underspends on care home placements of (£1.121m); overspends on Domiciliary care £1.799m, Direct Payments £0.905m and Support to Carers £0.465m. The balance is on the risks of future demands, outlined above, of £0.660m

28. The budget was set on the basis of needing to provide 442 care home placements at an average weekly price of £1,013 for residential care, and £849 per Nursing Care. As of the end of November there were 433 people in a care home, with average prices of £880 for residential care, and £869 for Nursing care, resulting in an underspend of (£1.121m).

29. Although there has been a reduction in the number of people supported in a care home, with the figures above masking a movement from block to spot placements, there has been an increase in the number of people supported at home, from a budgeted 1,418 to 1,484 at the end of November, with average costs of supporting people at home at £309 per week, up from £306 per week from what was originally budgeted for. The price per visit of domiciliary care has fallen slightly, due to continuously improving brokerage practice, from £17.23 to £17.03, but the move to supporting more people at home means that the average number of visits per person has increased from 18.3 to 18.9 , and the net effect of these two factors is a slight increase in the average overall cost per person.

30. Reablement are still incurring costs projected to be £0.192m due to the employment of locum Occupational Therapists, it is hoped that as recruitment progresses these can be reduced during the course of the year.

31. Salary underspends across other parts of the directorate, including the Hospital social work teams (£0.100m), Advice and Contact teams (£0.138m) and an overspend on all other salary budgets within the directorate of £0.047m account for the balance of the variances in Living and Ageing Well.

Whole Life Pathway: Budget £80.698m – (£3.874m) underspend

32. Overall Whole Life Pathway budgets are projecting a variance of (£3.874m) underspend. This breaks down as follows: Learning Disabilities (LD) Operations estimate a (£0.748m) underspend, LD Provider Units estimate a (£0.634m) underspend and Mental Health expect to end the year (£2.492m) underspent. Explanations of these variances are given in the below paragraphs.

Learning Disabilities and Autism Service: Budget £55.168m – (£0.748m) under spent

33. There is a forecast underspend on salary costs of (£0.144m) due to several posts being held vacant, with the savings partly offset by spend on agency staff.

34. An overspend is forecast on purchased care of £1.205m, with expected underspends on Domiciliary care (£0.093m) Day Care (£0.014m) and Shared Lives (£0.084m) and overspends on other types of care arrangement including Supported Living £0.908m, Care Home Placements £0.398m, Direct Payments £0.059m, and all other care arrangements of £0.031m.

35. In respect of Care Home placements, the budget was set on the basis of providing 306 places at an average cost of £1,788 per week. As of November there were 302 placements at an average price of £1,784 per week, but with anticipated potential price pressures amounting to £0.700m, not included in the £1,784 per week figure

36. In respect of care at home, covering Supported Living and Domiciliary Care, the budget was set on the basis of providing 504 packages of care at an average cost of £897 per week. As of November there were 14 fewer packages, but they were being provided at an average price of £931 per week. This gives a pressure of £0.194m, with further pressures incorporated into the forecast for known anticipated new care packages.

37. There is forecast to be an over-recovery of income amounting to (£1.923m). Of this (£0.828m) is due to contributions from clients towards their care costs being higher than the budgeted figure. Contributions from the CCG towards care costs of jointly funded clients are not budgeted for, and amount to (£0.830m).

Community Support Budget £3.918m, (£0.634m) under spent

38. There has been a reduced service due to it being necessary to operate within COVID-19 restrictions. For this reason, vacancies have arisen and have not been actively recruited to whilst restrictions remained in place. This position is now changing, but the reduced costs in the early months of the financial year will produce an estimated underspend of (£0.222m) within the financial year.

39. Income contributions variances of (£0.426m) arise from a contribution from the Better Care Fund towards a pilot Enablement Service, payment by the CCG for the care costs of individuals who are funded by Continuing Health Care, and

whose care is provided by LD Provider services, and finally Government Grant funding in the form of Infection Prevention and Control.

40. Also included within this budget area are costs of support to Refugees incorporating the Afghan Resettlement Programme, at a gross cost of £0.499m, offset by equal Government Grant funding.

Mental Health and Safeguarding: Budget £21.611m – (£2.493m) underspend

41. There is currently a forecast underspend on purchased care of (£0.669m), with expected underspends on care home placements (£0.942m), and Shared Lives (£0.285m) and an overspend on Supported Living £0.357m. Collectively all other care arrangements are expected to overspend by £0.201m.

42. The budget was set on the basis of needing to provide 276 care home placements at an average weekly price of £1,034 for residential care, and £968 for Nursing Care. As of the end of November there were 248 people in a care home, with average prices of £1,096 for residential care, and £959 for Nursing care, resulting in an underspend of (£0.942m).

43. Although there has been a reduction in the number of people supported in a care home, there has been an increase in the number of people supported at home, from a budgeted 261 to 293 at the end of November, with average costs of supporting people at home at £371 per week.

44. There is an expected underspend on salary costs of (£0.245m) due to several post remaining vacant, with the savings having a minor offset by spend on agency staff.

45. There is forecast to be an over-recovery of income amounting to (£1.467m). This is predominantly due to contributions from the CCG towards care costs of jointly funded clients which in excess of what is budgeted for, amounting to £2.849m. There is a shortfall on client contributions of £1.552m compared to budget. This is due to significant proportions of Mental Health clients known as section 117 clients, and their care is not chargeable.

CORPORATE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES

Table 3 - Forecast as at Quarter 3 2021/22 Corporate Director Resources Position

		Original Budget A £m	Revised Budget Q3 B £m	Forecast at Q3 C £m	Variance at Q3 D (C-B) £m
Corporate Director Resources					
Finance	Gross	83.555	82.272	81.626	(0.646)
	Income	(78.555)	(78.564)	(78.204)	0.360
	Net Exp	*5.000*	*3.708*	*3.422*	*(0.286)*
Assets & Commercial Development	Gross	31.747	32.144	33.347	1.203
	Income	(16.249)	(16.429)	(17.837)	(1.408)
	Net Exp	*15.498*	*15.715*	*15.510*	*(0.205)*
ICT	Gross	11.827	12.110	13.410	1.300
	Income	(0.421)	(0.421)	(1.995)	(1.574)
	Net Exp	*11.406*	*11.689*	*11.415*	*(0.274)*
Procurement & Commissioning	Gross	45.392	18.263	19.570	1.307
	Income	(19.194)	(10.145)	(12.335)	(2.190)
	Net Exp	*26.198*	*8.118*	*7.235*	*(0.883)*
TOTAL RESOURCES	*Gross*	*172.521*	*144.789*	*147.953*	*3.164*
	Income	*(114.419)*	*(105.559)*	*(110.371)*	*(4.812)*
	Net Exp	*58.102*	*39.230*	*37.582*	*(1.648)*

Finance: Budget £3.708m – (£0.286)m underspend

46. As previously reported this is an underspend on salaries and is due to the service holding vacancies and from one off unbudgeted income in relation to Meridian Audit on duplicate payments which has now completed.

Assets & Commercial: Budget £15.715m – (£0.205)m underspend

47. The Housing & Commercial budget was increased by £0.400m this year to allow for COVID-19 measures for increased cleaning and hygiene supplies as staff returned back to the office. It is currently forecast that this budget will underspend by £0.277m due to extended restrictions and staff continuing to work from home.

48. In addition an underspend of £0.255m is forecast for reduced utility costs as a result of building being closed or restricted at the beginning of the year and from reduced energy consumption from capital improvement works through the carbon reduction programme.

49. The service is forecasting to receive £1.150m one off income, in relation to mineral extraction, operating COVID-19 vaccination and testing centres on Council sites and for backdated rents, vacancies have been held generating a £0.400m forecast underspend on staffing budgets.

50. These combined savings totalling £2.082m are contributing to the net underspend position of £0.205m and also being used to fund additional required property maintenance works, the 2021/22 Monkton Park PFI pressure and the feasibility studies for phase two of the Depot Strategy.

51. Highways and Transport are leading on phase two Depot strategy feasibility which has been delayed and will now take place in 2022/23, Cabinet are asked

to approve that £0.500m is moved to an ear marked reserve to fund this work in 2022/23 for Highways and Transport to continue the work.

ICT: Budget £11.689m – (£0.274)m underspend

52. Digital and IT are reporting a £0.274m underspend as a result of continuing to hold vacant posts.

Procurement & Commissioning: Budget £8.118m – (£0.883)m underspend

53. The Strategic Procurement Service is forecasting a £0.278m underspend from staffing savings as a result of vacancies and from unbudgeted income in relation to Meridian Audit on duplicate payments which has now completed.

54. Children's Commissioning have put mitigation plans in place to delay expenditure and hold vacant posts where safe and practical to do so which has result in a forecast underspend of £0.136m.

55. The Adults Commissioning team is forecasting a £0.254m underspend from staffing savings as a result of holding vacant posts where safe and practical to do so. In addition there are contributions from the Better Care Fund amounting to £0.232m that are helping contribute towards the overall underspend for the directorate

CORPORATE DIRECTOR – PLACE

Table 4 - Forecast as at Quarter 3 2021/22 Corporate Director Place Position

		Original Budget A £m	Revised Budget Q3 B £m	Forecast at Q3 C £m	Variance at Q3 D (C-B) £m
Corporate Director Place					
Highways & Transport	Gross	49.976	49.075	49.896	0.821
	Income	(12.242)	(12.177)	(12.888)	(0.711)
	Net Exp	*37.734*	*36.898*	*37.008*	*0.110*
Economy & Regeneration	Gross	3.428	4.293	4.256	(0.037)
	Income	(1.307)	(1.516)	(1.676)	(0.160)
	Net Exp	*2.121*	*2.777*	*2.580*	*(0.197)*
Planning	Gross	8.589	8.469	8.469	-
	Income	(6.096)	(6.096)	(6.096)	-
	Net Exp	*2.493*	*2.373*	*2.373*	*-*
Environment	Gross	51.817	50.357	50.570	0.213
	Income	(7.477)	(7.477)	(9.883)	(2.406)
	Net Exp	*44.340*	*42.880*	*40.687*	*(2.193)*
Leisure Culture & Communities	Gross	16.236	17.815	17.022	(0.793)
	Income	(6.510)	(8.683)	(9.487)	(0.804)
	Net Exp	*9.726*	*9.132*	*7.535*	*(1.597)*
TOTAL PLACE	*Gross*	*130.046*	*130.009*	*130.213*	*0.204*
	Income	*(33.632)*	*(35.949)*	*(40.030)*	*(4.081)*
	Net Exp	*96.414*	*94.060*	*90.183*	*(3.877)*

56. As shown above the £35.949m of Place & Environment revised budget is derived from income, the table below breaks this down further by department.

Table 5 – Place & Environment Income Budgets by Department

Service	Department	Fees & Charges, Other Income	Grants, Contributions, Recharges	Total Income Budgets
Highways & Environment	Highways	-2.240	-0.934	-3.174
	Car Parking	-7.458	0.000	-7.458
	Passenger Transport	-0.421	-1.125	-1.545
		-10.118	**-2.058**	**-12.177**
Economic Development & Planning	Enterprise Network	-1.174	0.000	-1.174
	Major Projects	0.000	-0.233	-0.233
	Economic Regeneration	0.000	-0.109	-0.109
		-1.174	**-0.342**	**-1.516**
Planning	Building Control	-1.061	0.000	-1.061
	Development Management	-4.035	0.000	-4.035
	Local Land Charges	-0.950	0.000	-0.950
	Spatial Planning	0.000	-0.050	-0.050
		-6.046	**-0.050**	**-6.096**
Environment	Public Protection	-0.824	-0.769	-1.594
	Natural & Historic Environment	-0.053	-0.017	-0.070
	Waste	-5.810	-0.003	-5.813
		-6.688	**-0.789**	**-7.477**
Leisure Culture & Communities	Leisure	-7.565	-0.531	-8.097
	Libraries & Heritage	-0.352	-0.235	-0.587
		-7.917	**-0.766**	**-8.683**
TOTAL PLACE		**-31.943**	**-4.006**	**-35.949**

57. It continues to be extremely difficult to forecast the impact COVID-19 is having on income. Services like Leisure and Car Parking have been hit the hardest as restrictions have led to closures and reduced demand. This remains the biggest risk for the service area, management action has been taken to hold vacancies and reduce non-essential spend to manage the fluctuations and reduction in Income, this is forecast to continue for the rest of the year. The Government extended the income compensation scheme for lost sales, fees and charges to June 2021, this has been included under Government Grants as part of funding for 2021/22, Wiltshire's return was submitted at £1.171m against a forecast of £1m.

Highways & Transport: Budget £36.898m – £0.110m overspend

58. Car Parking services are forecasting an underachievement of income of £0.773m. This is an improvement from the position reported in Qtr 2, it reflects the actual income received to date and a forward forecast based on an improving picture.

59. The underachievement of income on car parking is being offset by a number of savings and efficiencies across Highways and Rights of Way totalling £0.399m. The most significant saving this Qtr is on the amenity street cleansing

contract with Idverde, this is due to service reductions as a result of labour shortages of drivers and operatives and as a result of COVID service suspensions. There is now considerable outstanding work, which will need to be reviewed in 2022/23.

60. In addition, Transport is forecasting an underspend of (£0.264)m, this is from holding vacant posts in the service and a forecast saving on mainstream Education from demand. The service responds each year to September intake and demand and services are set accordingly, this changes the number of buses and routes that are required.

Economy & Regeneration: Budget £2.777m – (£0.197)m underspend

61. Economy & regeneration are reporting a £0.197m underspend as a result of continuing to hold vacant posts and maximising grant and capital funding.

62. As reported in Qtr 2 an underspend of £0.525m has been forecast against Wiltshire Towns recovery budget. A number of grant funded programmes are being delivered alongside the Councils investment including Welcome Back and Additional Restrictions programmes which are being maximised in the first instance. It is recommended that any underspend on Towns Recovery budget is moved into an ear-marked reserve for future initiatives, this has therefore been forecast as being fully committed with no variance reported.

Planning: Budget £2.373m – online

63. As part of budget setting for 2021/22 Development Management, Building Control and Local Land Charges Income budgets for fees and charges were reduced by 10%. For quarter 3 the forecast for income overall is in line with this reduced budget.

64. Development Management has seen an increased level of appeals for Wiltshire compared to last financial year, this is being managed carefully but an overspend is already being forecast. The overspend is being offset by an underspend in staffing budgets across the service as a result of vacancies and efficiencies but there is a risk that these costs could move the service to an overspend position.

Environment: Budget £42.880m – (£2.193m) underspend

65. Waste services continues to see a significant increase in Income for the third quarter, this is across recycling material sales, chargeable green waste collection subscriptions and bulky waste collections. Wiltshire Council and its contractors have managed to continue to maintain the waste collection services in their entirety throughout the period of the pandemic, unlike some neighbouring local authorities, and this has contributed positively to the income generated. The pandemic has also seen increases in tonnes of material collected for recycling, and cardboard in particular. Overall income is forecast to be £2.360m better than budget. Recycling material income is notoriously volatile and has been particularly influenced through changing domestic habits

during the pandemic. However the Income has remained high for the first 9 months and industry intelligence is that, whilst prices have peaked, prices are not expected to fall to the levels experienced in 2021/22. The forecast has therefore been amended to reflect this with the fourth quarter forecast higher than budget but less than the first two quarters. This has also been updated in the MTFS for 2022/23.

66. A budget saving is forecast on the Mechanical Biological Treatment contract of (£0.688)m largely as a result of unplanned closures and recent Environment Agency enforcement action. The impact of this is that more waste had to be sent to Landfill, the overspend on Landfill is forecast to be £0.358m. The council has two landfill diversion contracts in place which, combined with continuing recycling efforts, allows around 85% of all the waste that Wiltshire manages to be diverted from landfill. This avoids environmental pollution, and particularly avoids the generation of methane, a known "greenhouse gas". Treating residual waste through the MBT contract costs more per tonne than current arrangements for landfilling residual waste.

67. The table below shows the forecast tonnages and rates for the significant Waste contracts against the budgeted position, there are other factors involved in forecasting but these are the main cost drivers.

Tables 5 – Waste Contract Budget vs Actual

| | | | Tonnes | | | | £/Tonne | | | | Budget |
| | | | Budget setting F'cast (T) | Current Yr End F'cast (T) | Var (T) | Var (%) | £/Tonne (Budget Setting) | £/Tonne (Forecast) | Var (£) | Var (%) | Forecast Variance |
Budget:	Service:	Contractor:									Due to
Lot1	Provision and operation of Waste Transfer Stations (WTS), a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and two Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)	Hills	81,257	85,462	4,205	5.2%	£ 67.97	£ 63.21	-£4.76	-7.0%	-0.121
Lot 3	Composting services	Hills	38,357	38,825	468	1.2%	£ 32.23	£ 32.35	£0.12	0.4%	0.024
Lot 4	Treatment & disposal of residual waste (inc street sweepings)	Hills	22,834	22,769	-65	-0.3%	£ 38.56	£ 36.37	-£2.19	-5.7%	-0.048
Landfill Tax	Tax payable on all waste sent to landfill	N/A	34,356	36,592	2,236	6.5%	£ 97.60	£ 96.70	-£0.90	-0.9%	0.358
Lakeside	Energy from waste landfill diversion contract.	Hills	50,000	50,000	-0	0.0%	£121.48	£ 122.48	£1.00	0.8%	0.050
MBT	Mechanical biological treatment (MBT) Landfill diversion contract.	Hills	60,000	54,586	-5,414	-9.0%	£145.91	£ 147.23	£1.32	0.9%	-0.688

68. The above underspends are offsetting pressures totalling £0.643m predominantly on the Collection contract and Household Recycling Centres contracts. The Collections contractor has reported a number of staff needing to self-isolate due to COVID-19, which has resulted in further agency backfill costs in order to maintain the continued delivery of this important frontline service. In addition, further communications were required to inform the public about some amendments to recycling collection rounds redesign in May/June 2021, and on a larger scale funding has been earmarked to support changes to residual waste collection rounds planned for February 2022, this will deliver full year efficiencies of £0.400m for 2022/23 and has been factored into the 2022/23 budget setting process.   The Lot 2 HRC contract budget assumes a potential requirement for further specialist waste treatment for certain materials.

69. Public Protection, Natural & Historic Environment and Carbon reduction are forecasting a combine underspend of £0.146m from a combination of savings and efficiencies, including staff savings from holding vacancies.

Leisure Culture & Communities: Budget £9.132m – (£1.597)m underspend

70. Leisure Services continue to manage the impact of COVID-19 on demand. Management action has been taken to promote the centres and new incentives have been introduced to attract and retain members. Staffing structures have been reviewed and vacancies have been held and will continue to be held for the rest of the year, all non-essential spend has also been stopped.

71. The internally run leisure centres income budgets for 2021/22 were reduced by 30% to reflect the impact of COVID-19 on demand, as at Q3 actual income was at 56% of pre COVID-19 levels. The forecast for the rest of the year is based on income achieving 80% of pre COVID-19 levels. Overall, this forecast would see the service achieving 64% of pre-COVID-19 income which would result in an underachievement of income against the 2021/22 budget of £0.435m for all fees and charges income streams including furlough grant. The management action taken relating to staffing and supplies and services is forecast to generate a saving of £1.106m which is more than offsetting the forecast Income loss and resulting in an underspend position of (£0.671)m.

72. The Ten Leisure centres operated by Places Leisure successfully transferred back to Wiltshire Council on the 1st October. For the period April to September, the open book accounting losses incurred by Places Leisure were better than originally forecast and can be offset by the National Leisure Recovery Fund grant that the Council secured for contracted leisure centres. Based on forecast levels of Income and expenditure for the Council running the sites for October to March there will be an underspend against budget of (£0.707)m. This is based on several assumptions around memberships and therefore income levels being maintained at the same levels Places Leisure delivered and staffing structures, it is therefore subject to risk and movement.

73. Libraries, Heritage and Arts are reporting a combined underspend of (£0.219)m largely from staffing budgets from holding posts vacant and not using casual staff.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATES

74. Table 5 - Forecast as at Quarter 3 2021/22 Chief Executive Directorates Position

		Original Budget A £m	Revised Budget Q3 B £m	Forecast at Q3 C £m	Variance at Q3 D (C-B) £m
Chief Executive Directorates					
Public Health	Gross	17.684	18.131	18.131	-
	Income	(16.143)	(16.623)	(16.623)	-
	Net Exp	*1.541*	*1.508*	*1.508*	*-*
Legal & Governance	Gross	13.298	11.139	11.273	0.134
	Income	(2.403)	(2.467)	(3.088)	(0.621)
	Net Exp	*10.895*	*8.672*	*8.185*	*(0.487)*
HR&OD and Transformation	Gross	6.923	9.272	8.421	(0.851)
	Income	(2.538)	(2.767)	(2.868)	(0.101)
	Net Exp	*4.385*	*6.505*	*5.553*	*(0.952)*
Corporate Directors & Members	Gross	3.298	3.241	3.118	(0.123)
	Income	(0.014)	(0.014)	(0.014)	-
	Net Exp	*3.284*	*3.227*	*3.104*	*(0.123)*
Commercial Savings	Gross	0.102	0.102	-	(0.102)
	Income	-	-	-	-
	Net Exp	*0.102*	*0.102*	*-*	*(0.102)*
TOTAL CEX DIRECTORATES	**Gross**	*41.305*	*41.885*	*40.943*	*(0.942)*
	Income	*(21.098)*	*(21.871)*	*(22.593)*	*(0.722)*
	Net Exp	*20.207*	*20.014*	*18.350*	*(1.664)*

Legal, & Governance: Budget £8.672 – (£0.487)m underspend

75. Legal, Electoral and Registration have moved to a forecast underspend position of £(0.487)m at Qtr 3. As previously reported the Registration service saw a significant increase in service income as restriction's lifted, this demand has continued and Income is forecast to overachieve budget, the service is forecasting a £(0.264)m underspend. In addition Electoral Services are now forecasting an underspend of £(0.383)m this is from maximising grant funding and where costs for running elections have come in lower than forecast due to economies of scale. These underspends combined with other service efficiencies and staff savings totalling £(0.173)m is offsetting an overspend of £0.333m in Legal services due to underachievement of income impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and the Council's response.

Human Resources & Organisational Development Services including the executive office, programme office & systems thinking communications, marketing and events: Budget £6.505m – (£0.952)m underspend

76. The service area has increased following the transfer of the programme office and systems thinking teams. A number of staff are redeployed to support capital programmes and transformational schemes and aligned to the last financial year, wherever possible these posts have not been backfilled on a like for like basis. In addition, executive office and communications service areas have held vacancies, leading to a forecast net underspend on salaries across the whole service.

Directors and Members: Budget £3.226m – (£0.123)m underspend

77. A £0.124m saving is being achieved on staffing budgets, this is the 2021/22 saving from finalising the senior management structure and maximising grant funding.

Commercial Savings: Budget £0.102m – (£0.102)m underspend

78. A £0.200m Commercial savings target was set for the 2021/22 budget to recognise savings that should arise during the year from the commercial activity we undertake each year as a Council compared to that for which we have budgeted. In the first quarter a total of £0.302m commercial savings was achieved, as reported in quarter 1 these savings have now been moved and are now shown in the relevant service areas. The variance shown here is the overachievement of the savings target. The table below details the commercials savings to date.

Table 6 – Commercial Savings

Service	Saving	Saving 2021-22 £'m	Saving 2022-23 £'m
Communities & Neighbourhood		0.083	0.083
Education & Skills	Re-Procurement of Home to School, SEN and specialist transport contracts from April 2021 to April 2026	0.209	0.209
Digital & Information	Civica Abritas IT Software contract extension for 4 years to July 2025. 4 year saving £0.072m. 21/22 savings £0.010m	0.010	0.020
TOTAL		*0.302*	*0.312*

79. The principles for commercial savings were set out in Quarter 1 report and will continue to be applied.

CORPORATE EXPENDITURE

Table 7 - Forecast as at Quarter 3 2021/22 Corporate Position

		Original Budget A £m	Revised Budget Q3 B £m	Forecast at Q3 C £m	Variance at Q3 D (C-B) £m
Corporate					
Movement on Reserves	Gross	(8.444)	(8.487)	(8.676)	(0.189)
	Income	-	-	-	-
	Net Exp	*(8.444)*	*(8.487)*	*(8.676)*	*(0.189)*
Capital Financing	Gross	25.520	27.367	25.361	(2.006)
	Income	(0.200)	(0.200)	(0.121)	0.079
	Net Exp	*25.320*	*27.167*	*25.240*	*(1.927)*
Corporate Costs	Gross	1.085	4.069	4.069	-
	Income	-	-	-	-
	Net Exp	*1.085*	*4.069*	*4.069*	*-*
Corporate Levies	Gross	7.664	7.664	7.664	-
	Income	(1.039)	(1.039)	(1.039)	-
	Net Exp	*6.625*	*6.625*	*6.625*	*-*
Covid	Gross	-	-	0.148	0.148
	Income	-	-	(0.352)	(0.352)
	Net Exp	*-*	*-*	*(0.204)*	*(0.204)*
TOTAL CORPORATE	**Gross**	**25.825**	**30.613**	**28.566**	**(2.047)**
	Income	**(1.239)**	**(1.239)**	**(1.512)**	**(0.273)**
	Net Exp	**24.586**	**29.374**	**27.054**	**(2.320)**

Movement on Reserves: Budget (£8.487m) – (£0.189m) underspend

80. In the previous financial year (2020/21) where specific COVID-19 grants were not fully spent they were set aside in earmarked reserves to allow activity to be funded in the new year. Following the completion of returns to government for specific COVID-19 grants it has been identified that £0.189m of spend was incurred in 2020/21 associated with the Compliance and Enforcement grant activity although the grant was shown as unspent and set aside. The earmarked reserve therefore should not continue to be set aside and is being drawn down in full with no corresponding pressure of costs to fund in the year.

Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure: Budget £27.167m – (£1.927m) underspend

81. The final borrowing figure for 2020/21 sets the minimum revenue provision charge for year 2021/22, due to the 2020/21 year end underspend position there is a £1.966m saving in 2021/22. Based on the current cashflow forecast the Council will not need to borrow in 2021/22, this is forecast to generate an interest payable saving of £0.120m, however this is partially offset by the forecast loss in interest receivable of £0.080m due to interest rates being so low. Costs of Asset Disposal is forecast to overspend by £0.079m in 2021/22, some of this is a timing issue and will be allocated against the capital receipt when the asset is sold in future years.

COVID-19 Direct costs: Budget £0 – £0.204m underspend

82. As part of COVID-19 response temporary morgues were set up across the county, these have now been decommissioned, the costs have been shared on a proportional split between Wiltshire and Swindon. The final costs have been incurred and are shown here at £0.148m.

83. The Council have been awarded £0.353m New Burdens Grant to go towards the additional costs of delivering the Business Grants for the period August 2020 to March 2021, the costs for delivering this were included in 2020/21 this grant is therefore shown as an underspend to offset the above pressures.

Collection Fund

84. The Collection Fund is the ring-fenced fund which comprises all income and expenditure for both the Council Tax and Business Rates.

85. In setting the budget prudent estimates were used on the likely level of receipts to be recouped in 2021/22 from both sources and current forecasts are in line with these original estimates. The overall £1m was set aside for collection uncertainty on business rates which is not forecast to be required and will be available to support businesses further. With the continued reliefs for some business sectors it is unclear how the sectors will recover in future years and with the further announcements that were made as part of the Spending Round 2021 on reliefs for businesses for the next financial year, this gives an indication that further time is required for the economy to recover from the pandemic.

86. It should be noted that the £34m s31 grant given by government to support the cashflow impact of mandatory business rates reliefs in 2020/21, and currently held in an earmarked reserve will be applied in full to deal with the deficit that will arise on the collection fund at the end of this financial year.

87. The declared position of the overall Collection Fund administered by the council for 2021/22 is a surplus for Council Tax of £3.855m and a deficit for Business Rates of (£30.384m). The council's share of these balances is £3.266m and (£14.888m) respectively, resulting in an overall deficit of (£11.622m). Due to the accounting regulation for the Collection Fund this cost falls to the council during the 2022/23 financial year, and this will be funded by s31 grant received in 2021/22 that will be rolled forward.

88. The previous year's deficit will continue to be funded by the monies set aside in the Collection Fund Volatility reserve over the 3 year period 2021/22-2023/24 as originally planned, with the timing of the financial impact across the 3 years set out in the regulations set by government.

Dedicated Schools Grant – Total Grant £406.300m - £8.271m forecast net overspend

89. The forecast variance for dedicated schools grant (DSG) is a net £8.271m overspend. This is driven by demand from parents and schools for support for vulnerable children with SEN & disability, reflected in increased numbers of education health and care plans (EHCPs.) The number of EHCPs at the end of

quarter 3 2020-21 was 4,044; quarter 3 in 2021-22 is 4,291; an increase of 247 plans (6.1%.)

90. The demand pressure and overspend is aligned with the national picture for many other local authorities and Government's acknowledgement of this is reflected in the national level additional funding for the 2020/21 high needs block of £780m and £730m for 2021-22 financial year. The 2021-22 allocation included a £5.5m increase for Wiltshire. This has come someway to alleviating the pressure it will not however, assist with previous years overspends which are held in the DSG deficit reserve in the local authority's balance sheet. Lobbying continues to request support and additional funding at national level and a national SEN review steering group has been created to assist the department for education to conclude the SEND Review and advise on proposals to be set out in a SEND green paper to be published in the first three months of 2022.

91. The DSG is ringfenced and is separate to local authority budget. Any underspend or overspend is also ringfenced. At the beginning of the financial year, the DSG reserve balance had a deficit of £18.474m this is now forecast to be £26.555m. The local authority has a 10-year recovery plan centred around inclusion which is being implemented in partnership with schools however the deficit lies with Wiltshire Council whilst the recovery plan is delivered. Additional funding is key to meeting the needs of Wiltshire pupils.

DSG Reserve (held in the council's balance sheet)

	Early Years £m	All Other Blocks £m	Total DSG Reserve £m
Balance brought forward from 2020-21		18.474	18.474
Early Years previous year adjustment	N/A	(0.189)	(0.189)
Forecast Variance (all blocks) for 2020-21	(1.264)	9.535	8.271
Forecast DSG Deficit carried forward 2020-21	**(1.264)**	**27.820**	**26.555**

92. School Leaders have raised the profile of the funding challenges with Wiltshire's MPs who have been supportive and in turn, raised with central government.

93. Officers have taken every opportunity to take part in national and south west comparator research which show the extent of the national and regional issue. Best practice and savings approaches are being shared with peers.

94. Wiltshire is taking steps to address the demand for specialist placements; significant Council investment in the System of Excellence and new Special School places in the north of the county, the 150-place free special school in the south, expansion of specialist places within our schools and the flexible use of capital receipts by the council to fund a series of projects to facilitate change both internally and to influence partners. These and the savings planned from them do not lead to a balanced position within the 10-year recovery period. Savings are limited by many external factors and include a parent's legal right to state parental preference and recourse to a tribunal. Our local authority position is that we simply cannot sustain the DSG deficit.

95. Officers are regularly meeting with school leaders to progress plans through the High Needs Recovery Group, reporting the position and recovery plan to Schools Forum.   As the situation stands both locally and for most other local authorities, the pupil driven needs simply cannot be met without an appropriate level of funding. The DfE have acknowledged this and confirmed this will be considered as part of the SEN review. The local authority continues to meet regularly with the DfE to monitor progress against plans.

SAVINGS DELIVERY 2021/22

96. At 2020/21 year end the Council had identified £8.866m savings as undelivered. £7.099m of these savings were reset at budget setting 2020/21 either through growth or budget rebasing effectively removing those savings that could not be delivered.

97. This has left £1.767m prior year savings to be delivered which combined with the 2021/22 savings proposals of £2.601m gives a total savings target for 2021/22 of £4.368m.

98. The deliverability of these proposals is monitored and reported directly to the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT). The assessment on the deliverability of the savings at the end of quarter 3 is shown in the table below, these assessments are included in the General Fund figures set out in this report.

99. Of the £4.368m savings proposals £2.771m (63.44%) are assessed as either being delivered (blue) or on track to be delivered (green) or have alternative replacement savings identified (grey). £1.430m (32.74%) are assessed as Amber which means they are progressing but contain risk of non-delivery.

100.   £0.167m (3.8%) of savings targets are currently assessed as red. This means they are deemed unlikely to be delivered as planned and to the timescales required i.e. in this financial year. As part of the budget setting process the pressures included within the base budget for 2022/23 has been adjusted to include the pressure of this non-delivered saving.

101.   The delivery of savings remains a focus for the Council and the status of the undelivered savings will be considered as part of the financial recovery and future year financial planning processes to ensure the budget remains robust and deliverable.

Table 8 – 2021/22 Savings Delivery

2021/22 Savings Delivery							
Service Area		Total Saving (£m)	Delivered (£m)	Green (£m)	Amber (£m)	Red (£m)	Alternative Savings (£m)
Corporate Director People							
Family & Childrens	2021/22	- 0.153	- 0.153	-	-	-	-
Learning Disabilities & Mental Health	Prior Years	- 0.700	- 0.100	-	- 0.600	-	-
Access & Reablement	Prior Years	- 0.700	-	-	- 0.700	-	-
	2021/22	- 0.130	-	-	- 0.130	-	-
Commissioning - Adults	Prior Years	- 0.367	-	- 0.200	-	- 0.167	-
	TOTAL	**- 2.050**	**- 0.253**	**- 0.200**	**- 1.430**	**- 0.167**	**-**
Corporate Director Resources							
Housing & Commercial Development	2021/22	- 0.050	- 0.050	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	**- 0.050**	**- 0.050**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Chief Executive Directorates							
Human Resources & Org Development	2021/22	- 0.068	- 0.068	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	**- 0.068**	**- 0.068**			**-**	
Corporate / Cross Cutting	2021/22	- 2.200	- 1.701	-	-	-	- 0.499
	Total	**- 2.200**	**- 1.701**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**- 0.499**
GRAND TOTAL	Prior Years	**- 1.767**	**- 0.100**	**- 0.200**	**- 1.300**	**- 0.167**	**-**
	2021/22	**- 2.601**	**- 1.972**	**-**	**- 0.130**	**-**	**- 0.499**
	Total	**- 4.368**	**- 2.072**	**- 0.200**	**- 1.430**	**- 0.167**	**- 0.499**
	Prior Year %		5.7%	11.32%	73.57%	9.5%	0.00%
	2021/22 %		75.8%	0.00%	5.00%	0.0%	19.18%
	Total %		47.4%	4.58%	32.74%	3.8%	11.42%

CAPITAL RECEIPTS FLEXIBILITIES 2021/22

102.   The government allows Local Authorities to fund transformational activity that is designed to deliver ongoing revenue savings and/or transform service delivery to reduce costs or reduce demand for services in the future. This is known as Capital Receipts flexibilities. It is important that any Local Authority using this flexibility is transparent in reporting its plans and the individual projects that are to be funded or part funded and report the previous years' activity and whether the planned savings and/or service transformation have been or are being delivered as planned.

103.   The forecast position for the current financial year, 2021/22 is shown in the table below and includes narrative on each project and the delivery of benefits that is expected.

Table 9 Flexible Use of Capital Receipts 2021/22

Directorate	Description	Approved Budget 2021-22 £m	Full Year Forecast 2021/22 £m	Variance £m	Benefits
HR/OD	Organisational Development Transformation	1.703	0.540	- 1.163	The 10% saving will be in part attributed to the change efforts supporting service redesign, changes to ways of working and the effective adoption of new technologies Skills, knowledge and capability to work effectively as the organisation changes and transforms.
Other	Business Intelligence	1.000	0.341	- 0.659	Improved system around data collection and reporting to enable information to be compared and analysed, thus adding value to services
Children's & Families	Fostering Excellence Scheme	0.594	0.309	- 0.285	The savings are shown in the MTFS - expansion of the in house carer scheme leading to lower overall unit costs as well as children in care living in a family in Wiltshire
Children's & Families	FACT Transformation	0.639	0.250	- 0.389	This is a wide-ranging programme to streamline and improve the way we work by taking a whole-system, holistic approach with corporate partners, staff, children, young people and their families. We will promote multi-agency integration which will make us more efficient in providing our services and more effective at helping families and children achieve positive outcomes. As part of our shared vision and shared Practice Framework, professionals will maximise the time spent with families, providing early support to prevent escalation and ensuring that our children thrive in their own communities.
Children's & Families	Early Help Support Hub	0.200	-	- 0.200	
Children's & Families	Contextual Safeguarding	0.170	-	- 0.170	
Children's & Families	Transport Co-Ordinator	0.070	0.041	- 0.029	
Children's & Families	Supporting the Parents of under 1s / Dads Matter Too	0.250	0.063	- 0.188	
Education & Skills	SEN & Inclusion Transformation	1.045	0.785	- 0.260	Taking forward an agenda of strengthening inclusion and support for young people with SEND and high needs will require a genuine partnership approach. Strong systematic partnership working within Wiltshire, strategic engagements with parents, schools and settings, and partner agencies are required to build shared ownership of the issues the system is facing, and develop a shared vision and strategy for how the local system will support young people with SEND and high needs
Housing & Commercial Development	Service Devolution & Asset Transfer	-	0.250	0.250	To support the transfer of assets successfully to other bodies to realise opportunities for more efficient delivery of public services to residents and reduce cost of deliver of those services
Community & Neighbourhood	Leisure Insourcing Transformation	0.793	0.793	-	The decision by Cabinet to insource the current leisure sites that are operated by an external provider will involve a complex and time bound insource and transformation. The project will fund the resources required to manage the insource successfully and ensure the leisure sites are open for users from the date of transfer. Moving forward it is anticipated that during the transition the transformation will identify opportunities and efficiencies in running the whole Leisure Service and begin to reduce the annual operating cost following the investment that has been in 2021/22.
Other	Organisational Recovery	1.200	0.534	- 0.666	The programme will deliver confident and skilled people working flexibly and utilising the tools available so that we are a resilient, efficient and inclusive organisation.
Other	Other Transformational Schemes to be considered	-	-	-	Benefits to be assessed as additional schemes come forward
TOTAL		**7.664**	**3.905**	**- 3.759**	

RESERVES POSITION AND FORECAST

104.   Reserves are an important element of the Council's finances and a sufficient level of balances should be held, to mitigate risks within the budget and operations of the Council.

105.   The level of both general fund reserves and earmarked reserves held by the Council were increased in 2020/21 in response to forecast future financial risks and expected demand. As part of the year end position an additional contribution of £1.4m was made to the General Fund Reserve, increasing the balance to £16.856m. This was to provide additional resilience within the reserve to support the financial position in 2021/22 and to allow for financial risks and a lead in time for recovery.

106.   New earmarked reserves were created for Budget Equalisation, Latent Demand and Collection Fund Volatility, these were set up to manage specific financial impacts. As part of the 2021/22 budget, planned drawdowns were included of £4.165m from the Budget Equalisation reserve and £4.279m from the Collection Fund Volatility reserve.

107.   At the July meeting, Cabinet approved an additional £0.861m draw down from the latent demand reserve to fund the required part year investment in capacity within SEND and Inclusion Services in 2021-22 which is reflected as a commitment against this reserve and can be seen in Appendix B. It is intended that the balance of the Latent Demand reserve will be drawn down when evidence is presented that shows demand exceeds the metrics on which

the budget was based. There remains no recommended draw down from the Latent Demand reserve, however the funding commitment for SEND and Inclusion has been allowed for, as shown in Appendix B, but will be formally requested at the end of the financial year should the funding not be available within the revenue budget.

108. A review of the earmarked reserve balances has been carried out to assess the need to continue to hold them and the level of funding required to remain in them. As a result of this review there is a recommendation to consolidate £3.299m from some reserves into a single Transformation reserve to provide funding for transformation across the council. £1.797m held in reserves has been assessed as no longer required to be set aside. It is recommended that, due to the favourable in-year financial forecast position and the financial pressure in the future years that £1.4m is added to the General Fund Reserve during the year. This will allow for the planned contribution in 2022/23 to be removed from the budget to reduce the budget gap and to increase the Councils financial resilience now. This will increase the amount set aside in the General Fund Reserve to £18.256m. The balance from earmarked reserves no longer required to be set aside of £0.397m is recommended to be transferred into a new reserve to provide funding for Business Plan priorities, with draws from this reserve to be approved by Cabinet during the financial year. Details of these re-allocations can be seen in Appendix C.

109. Due to the favourable position of the forecast financial position, it is requested to set aside a further £2m in the Pay Award reserve. This will double the value of the reserve and provide additional funding for the pay award for 2021/22 that has still not been agreed nationally. If the full value of £4m balance in the reserve is not required once the pay award for 2021/22 is agreed this funding will be available to support any additional staffing related costs that may arise in future years, such as future pay awards that are agreed above the value included in the budget.

110. The balance of the overall council underspend position at the end of the year will be requested to be transferred to the Budget Equalisation Reserve at year end to provide additional capacity to support the budget setting process for future years. The current quarter 3 forecast transfer is the underspend less the £2m requested to be transferred to the Pay Award reserve and is a balance of £12.824m and is reflected in Appendix B. Any underspend on the Towns Recovery budget will be requested to be transferred to a specific earmarked reserve at year end to allow for future initiatives to be funded (as detailed in paragraph 64). Any overachievement of income in Streetworks in the Highways service will be requested to be transferred to a specific ear-marked reserve at year end and ringfenced for the Ash Die back programme for 2022/23 (as detailed in paragraph 71).

111. The 2021/22 opening balance of Local Authority Earmarked Reserves total £106.878m, at quarter one drawdowns were requested for £10.444m as described above and included in the budget and a recommendation to draw down £0.043m from Public Health Earmarked reserve was approved at the Cabinet meeting in September.

112.   The Public Health drawdown will be used to fund the recruitment of a fixed term post to deliver the Making Every Contact Count (MECC) programme in the current financial year. The MECC programme is an approach to changing behaviour in order to have a positive effect on the health and wellbeing of individuals, communities and populations.

113.   A full list of Earmarked reserves and movements is presented in Appendix B.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

114.   Regular reports are taken to Overview & Scrutiny relating to the Council's financial position. This report is being considered at the meeting of Financial Planning Task Group on 21 January 2022.

Safeguarding Implications

115.   None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Public Health Implications

116.   None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Procurement Implications

117.   None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

118.   None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

119.   None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

120.   If the Council fails to take actions to address forecast shortfalls, overspends or increases in its costs it will need to draw on reserves. The level of reserves is limited and a one-off resource that cannot be used as a long-term sustainable strategy for financial stability.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

121.   Ongoing budget monitoring and management, of which this report forms part of the control environment, is a mitigating process to ensure early identification and action is taken. Risks associated with service delivery and the level of reserves will be raised as and when proposals are brought forward as part of the budget setting process.

Financial Implications – Section 151 Officer Commentary

122. This report is the third report for the current 2021/22 financial year and the forecast for the financial year as at quarter three continues to present a secure financial position for the Council in 2021/22, given the level of uncertainty when the budget was set back in February 2021.

123. The overall position shows a £4m improvement on the forecast underspend at quarter two, which is mainly as a result of improvements in forecast income as well as demand not materialising in this year as expected. The increase underspend has been transferred into reserves and these have been factored into the budget proposals being put forward in the Budget 2022/23 report.

124. This builds on the outturn position for the last financial year where the Council was able to prudently set aside reserves to deal with potential latent demand for services and the uncertainty on the volatility on the collection of council tax and business rates.

125. Although there are pressures within the Council, as reported, these are being managed overall and although there continues to be uncertainty, apart from the Cabinet investment decision on SEND & Inclusion, there are no further requirements to draw from the latent demand reserve that cannot be met from within existing budget provision.

126. The revisions to the budget for the current demand have been used to revise the base budget assumptions for 2022/23 which are detailed in the budget proposals and MTFS report.

127. The forecast underspend allows the Council to act prudently once again. Putting further funds aside, with the proposal to transfer the underspend this financial year into the budget equalisation reserve and build upon the funds that were created last financial year. A total of £12.8m is now forecast to transfer into that reserve to help mitigate against future financial resilience risk, and in addition a further £2m funds, on top of the existing £2m, are being set aside to deal with the cost of the pay award for this financial year once negotiations have been settled.

128. The use of the Budget Equalisation Reserve over the MTFS has been set out in the budget & MTFS report. Any use of reserves will only ever be a one off and is not sustainable in delivering Council services on an ongoing basis. It will however allow the time for transformation and the reduction of spending to take place, but inevitably the Council has to achieve this to operate within the funds available to it.

129. As we enter the last quarter of 2021/22 the continuance of sound financial management and control as well as the rebasing of service spend for the level of demand that is being presented now has put the Council in a strong position. It demonstrates that the Council can operate within its budget, can prudently set aside funds to help manage future financial sustainability.

Legal Implications

130.   None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Workforce Implications

131.   If the Council fails to take actions to address forecast shortfalls, overspends or increases in its costs it may need to implement further spend controls, or if the position is deemed critical unplanned service rationalisation may be required. This could impact on the workforce, and may include changes to roles or redundancies. Ongoing budget monitoring and management, of which this report forms part of the control environment, is a mitigating process to ensure early identification and action is taken.

Options Considered

132.   Budget monitoring forms part of the financial control environment and it is important to provide reporting on all aspects of financial management and performance to Cabinet and the public, including delivery to plans, variances and risks and impacts.

133.   There is a statutory requirement to set a balanced budget. This report is an update report that outlines to members the latest position in respect to the Budget 2022/23 following the previous update in September.

Conclusions

134.   The report supports effective decision making, ensures a sound financial control environment and ensures members are updated on the latest position for the budget for 2022/23.

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20/01/2022

Appendices

Appendix A: Revenue Budget Movements
Appendix B: Forecast Reserves Position 2021/22 Quarter 2
Appendix C: Earmarked Reserves Review

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

Wiltshire Council's Financial Plan Update 2021/22, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 and Capital Programme and Strategy - Full Council, 23 February 2021
https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=13056&Ver=4

Financial Year 2021/22, Quarter Two Revenue Budget Monitoring Report – Cabinet, 30 November 2021
Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 30 November 2021, 10.00 am | Wiltshire Council

Appendix A – Revenue Budget Movements

Appendix A - Revenue Budget Movements 2021/22

	2021-22 Original Budget in Revised Structure	Budget movements approved by CLT Q1 / Q2 / Q3	Revised Budget Q3
	£m	£m	£m
Corporate Director People			
Living and Ageing Well	67.009	0.918	67.927
Whole Life Pathway	79.053	1.645	80.698
Education & Skills	20.948	- 0.471	20.477
Family & Children Services	61.925	- 1.144	60.781
Corporate Director Resources			
Finance	4.999	- 1.291	3.708
Assets & Commercial Development	15.498	0.217	15.715
ICT	11.406	0.283	11.689
Procurement & Commissioning	10.515	- 2.397	8.118
Corporate Director Place & Environment			
Highways & Transport	37.735	- 0.837	36.898
Economy & Regeneration	2.121	0.656	2.777
Planning	2.493	- 0.120	2.373
Environment	44.340	- 1.460	42.880
Leisure Culture & Communities	9.725	- 0.593	9.132
Chief Executive Directorates			
Public Health	1.541	- 0.033	1.508
Legal & Governance	10.895	- 2.222	8.673
HR&OD and Transformation	4.384	2.121	6.505
Corporate Directors & Members	3.386	- 0.160	3.226
Commercial Savings	-	0.102	0.102
Corporate			
Movement on Reserves	- 8.444	- 0.043	- 8.487
Capital Financing	25.320	1.847	27.167
Corporate Costs	1.087	2.982	4.069
Corporate Levies	6.625	-	6.625
Covid	-	-	-
General Fund Budget	**412.561**	**0.000**	**412.561**
HRA Budget	-	-	-
Total	**412.561**	**0.000**	**412.561**
WC Funding			
General Government Grants	- 57.045	-	- 57.045
Council Tax	- 297.016	-	- 297.016
Business Rates Retention Scheme	- 58.500	-	- 58.500
Total Funding	**- 412.561**	**-**	**- 412.561**

Appendix B – Forecast Reserves Position 2021/22 Quarter 3

Reserve	Closing Balance 2021/22 £m	Closing Balance 2022/23 £m	Closing Balance 2023/24 £m	Closing Balance 2024/25 £m
General Fund	**18.256**	**18.256**	**19.656**	**21.056**
EARMARKED RESERVES:				
Budget Equalisation	16.520	16.520	7.418	0.000
Latent Demand	7.034	4.034	0.000	0.000
Collection Fund Volatility	6.925	5.675	4.425	4.425
Public Health	4.823	4.823	4.823	4.823
Transformation	3.299	3.299	3.299	0.000
Business Plan Priorities	0.397	0.509	0.000	0.000
PFIs	5.494	5.494	5.494	5.494
Insurance	2.338	2.038	1.738	1.738
Other Earmarked	4.993	3.910	4.041	4.041
Total Earmarked	**51.823**	**46.302**	**31.239**	**20.522**
Schools Balances	12.542	12.542	12.542	12.542
DSG	-27.708	-38.708	-51.708	-51.708
TOTAL	**54.913**	**38.392**	**11.729**	**2.412**

Appendix C – Earmarked Reserves Review

Reserve	Description/Purpose	2021-22 Forecast Closing Balance	Available balance	Merge into transformation reserve	NOTES
Salisbury Recovery	To manage and support on-going recovery costs for Salisbury	0.168	0.168	0	Programme complete, forecast includes funding some commitments for 21/22 but no commitments going forward
Rough Sleeper Funding	Unspent funding to support Rough Sleepers support	0.166	0.166	0	No firm plans or commitments and all activity funded by base badget and grant
Flexible Housing Support Fund	Unspent funding to support Housing related activity	0.950	0.950	0	Team funded through grant each year. No indication from Gov that grant will cease
Homelessness Reduction	Unspent funding to support Homelessness support	0.121	0.121	0	No firm plans or commitments and all activity funded by base badget and grant
Flexible Housing Support	Flexible Housing Support	0.287	0.287	0	No firm plans or commitments and all activity funded by base badget and grant
LA EU Exit Preparation	Funding awarded for EU exit activity	0.105	0.105	0	Reserve not required as preparation costs have been incurred and funded in previous years
Gain Share Income	Monies set aside from commercial gainshare arrangement	2.675	0	2.675	No plan for use - use to set up new Transformation Reserve to fund priorities
Single View of the Customer	Funding to support customer access improvements	0.341	0	0.341	No firm plans or commitments
Play Area Asset Transfers	Small balance remaining to support additional financial support required to transfer play area assets.	0.057	0	0.057	This will allow some flexibility on Service Devolution priorities and funding these
Enabling Fund	Monies set aside from previous years underspend to fund feasibility studies for priorities	0.140	0	0.140	No commitments.
IBCF	iBCF funding underspend	0.070	0	0.070	Council funding, no current commitment and propsoal for savings against this budget going forward. Funding is available for adult social care only.
Mental Health Local Transformation Plan	Underspend	0.016	0	0.016	No commitments.
Total		**5.096**	**1.797**	**3.299**	
			1.400		Transfer to General Fund Reserve
			0.397		Transfer to Business Plan Priority Reserve

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Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject:	**Financial Year 2021/2022 - Quarter Three Capital Budget Monitoring**
Cabinet Member:	**Cllr Richard Clewer Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for MCI, Economic Development, Heritage, Arts, Tourism and Health & Wellbeing and Interim Cabinet Member responsible for Finance & Procurement, Commissioning and Commercialisation**
Key Decision:	**Non-Key**

Executive Summary

This report sets out the Capital Programme for 2021/22 as of 31 December 2021 for the third quarterly budget monitoring period. It includes the movements from the original budget set by Full Council in February 2021 to the revised programme and sets out how the programme is forecast to be financed. It provides an update on the significant programmes that are planned to be delivered and those that have been reprofiled to future years.

Quarter Three Capital Budget Monitoring
The quarter 3 Capital programme is based on information as of 31 December 2021. The report confirms the current forecast movement of approvals between years as schemes have been assessed and the spend profile recast.

Proposal(s)

Cabinet is asked to note:

a) the reduced capital budgets of £0.007m under Chief Finance Officer delegated powers;

b) the reprofile of £2.510m of budgets into future years under Chief Finance Officer delegated powers;

c) Budget Movements between Schemes;

d) the revised 2021/22 Capital Programme as at quarter 3 of £163.822m; and

e) the capital spend as of 31 December 2021 of £76.634m

Reason for Proposal(s)

To inform effective decision making and ensure sound financial management as part of the Councils overall control environment.

To inform Cabinet on the financial position of the Council on the 2021/22 capital programme as at quarter 3 (31 December 2021).

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject:	**Financial Year 2021/2022 - Quarter Three Capital Budget Monitoring**
Cabinet Member:	**Cllr Richard Clewer Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for MCI, Economic Development, Heritage, Arts, Tourism and Health & Wellbeing and Interim Cabinet Member responsible for Finance & Procurement, Commissioning and Commercialisation**
Key Decision:	**Non-Key**

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members of the 2021/22 Capital Programme position as at quarter 3 (31 December 2021).

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. Budget monitoring and reporting supports effective decision making and the alignment of resources and financial performance to the Council's priorities and objectives as laid down in the Business Plan.

Background

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2021/22 – QUARTER THREE

3. The Council approved a net capital programme budget for 2021/22 of £214.351m at its meeting on 23 February 2021. As part of in year budget monitoring and the final year end position Cabinet approved the reprogramming of £6.392m and slippage of £20.340m into 2021/22, this increased the Capital programme to £241.083m.

4. As part of the quarter 1 and 2 capital programme report actions were recorded which amended the capital programme budget to £166.340m as of 30 September 2021.

Main Considerations for the Council

5. Capital schemes have been reviewed and £2.510m budget has been reprogrammed into future years to align with forecast programme delivery. There are no negative financial or reputational implications to report from this re-programming.

6. The budget for a Town Council social distancing scheme under the Integrated Transport programme has been reduced by £0.007m in line with Town Council contributions.
7. The Capital Programme for 2021/22 stands at £163.823m as of 31 December 2021 after the above changes have been made. The table below summarises the budget movements discussed.

Table 1 – 2021/22 Q3 Capital Programme Amendments

	£'m
Capital Programme 2021/22 as at 30th September 2021	**166.340**
Amendments to Capital Programme from Qtr. 2 Review to Note:	
Budgets reprogrammed from 2021/2022 into future years	-2.510
Budget removed from Capital programme	-0.007
Capital Programme 2021/22 as at 31st December 2021	**163.823**

8. The programme remains ambitious and historically Wiltshire Council's average annual Capital Programme spend is in the region of £100m. There are however some significant schemes included in the programme that is driving the higher budget level and these are detailed in the report below.

9. As reported nationally shortages in supply chain in relation to materials, drivers and workforce is creating high risk with deliverability and price for capital projects. Construction material prices have seen increases in the region of 30%-40% and availability of key materials is becoming an increasing issue. This is currently being managed within built in contingencies but could present bigger issues in future months as this position looks set to continue.

10. The total capital expenditure as at quarter 3 is £76.634m, approx. 47% of the total budget. The low spend figure is an indication that schemes are progressing slower than anticipated, however officers are still forecasting that these schemes will progress and spend to budget in 2021/22. It should also be noted that the spend figure does not include commitments, officers are advising that work has been completed and not invoiced or is scheduled for completion in 2021/22.

11. As previously reported in quarter 2 report the biggest implication from not delivering the capital programme as planned is linked to schemes funded by borrowing. This impacts on the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure revenue budget which is set based on the programme for the previous financial year. £1.926m underspend on the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure budget was reported at quarter 2, this remains the same.

12. The 2021/22 capital schemes funded by borrowing inform the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure budget for 2022/23, if the programme is set too high and is not deliverable then revenue budget is set aside that is not required and is diverted away from key services. The

programme needs to be reviewed to ensure it is robust and achievable and to inform the 2022/23 Budget setting process.

13. A detailed financial position by scheme is shown in Appendix A for cabinet to review. The summary position is shown in the table below.

Table 2 – 2021/22 Q3 Capital Programme

	Revised Budget **B** **£m**	Actual Spend as at Qtr. 2 **C** **£m**	% Actual to Budget **C/B** **£m**
Corporate Director - People	21.124	11.179	53%
Corporate Director - Resources	70.630	33.667	48%
Corporate Director - Place & Environment	51.113	20.880	41%
General Fund Total 2021/22	**142.867**	**65.726**	**46%**
Housing Revenue Account	**20.956**	**10.908**	**52%**
General Fund and HRA Programme 2021/22	**163.823**	**76.634**	**47%**

People

14. The table below shows the quarter 2 capital programme summary position for People Directorate. The revised budget stands at £21.104m and spend is currently at 54%.

1. £0.350m budget has been reprogrammed into future years for the SAIL Free Special School Abnormal Costs programme to match current delivery plans as there have been delays with DfE due to the pandemic and a change in the DfE plan from creating a school on a new build site to a re-modelling of an existing college to a school for learners with SEND.

Table 3 – 2021/22 Capital Programme, People Services

	Revised Budget **B** **£m**	Actual Spend as at Qtr. 2 **C** **£m**	% Actual to Budget **C/B** **£m**
Whole Life Pathway	0.020	0.000	0%
Education & Skills	20.604	11.179	54%
Families & Children's	0.500	0.000	0%
Corporate Director - People	**21.124**	**11.179**	**54%**

Education & Skills

15. In March 2021, Cabinet approved a list of 41 large, planned maintenance projects including roof replacements, full rewires and heating system replacements to be completed in 2021/22. The majority of these projects were completed over the summer holiday period, although invoices were not received and paid during Q3 the funds have been committed and projects completed. In addition, £0.800m was set aside to fund reactive/emergency works including those identified through ongoing servicing. This has resulted in many additional projects already underway at schools and will continue to fund others as we go into the Winter season. A large scheme to replace time expired temporary accommodation at Preshute Primary has completed over the summer.

16. Expansion projects also underway include expansions to Lea and Garsdon Primary School, Bitham Brook Primary School, Marlborough St John's and the provision of a new Alternative Provision unit at Hope Nature Centre. During the summer, works also took place at several schools to make them accessible for pupils with additional needs joining from September 2021.

Joint Commissioning

17. SEND capital schemes are on track to deliver benefits for Wiltshire children and young people with SEND. In June the use of £1.360m grant funding was confirmed to the DfE which was used to support the creation of 155 additional high needs places over the last three years.

18. Wiltshire has been awarded a further £2.055m which is to be used to deliver further places primarily for September 2022. Funding will be committed throughout the year in line with local priorities and needs identified through a Specialist Provision Strategy.

19. The Silverwood build programme is progressing at pace, with a detailed build design finalised through a successful and extensive programme of co-design with pupils, parents and carers, staff, and governors. On 13th July Cabinet approved a further £5.283m to be reprofiled to £3m in 2023/24 and £2.283m in 2024/25. The additional capital was allocated in recognition of increased and unforeseeable cost pressures due to a combination of factors including extreme volatility in the construction market with significant increases in material prices and challenges in supply, and the unique nature of the site requiring measures to protect its biodiversity.

20. Planning permission was granted recently, and the Council continues to work closely with the main construction partner, Willmott Dixon, over the rest of the year in preparation for a start of the main construction works in March 2023. Some enabling works will be taking place during the autumn to ensure the site is prepared for the main programme start in March.

21. The Silverwood build programme will deliver significant additional places from September 2023 for learners with SEND, and in the meantime, schemes have been being progressed at pace to ensure we have sufficient capacity for learners requiring specialist provision through the SEND

Special School Capacity and Alternative Provision budget. This will see the creation of 44 new specialist provision places across the county for September 2022 and 23 places for September 2023 in both special schools and resource bases.

Children's Social Care

22. A capital grant bid has been submitted to the DfE for building, buying or refurbishing children's residential homes to meet growing demand.

23. Corporate leadership team will be considering options from officers which range from new build construction to purchase of an existing property. Operational model options include operating in house or, commissioning an experienced provider to operate from the building. Quality, safeguarding flexibility and value for money will inform decision making.

Resources

24. The table below shows the quarter 2 capital programme summary position for Resources Directorate. The revised budget stands at £70.630m and spend is currently at 48%.

25. £0.5m budget has been reprogrammed into future years for Park & Ride Solar Panel Canopy's due to delays with identifying suitable schemes.

Table 4 – Capital Programme 2021/22, Resources

	Revised Budget B £m	Actual Spend as at Qtr. 2 C £m	% Actual to Budget C/B £m
Finance	4.000	0.914	23%
Assets & Commercial Development	49.810	24.263	49%
Capital Loans to Stone Circle	11.561	6.078	53%
Information Services	5.259	2.412	46%
Corporate Director - Resources	**70.630**	**33.667**	**48%**

Assets & Commercial Development

26. A restricted Cabinet report for the Housing Infrastructure Fund and Lackham College land purchase went to Cabinet in July 2021, discussions are ongoing with landowners and Homes England, it is likely that budgets will need to be reprofiled in line with the revised programme, this will be actioned once approved.

27. The Depot Phase One programme covers five sites, three main expansion and refurbishment projects at Highway Depots, Wootton Basset and High Post are due for completion in October 2021, and Warminster is due to complete 2022. The new depot in the south west, Hindon Stagger and the refurbishment and expansion of Parsonage Way in Chippenham are also underway and due to complete in 2023.

28. Operational Property Energy Efficiency and Generation and Public Sector Decarbonisation budgets have multiple projects underway to reduce the council's carbon emissions and generate utility cost savings from the property estate. These projects include lighting upgrades, PV installations, upgraded air handling units, and the installation of air source heat pumps and include all types of property in the estate including leisure centres, depots, respite centres and hub buildings.

29. £4.042m budget is for Facilities Management works and covers essential projects on the council's property estate to repair and maintain buildings and systems to keep them open and safe.

30. Melksham Campus construction started on site in March 2021, with a 63-week programme, the site is on programme to open in Autumn 2022.

31. Planning has been granted for Melksham House and demolition is planned to start at the end of year in advance of the access road being constructed. The Government levelling up funding bid was unsuccessful; options are being developed and will be presented as a separate Cabinet report in the future.

Capital Loans to Stone Circle

32. This represents the capital loan funding to Stone Circle companies for 2021/22. The Stone Circle governance review was presented to Cabinet in September and the company are working on an updated Business Plan to address the actions in the report.

33. As at 31 December, for 2021/22 26 properties had been purchased, this brings the total Stone Circle Housing portfolio to 40.

34. Stone Circle Development Company has 5 schemes in its approved Business Plan. Priestly Grove is now at planning stage, with a 9-unit scheme submitted in May 2021. Ashton Street and Marlborough Resource Centre are well underway and planning applications will be submitted in the Autumn. Tisbury Sports Centre and Stoneover Lane RWB are in development stage and going through pre application advice.

Digital and Information

35. ICT capital programme is shown across Applications, Get Well, Other Infrastructure and Business as Usual and covers staff costs and project costs to deliver key infrastructure, applications, cost of replacing staff devices and for further digital transformation and activities and emerging

fields like business intelligence. A refresh of the technology in the main council chamber will also be undertaken this financial year.

36. The Microsoft Navigator budget is fully committed and has been allocated to Automation as part of Organisational Recovery. This work is going to expand the use of Robotic Process Automation to automate simple tasks across the Council. This engagement will also deliver an automation team within Wiltshire Council so more tasks can be automated in the future internally without relying on 3rd parties to design and implement such automations.

Resources

37. The core project under Resources is the Evolve programme, which is the procurement and implementation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system for the Council. The budget has been reprofiled to align to programme delivery. The contract has been awarded and the new system will be Oracle. The new system is planned to go live towards the latter end of the 2022/23 calendar year with SAP expected to be decommissioned by April 2023.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

38. The table below shows quarter 2 capital programme summary position for the Housing Revenue Account. The revised budget stands at £20.956m and spend is currently at 52%.

39. £1.073m budget has been reprogrammed into future years for Council House Build Programme Phase 3.1, this is in relation to Whistledown Farm, Upavon scheme and is to align budget to the known delivery programme.

Table 5 – Capital Programme 2021/22, HRA

	Revised Budget **B** *£m*	Actual Spend as at Qtr. 2 **C** *£m*	% Actual to Budget **C/B** *£m*
Housing Revenue Account	**20.956**	**10.908**	**52%**

40. HRA Capital programme consists of two elements, the planned capital maintenance and the council house build programme. The planned capital maintenance of the existing housing stock covers bathrooms, kitchens, roofs, boilers etc. and the Council House Build programme, which has been split into different phases, is planned to deliver 1000 homes over the next ten years.

41. The Council House Build Programme has progressed well with the three section 106 purchases, with forty of the fifty two units due to be on site by the end of this year. Six shared ownership units, in Upavon and

Chippenham are due to be handed over by the end of December with a further seven due to complete by the end of the financial year.

42. The purchasing programme, where the Council re-purchases Right To Buy properties, is on track with five units completed to date and a further four due to complete by the end of the financial year. This includes one of the seven one bed flats part funded by Homes England to support the Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme.

43. Five New build units started on site in January with the demolition of the former Youth Centre at New Zealand Avenue, Salisbury. Nineteen Modern Methods of Construction units are awaiting planning determination and are due to start on site in the new year. The modules themselves are already 50% completed and in the factory awaiting planning permission to enable the external façade, windows, and doors to be fitted before being transported to site.

Place

44. The table below shows the quarter 2 capital programme summary position for Place Directorate. The revised budget stands at £51.113m and spend is currently at 41%.

45. A total of £0.587m has been reprogrammed into future years in line with current delivery plans as detailed below.

Table 6 – Capital Programme 2020/21, Place

	Revised Budget **B** *£m*	*Actual Spend as at Qtr. 2* **C** *£m*	*% Actual to Budget* **C/B** *£m*
Highways & Transport	32.470	20.161	62%
Economy & Regeneration	16.277	0.254	2%
Environment	0.876	0.272	31%
Leisure Culture & Communities	1.490	0.193	13%
Corporate Director Place	**51.113**	**20.880**	**41%**

Economy & Regeneration

46. There are three significant schemes included in the revised 2021/22 programme under Economic Development and Planning; £8.784m for West Ashton Urban Extension Project, £2.593m for Salisbury Future High Street and £2.157m for Trowbridge Future High Street.

47. The West Ashton Urban Extension scheme will unlock 2,200 houses on the site. The grant will be passported to Persimmon upon reaching the relevant milestones. The Housing Infrastructure Funding grant is revolving, which means that it will be repaid to the council by the developer as the new

houses are occupied. The council will agree with Homes England other housing schemes in Wiltshire which have viability issues which the funding can then be reinvested into, accelerating the delivery of further new housing for our communities.

48. Salisbury Future High street will focus on the Station Forecourt and Fisherton Street in Salisbury. This will enhance the public realm and improve accessibility to make it easier, safer, and more convenient to travel into the city centre.

49. The Trowbridge Future High Streets Fund will be spent across a range of projects aiming to strengthen the sustainability of Trowbridge Town centre by creating a more diverse offer and increasing footfall. Ensuring this long-term sustainability involves maximising the use of some key buildings, bringing vacant retail units back into use, as well as improving connectivity, the public realm and active travel opportunities within the town centre.

50. The programmes are both at mobilisation and design stage with engagement planned to start next year. The programmes are profiled to be delivered by March 2024 in line with MHCLG funding timescales.

Highways & Transport

51. Highways & Environment covers the major maintenance for Highways including flooding prevention and drainage. The works programme is all on track to spend in full for 2021/22.

52. £0.387m budget has been reprogrammed into 2022/23 in line with the vehicle repurchase programme. The Fleet Strategy will be taken to Cabinet in 2022/23 with an emphasis on carbon neutral fleet and setting out the long terms requirements.

53. The LED project to convert 40,000 streetlights to LED has seen a small delay due to a number of heritage style units to complete which take longer. The programme will be substantially complete in March, but a small number will fall into the beginning on 2022/23. £0.200m budget has therefore been reprogrammed into 2022/23. The programme is delivering energy and maintenance savings to cover the cost of borrowing for the programme and deliver an additional £0.400m revenue savings.

54. The Major Road Network budget is for preparatory work on the A350 Melksham Bypass, A338 Salisbury Junction Improvements, A350 Chippenham Bypass (Ph 4 & 5), and M4 Junction 17 Improvements to prepare the Outline Business Cases (OBC). If the Department of Transport approve the OBCs they will provide further funding to help develop the Full Business Cases. Cabinet update reports and any relevant approvals will be sought at this time.

Capital Programme 2021/22 Funding

55. The Capital Programme for 2021/22 has been financed as shown in the table below as at quarter 3.

Table 7 – Capital Programme 2021/22 Funding

Funding	£'m
Grants	69.712
Contributions	3.161
HRA	20.409
Capital Receipts	3.237
Borrowing Funded by Revenue Savings in Service	4.073
Borrowing	51.67
Stone Circle Capital Loan	11.561
Total Capital Programme 2021/22	163.823

56. The Council bid for and receive Government and third party grants, these come from various departments including Department for Transport, Homes England, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Department for Education.

57. In addition to grants, contributions are also used to finance the programme, contributions cover any third party non grant funding for example Section 106 (S106) developer contributions, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), contributions from private or public sector organisations.

58. The HRA finances its capital programme depending on sources available in that financial year with the aim of minimising borrowing. The new build programme financing has been delegated to the Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 officer) and the Director of Housing and Commercial. Funding sources are the HRA Revenue and Capital Reserves, Right to Buy receipts, shared ownership receipts, commuted sums, grants, and as a last resort borrowing.

59. The General Fund borrowing figure of £51.67m, together with historic Council borrowing, will generate a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charge, which is the amount Councils have to statutorily set aside to repay the debt. For 2021/22 a revenue saving of £1.926m (for MRP and Interest payable) has been reported as a result of the reduction in the 2020/21 capital programme year end position.

60. The 2021/22 capital schemes funded by borrowing inform the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure budget for 2022/23. The programme therefore needs to be deliverable to ensure that revenue budget is not set aside unnecessarily and diverted away from key services.

61. The Council brought forward into 2021/22 £7.582m of capital receipts and is forecasting to achieve £3.358m receipts from the disposal on assets in 2021/22, and this is a reduction of £0.685m from the quarter 2 report. £3.738m of capital receipts are planned to be used to finance the capital programme and £3.905 under Capital Receipts Flexibilities regulation to

fund revenue costs of transformational projects. This would leave a balance to roll forward to 2022/23 of £3.298m.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

63. Regular reports are taken to Overview & Scrutiny relating to the Council's financial position.

Safeguarding Implications

64. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Public Health Implications

65. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Procurement Implications

66. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

67. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

68. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

69. If the Council fails to take actions to address forecast shortfalls, overspends or increases in its costs it will need to draw on reserves or undertake further borrowing. The level of reserves is limited and a one-off resource that cannot be used as a long-term sustainable strategy for financial stability and additional borrowing will bring additional revenue costs.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

70. Ongoing budget monitoring and management, of which this report forms part of the control environment, is a mitigating process to ensure early identification and action is taken.

Financial Implications – S151 commentary

71. The financial implications are implicit throughout the report.

72. As part of the budget monitoring process reviews are carried out of the likely timing of the delivery of the schemes within the Capital Programme.

73. These reviews will continue as part of the quarterly budget monitoring process so that forecasts are made with greater confidence and the understanding of future funding requirements for borrowing and impact on future budget requirements is understood.

Legal Implications

74. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Workforce Implications

75. No workforce implications have been identified as arising directly from this report. Ongoing budget monitoring and management, of which this report forms part of the control environment, is a mitigating process to ensure early identification of variances and action is taken so that impacts to the workforce are minimised.

Options Considered

76. Budget monitoring forms part of the financial control environment and it is important to provide reporting on all aspects of financial management and performance to Cabinet and the public, including delivery to plans, variances and risks and impacts.

Conclusions

77. The report supports effective decision making and ensures a sound financial control environment.

Andy Brown (Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director - Resources), andy.brown@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Neil Haddock, Head of Finance, Adults

18/01/2022

Appendices
Appendix A: Capital Programme Report Q3 2021/22
Appendix B: Capital Programme Adjustments Q3 2021/22

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

(Wiltshire Council's Financial Plan Update 2021/22, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 and Capital Programme and Strategy

- Full Council, 23 February 2021
https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=13056&Ver=4

Financial Year 2021/22, Quarter Two Capital Monitoring Report – Cabinet, 30
    November 2021
Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 30 November 2021, 10.00 am | Wiltshire Council

Appendix A: Capital Programme Report Q3 2021/22 (page 1)

Scheme Name	2021/2022 Budget Breakdown					
	20/21 Budget Approved Q2	Budget Movements between Schemes	Reduced Budgets	Budgets reprogrammed from 2021/2022 into future years (Section 2 Appendix B)	Revised Full Year Budget 2021/2022	Spend to 31/12/2021
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Whole Life Pathway						
Sensory Stimulation & Development Play Equipment	0.020	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.020	0.000
Whole Life Pathway Total	**0.020**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.020**	**0.000**
Education & Skills						
Access and Inclusion	0.158	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.158	0.118
Army Rebasing	0.032	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.032	0.000
Basic Need	9.078	0.000	0.000	0.000	9.078	4.989
Stonehenge School Replacement of Lower Block	0.409	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.409	0.074
Devolved Formula Capital	0.634	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.634	0.634
Schools Maintenance & Modernisation	4.755	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.755	3.654
Early Years & Childcare	0.467	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.467	0.000
DfE Funded SEN Specialist Placement Expansion	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.003	0.040
Silverwood Special School	3.257	0.500	0.000	0.000	3.757	1.229
SAIL Free Special School Abnormal Costs	0.350	0.000	0.000	(0.350)	0.000	0.000
SEND Special School Capacity & Alternative Provision	1.311	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.311	0.441
High Needs Provision Capital Allowance	0.500	(0.500)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Education & Skills Total	**20.954**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**(0.350)**	**20.604**	**11.179**
Families & Children's Services						
Children's Homes	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.000
Families & Children's Services Total	**0.500**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.500**	**0.000**
Finance						
Evolve Project	4.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.000	0.914
Finance Total	**4.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**4.000**	**0.914**
Assets & Commercial Development						
Capital Receipt Enhancement	0.111	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.015
Commercial - Commercial Investment	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.003	0.003
Lackham College Land Purchase	1.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.300	0.000
Depot & Office Strategy	5.236	0.000	0.000	0.000	5.236	3.554
Disabled Facilities Grants	3.377	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.377	1.784
Facilities Management Works	4.042	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.042	0.850
Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF)	7.390	0.000	0.000	0.000	7.390	2.696
Porton Science Park	7.756	0.000	0.000	0.000	7.756	2.668
Health and Wellbeing Centres - Live Schemes	14.054	0.000	0.000	0.000	14.054	8.516
Non-Commercial Property Purchases	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.000
Operational Property Energy Efficiency and Generation	1.547	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.547	0.227
Park & Ride Solar Panel Canopys	0.500	0.000	0.000	(0.500)	0.000	0.000
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Projects	4.438	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.438	3.899
Salisbury Central Car Park & Maltings	0.481	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.481	0.051
Assets & Commercial Development Total	**50.310**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**(0.500)**	**49.810**	**24.263**
Capital Loans						
Stone Circle Housing Company Loan	10.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	10.000	5.847
Stone Circle Development Company Loan	1.561	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.561	0.231
Capital Loans Total	**11.561**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**11.561**	**6.078**
Information Services						
ICT Applications	1.713	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.713	0.890
ICT Business as Usual	0.557	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.557	0.105
ICT Other Infrastructure	1.070	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.070	0.036
ICT Get Well	1.315	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.315	0.979
Microsoft Cloud Navigator	0.604	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.604	0.402
Information Services Total	**5.259**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**5.259**	**2.412**

Appendix A: Capital Programme Report Q3 2021/22 (page 2)

Scheme Name	2021/2022 Budget Breakdown					
	20/21 Budget Approved Q2	Budget Movements between Schemes	Reduced Budgets	Budgets reprogrammed from 2021/2022 into future years (Section 2 Appendix B)	Revised Full Year Budget 2021/2022	Spend to 31/12/2021
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Highways & Transport						
Churchyards & Cemeteries	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.013
CIL Funded Schemes	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.000
Fleet Vehicles	0.751	0.000	0.000	(0.387)	0.364	0.020
Highway flooding prevention and Land Drainage schemes	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.260
Integrated Transport	3.682	0.000	(0.007)	0.000	3.675	2.002
LED Street Lighting	4.271	0.000	0.000	(0.200)	4.071	2.648
Major Road Network (MRN)	4.604	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.604	1.128
Pothole Fund Grant	9.212	0.000	0.000	0.000	9.212	0.000
Structural Maintenance & Bridges	10.290	0.000	0.000	0.000	10.290	14.043
Churchfields Depot Drainage and Traffic Management	0.147	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.147	0.047
Highways & Transport Total	**33.064**	**0.000**	**(0.007)**	**(0.587)**	**32.470**	**20.161**
Economy & Regeneration						
A350 West Ashton/Yarnbrook Junction Improvements	0.020	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.020	0.000
Corsham Mansion House	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.000
Salisbury Future High Streets	2.593	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.593	0.141
Trowbridge Future High Streets	2.157	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.157	0.064
West Ashton Urban Extension Project	8.784	0.000	0.000	0.000	8.784	0.000
Carbon Reduction Projects	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.000
Wiltshire Ultrafast Broadband	0.904	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.904	0.000
Wiltshire Online	1.701	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.701	0.049
Economy & Regeneration Total	**16.277**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**16.277**	**0.254**
Environment						
Waste Services	0.876	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.876	0.272
Environment Total	**0.876**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.876**	**0.272**
Leisure Culture & Communities						
Area Boards and LPSA PRG Reward Grants	0.971	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.971	0.189
Other Schemes including Cross Cutting Systems	0.019	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.019	0.000
Leisure Requirements	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.500	0.004
Leisure Culture & Communities Total	**1.490**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**1.490**	**0.193**
Total 2021/2022 General Fund Programme	**144.311**	**0.000**	**(0.007)**	**(1.437)**	**142.867**	**65.726**
Housing Revenue Account						
HRA - Council House Build Programme	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.043
HRA - Council House Build Programme (Phase 2)	0.796	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.796	0.254
HRA - Council House Build Programme (Phase 3.1)	7.671	0.000	0.000	(1.073)	6.598	4.122
HRA - Council House Build Programme (Phase 3.2)	3.896	0.000	0.000	0.000	3.896	1.304
HRA - Refurbishment of Council Stock	9.585	0.000	0.000	0.000	9.585	5.185
Housing Revenue Account Total	**22.029**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**(1.073)**	**20.956**	**10.908**
Total 2021/2022 General Fund & HRA Programme	**166.340**	**0.000**	**(0.007)**	**(2.510)**	**163.823**	**76.634**

Appendix B: Capital Programme Adjustments Q3 2021/22

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (CFO) - EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS & REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Cabinet Meeting   **1 February 2022**

Financial Year: **2021/2022**

SECTION 2 - DELEGATED CFO POWERS

"Schemes within the capital programme which require the reprogramming of expenditure between years due to scheme not progressing as originally anticipated or other circumstances"

Project Name:	Whistledown Farm, Upavon CHBP Ph 3.1		Reason:	Aligned to delivery programme				
Budget Change:	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
	-1.073	1.073						
Funding Source:	HRA							

Project Name:	LED Street Lighting		Reason:	Potential supply chain resource issues with regard to non-standard unit				
Budget Change:	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
	-0.200	0.200						
Funding Source:	Borrowing funded by Revenue Savings							

Project Name:	SAIL Free Special School Abnormal Costs		Reason:	Delayed construction pushing these works back				
Budget Change:	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
	-0.350	0.350						
Funding Source:	Borrowing							

Project Name:	Capital Schemes to be confirmed		Reason:	Q2 Cabinet Allocation for Depots overspend				
Budget Change:	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
		0.860				-0.317	-0.415	-0.013
Funding Source:	Borrowing							

Project Name:	Fleet Vehicles		Reason:	Forecast higher spend in 21/22 on Asset ICT and Fuel Bunkering				
Budget Change:	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
	0.069	-0.069						
Funding Source:	Borrowing							

Project Name:	EV Charging		Reason:	Assessment Works beginning earlier than anticipated				
Budget Change:	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
	0.010	-0.010						
Funding Source:	Borrowing							

Project Name:	Fleet Vehicles		Reason:	Some vehicle purchases reprogrammed to 2022/23				
Budget Change:	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
	-0.466	0.466						
Funding Source:	Borrowing							

Project Name:	Park & Ride Solar Panel Canopys		Reason:	Aligned to delivery programme				
Budget Change:	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
	-0.500	0.500						
Funding Source:								

-2.510	**Total Re-programming between years**

In the exercise of my delegated powers (Section 1 and 2), I hereby authorise the amendments to the Capital Programme summarised above.

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER: Andy Brown

DATE: 24/01/2021

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject: **Business Plan 2022-2032**

Cabinet Member: **Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, MCI, Economic Development, Heritage, Arts, Tourism and Health & Wellbeing and Interim Cabinet Member responsible for Finance & Procurement, Commissioning and Commercialisation**

Key Decision: **Key**

Executive Summary

A set of Business Plan Principles for 2022-2032 were agreed by Cabinet in September. These set out the council's guiding themes and core mission. A full draft Business Plan, incorporating these and partner feedback, has now been developed for agreement by Cabinet and consideration by Full Council.

Proposal(s)
Cabinet is asked to:

- Agree the draft Business Plan 2022-2032 for submission to Full Council on 15 February 2022.

Reason for Proposal(s)

The draft Business Plan builds on detailed input from services and wider feedback from partners following agreement of the Business Plan Principles by Cabinet in September 2021.

Full Council is responsible for agreeing Wiltshire Council's Business Plan.

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject:	**Business Plan Principles 2022-2032**
Cabinet Member:	**Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, MCI, Economic Development, Heritage, Arts, Tourism and Health & Wellbeing and Interim Cabinet Member responsible for Finance & Procurement, Commissioning and Commercialisation**
Key Decision:	**Key**

Purpose of Report

1. This is a covering report for the Council's draft Business Plan for 2022-2032 and follows on from the Principles which were agreed by Cabinet in September 2021. These Principles are in Appendix 1.

2. The draft Business Plan sets the council's overarching strategy for the next ten years and is in Appendix 2.

3. Its purpose is to enable the Chief Executive and Corporate Leadership Team to lead and manage the organisation to achieve the priorities and objectives set by Cabinet.

4. Engagement has been undertaken with a range of stakeholders – including Town and Parish Councils, Wiltshire Council's Select and Scrutiny Committees, public sector partners, and residents.

5. Upon appointment of a new Youth Council, a workshop will take place in March 2022 and newly-elected youth councillors will be offered an opportunity to present their findings to Cabinet and/or Full Council.

6. The feedback, to date, has been positive on the Business Plan principles and the clear focus on outcomes and has also welcomed the recognition given to the natural environment in the plan.

7. All further feedback will be collated and considered by Cabinet for future iterations and strategic re-alignment.

8. Directors and their staff have contributed by developing draft Service Delivery Plans which are summarised within the plan itself.

9. Proposed performance metrics are included within the draft Business Plan and data that is currently available is in Appendix 3.

10. This data is continually taking shape and will form the foundation of quarterly reviews between Cabinet Members and Directors. Targets and any additional measures will follow and be presented accordingly.

Background

11. The draft Business Plan 2022-2032 is an important document which sets the council's strategic direction and priorities. It outlines the intended annual corporate planning cycle and key performance measures in line with the corporate performance and risk management policy.

12. It continues to build on and extend the vision and achievements from previous business plans – and incorporates the priority areas for Wiltshire following the recent local elections. Also reflected are the significant external challenges that the council will face over the coming years and the way the council's services will have to operate to manage these.

Main Considerations for Cabinet

13. The ten-year plan is working to four main priorities and doing so under the banner of improving lives through stronger communities:

- **Empowered People** We want every child to have the best start and life and we will help develop the communities and facilities that enable all residents to enjoy good physical and mental health to live active lives. This includes ensuring that they are safe throughout their life.

- **Resilient Society** We want people in Wiltshire to build positive relationships and live well together, to be able to get involved, influence and act on what matters in their local communities. We want our communities to be able to grow sustainably with access to arts, heritage and culture and have easy access to high quality and affordable housing in beautiful places.

- **Thriving Economy** We want to continue to grow the skills of our local workforce, nurture the opportunities available to them and for our economy to thrive. We must mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on our children's education so that they can prosper and as a county we can attract and retain high value businesses and investment. As we continue to move forward, we must ensure everyone can take advantage of a sustainable economy with vibrant, well-connected settlements.

- **Sustainable Environment** The council has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and we now must take the lead and support the whole county as it strives for the same. Together, we must take responsibility for the environment and ensure it is well used, cherished, protected, conserved and enhanced.

14. It also sets out:

- The council's mission to make Wiltshire a place where:

- o We get the best start in life
- o We stay active
- o We are safe
- o We live well together
- o We are involved and decisions are evidence based
- o We have the right housing
- o We have the right skills to prosper
- o We have vibrant, well connected communities
- o We take responsibility for the environment
- o We are on the path to carbon neutral
- Our Identity and the organisation we want to be
- Principles for ensuring an efficient, healthy organisation.

15. The Plan will be delivered through an annual corporate planning cycle and the production of Service Delivery Plans within services.

16. The first set of draft Service Delivery Plans informed the development of the draft Business Plan. These ensure more detailed approaches and resource assessments – including financial considerations – for delivering each aspect of the mission and are supported by performance indicators.

17. Service Delivery Plans will be updated annually, signed off by the Chief Executive, and used to inform the annual budget setting agreed by Full Council.

18. Progress reports on finance, risk and performance will be provided quarterly to Cabinet.

19. Cabinet will also sign off on the re-commissioning of services in line with these plans, wherever necessary.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

20. In addition to the earlier scrutiny engagement on the Business Plan Principles, a draft of the Business Plan was shared with all Elected Members (including members of scrutiny committees) on 13 January, ahead of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting on 25 January.

21. Chairmen of Select Committees have also scheduled informal meetings to discuss the document and provide feedback.

Safeguarding Implications

22. The principles identify 'We are safe' as part of the council's core mission for Wiltshire.

Public Health Implications

23. The principles identify empowered people and 'We get the best start in life', 'We stay active' and 'We are safe' as part of the council's core mission for Wiltshire.

24. Prevention and early intervention are also highlighted as guiding themes.

Procurement Implications

25. None.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

26. The principles focus on improving social mobility and tackling inequality as a guiding theme for the council's work.

27. The equality implications of the council's major long-term strategies, programmes and plans have already been approved and were taken into consideration in during development.

28. Equality analysis will be undertaken for new proposals as these emerge.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

29. The principles identify 'We take responsibility for the environment' and 'We are carbon neutral' as part of the Council's core mission for Wiltshire.

30. Throughout, it is fully aligned to the council's climate consultation and its strategy.

Financial Implications

31. An update to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was reported to Cabinet in January.

32. The Business Plan Principles have been used to ensure that the council's resources are aligned to meeting the principles and subsequent delivery objectives and outcomes that come forward.

33. Development of budget proposals has taken place in tandem with development of Service Delivery Plans and the draft Business Plan.

Legal Implications

34. The Policy Framework in the council's constitution makes clear that it is a function of Full Council to approve the final Business Plan.

Workforce Implications

35. The document highlights the work on 'Our Identity' and the healthy and efficient council we wish to be, as well as the requirement for a new People Strategy.

Next Steps

36. Once approved, it will be for consideration at Full Council on 15 February 2022.

37. Feedback will be collated and considered by Cabinet for future iterations and strategic re-alignment.

38. It is intended that the Local Government Association undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge in 2022 as further ratification of the council's ambitions.

Terence Herbert, Chief Executive

Report Authors: Martin Nicholls & David Bowater – Executive Office

21 January 2022

Appendices
Appendix 1: Business Plan Principles
Appendix 2: Draft Business Plan 2022-2032
Appendix 3: Draft Corporate Scorecard

Background Papers
The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:
Wiltshire Council Performance and Risk Management Policy

Wiltshire Council

Business Plan Principles
2022 to 2032

Wiltshire Council

Foreword

Wiltshire is a thriving County with a rich and diverse heritage. We are home to half a million people and around half of the population live in towns and villages with fewer than 5,000 residents.

Our strong and cohesive communities continue to be some of our proudest achievements and the way we look out for each other and handle the challenges we have faced together is what makes our beautiful County the best place to live, work and raise a family.

As a Council we know our purpose.

We want the people of Wiltshire to be empowered to live full, healthy and enriched lives. We want our communities to be beautiful and exciting places to live. We want our local economy to thrive and be supported by a skilled workforce. We want to lead the way in how Councils and Counties mitigate the climate challenges ahead.

We are committed to listening to and speaking for Wiltshire. The Council is a modern and democratic organisation that focuses on learning and adapting at pace, paying continuous attention to our area's changing needs and ensuring we do what is right for the people of Wiltshire.

As a result, we are continually reviewing and refining our services to deliver better outcomes that empower local people.

In all that we do we must continue to be inclusive and focus on preventing problems from arising, acting quickly when they do. We must strive to improve social mobility to ensure inequalities in our communities can be reduced.

As we deliver on our next business plan, it is vital we focus on the long-term challenges and plan accordingly. We need to be clear about what we want to achieve and we will do so by working closely with our local communities and partners as we cannot achieve anything in isolation.

My administration will ensure we continue to work with and for our local communities to keep Wiltshire the distinctive place it is, creating pride in our County and our strong communities. It will be courageous and assured in what it is doing, focused on doing what is right for Wiltshire over the long term and taking the kind of action that may not yet have been seen elsewhere.

Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader, Wiltshire Council
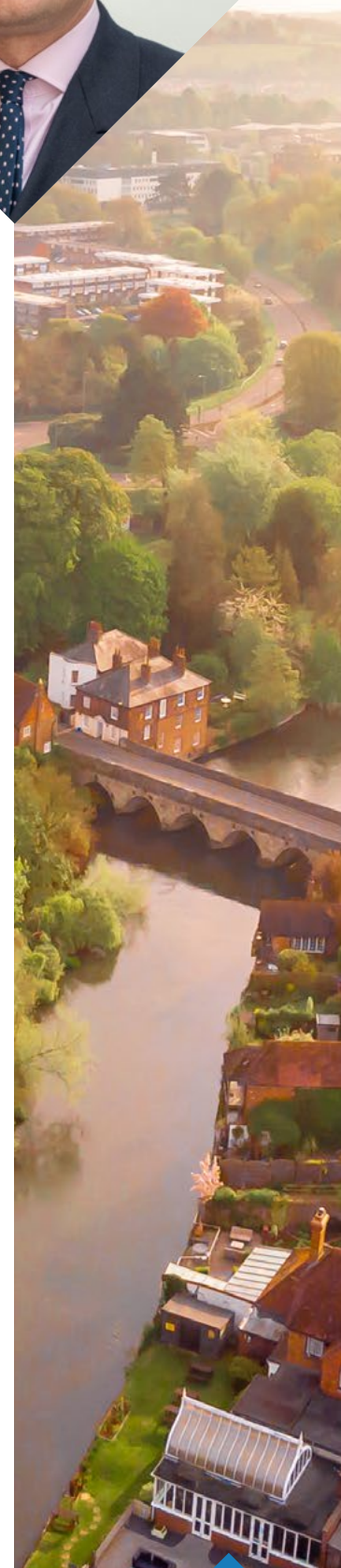
Our mission

Wiltshire is a place where...

- We have vibrant, well-connected communities
- We have the right skills to prosper
- We ensure decisions are evidence-based
- We get the best start in life
- We live well together
- We stay active
- We have the right housing
- We are safe
- We take responsibility for the environment
- We are on the path to carbon neutral (net zero)

- ● Thriving Economy
- ● Resilient Society
- ● Sustainable Environment
- ● Empowered People

Our guiding themes

Prevention and early intervention

We take a long-term view, focusing on what is right for Wiltshire and invest in prevention and early intervention to tackle problems before they get worse. We have a whole life approach to planning and providing services for our residents. This includes our ambition to reach net zero carbon.

Improving social mobility and tackling inequalities

In everything we do, we consider the impact of the action on social mobility and ask how we can help to tackle the disparities in opportunity that exist within Wiltshire.

Understanding communities

We ensure our dialogue with communities is open, transparent and inclusive, in the right place and at the right time so that our services meet our distinctive local need.

Integration

We design and deliver our services in partnership with service users, local communities and other public sector partners where appropriate. We collectively consider how to integrate our work, get maximum value for public sector spend and plan our use of the public sector estate together.

Our mission is to help make Wiltshire a place where:

Empowered People

We get the best start in life – Giving our children the best start in life is a fundamental part of improving their long-term life chances and affords them the best opportunity to live long, full and healthy lives.

We stay active – Keeping socially, physically and mentally active has direct and positive impacts on brain function, weight management, reducing disease and the ability to enjoy life. Improving all these for residents will lead to greater happiness and improved independence.

We are safe – Being safe throughout life and all its facets is a foundation that all should be provided. The Council delivers care services to the County's most vulnerable residents and in doing so accepts responsibility for keeping them safe throughout their lives.

Resilient Society

We live well together – Communities that are cohesive achieve more and are more resilient in the face of shocks and setbacks. A strong community also contributes enormously to a sense of personal wellbeing. It is also one of the known social determinants of health and we want to ensure our communities to be able to grow sustainably with access to leisure, arts, heritage and culture.

We ensure decisions are evidence-based – Communities that get involved and feel they can influence decisions are more engaged and happier. We want to make it easy for everyone to participate and engage in their community and in public services, as well as the decisions that affect their local areas.

We have the right housing - Improving housing supply is critical for ensuring people can live and work locally and play an active part in their community. We want to ensure that residents have easy access to high quality and affordable housing that's close to their family, that's right for them and in beautiful places.

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Thriving Economy

We have the right skills to prosper – We need a workforce with the right skills to match their ambitions and provide the skills that our businesses need. We also need to encourage more young people to live and work in Wiltshire. With the right workforce we can continue to attract and retain high value businesses and investment. In all that we do, we will support our market towns to develop and prosper.

We have vibrant, well-connected communities – We want people to be able to get around easily and access good services, including through digital channels. This will help grow the local economy in a sustainable way.

Sustainable Environment

We take responsibility for the environment - Wiltshire's natural beauty, its historic sites, villages, houses and unique habitats and wildlife must be protected and nurtured. They also play a key part in the County's visitor economy and for the wellbeing of the people of Wiltshire. Experiencing the natural environment plays an important role in tackling levels of anxiety, stress and depression.

We are on the path to carbon neutral (net zero) - The Council has acknowledged a climate emergency and committed to becoming carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030. Through its leadership, it must now seek to support the whole of Wiltshire in its ambition for carbon neutrality too. Globally the planet is 1.2 degrees warmer than before the industrial revolution and this is already causing significant climate impacts with more extreme weather having an impact in Wiltshire. Together, we must take responsibility for the environment and ensure it is well used, cherished, protected, conserved and enhanced.
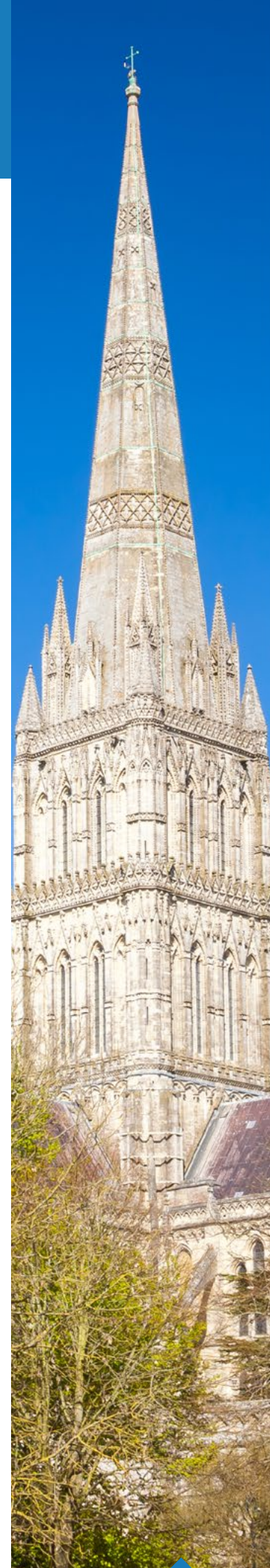
Your council

Wiltshire Council strives to be the highest performing council in the country and wants to deliver over and above its statutory duties.

To achieve this, we will continue to operate as an efficient organisation and we will work ambitiously with our partners, have strong checks and balances in place and a workforce that thrives on its opportunities to innovate and conduct critical analyses.

Our Identity is clear about the organisation we want to be and for our staff this means that they understand what is expected of them and what they can expect from us.

- We are public servants, innovating and collaborating with partners and residents to build stronger communities.

- We are an evidence-based, high performing organisation, we reward achievement, recognise effort and are unequivocally focussed on making a difference and delivering the best outcomes for our residents.

- We are one Council, which is an inclusive and agile environment where we celebrate each other's successes, recognising that our residents don't live their lives in the compartmentalised way that services historically have run.

This will all be underpinned by the following principles.

Delivering value (Financial, Performance and Risk Management)

We set our budget based on the contribution that spending makes to delivering our vision and mission.

We have a business-like approach with an up-to-date commercial policy, good returns on our assets and clear business cases for everything we do. Our procurement processes consider the wider social value that can be delivered – for example, carbon reduction, smoking cessation and enabling local and other SMEs to tender for council contracts.

We enable sensible risk taking and report regularly on progress delivering the outcomes in the upcoming business plan.

The Business Plan will be supported by an annual corporate

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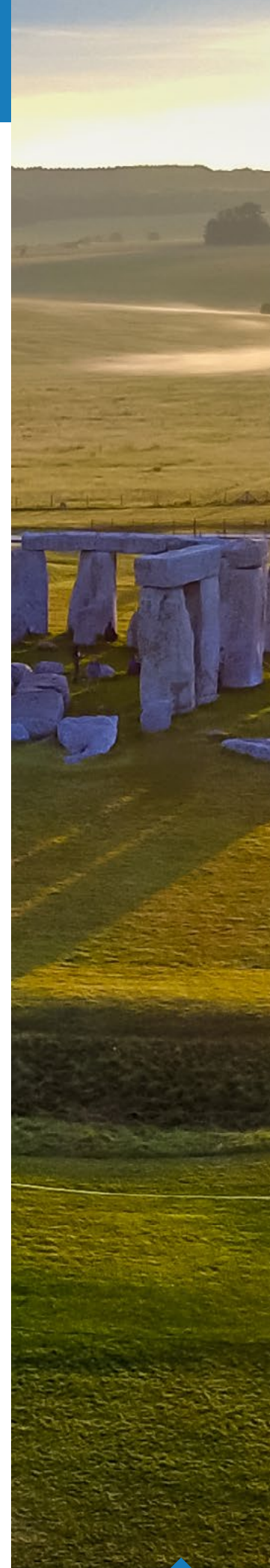
planning cycle which develops more detailed approaches and resource assessments for delivering each of the outcomes. These will be updated annually and used to inform the annual budget setting.

Progress will be monitored using performance measures that are Cabinet-approved and delivered in conjunction with the Council's Business Intelligence function.

Cabinet will receive combined finance, performance and risk reports on a quarterly basis.

Skilled, agile and engaged workforce

We ensure staff have the knowledge, skills and confidence to be able to respond flexibly, where decisions are underpinned by evidence and data and where we strive to be high performing.

Our Identity is embedded across the organisation and we will deliver a new People Strategy which encompasses organisational (service and job) design, behaviour, ways of working, upskilling, agile and flexible deployment and being able to respond to changing demands.

We build our own engaged and skilled workforce while attracting, selecting and recruiting the best staff – ensuring there is good ongoing recognition and engagement of staff.

Transformation and Business Change

We have clear insight into how our services work from the customer's point of view and measure how well they are performing.

We redesign services through a rigorous programme and project-based approach, with regular checkpoints and benefits analysis.

We create a culture within the Council which enables us to absorb, anticipate and adapt to change, creating organisational resilience through a cohesive vision shared by Council Officers across all services and supported by Members.

We establish the principles, standards and a framework for our range of projects across the Council and develop and deliver a programme consisting of a balanced, affordable and deliverable portfolio that enables the Council to meet its strategic aims and ambition.

We proactively identify opportunities to advance the Council's strategy and vision through transformation initiatives that will deliver measurable performance and business improvement and culture change, embedding the vision set out in **Our Identity**.
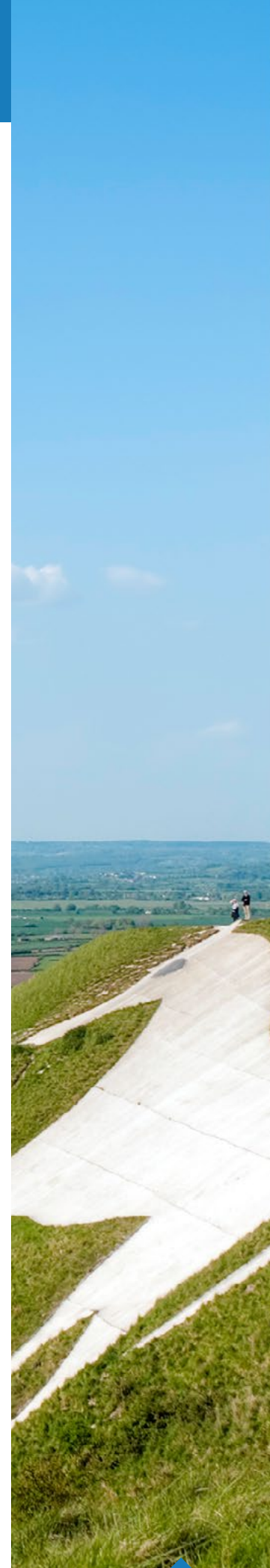
There is clear coordination of transformation activity happening, we will bring services together, ensuring alignment with the business plan and key principles and preventing duplication of effort.

Transformational change is not only delivered successfully, but also embedded in the Council's capabilities and operating models are as efficient and effective as possible, being fit-for-purpose in achieving our strategic aims.

Quality, timely and well-structured information and technology

We ensure the communities and businesses we serve can engage and transact with us responsively and seamlessly, irrespective of the services they access.

We empower decision makers with access to accurate, consistent and timely information that supports understanding and insight to deliver the best outcomes for our residents.

We invest and transform digital infrastructure to underpin all of Wiltshire's operations and services.

We redefine the digitally enabled democracy to provide simple but innovative ways to collaborate between residents, businesses and Councillors.

Wiltshire Council
Business Plan Principles 2022-2032

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WILTSHIRE

COUNCIL DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN

2022 to 2032

Wiltshire Council

Foreword

I am pleased to present the Business Plan for 2022 to 2032, following on from the Principles which were agreed in 2021.

This plan represents Wiltshire Council's ten-year ambition for the county. It sets out the council's mission, how we will measure our achievement of it in the immediate future and the key themes that guide our work.

Although it is near impossible to plan in detail for the decade ahead, I am certain that this long-term focus on the challenges that we face as a county is the right approach and I wholly expect updated versions to be published in the coming years as our services deliver upon their commitments.

Wiltshire is a thriving county with a rich and diverse heritage. We are home to half a million people with around half of the population living in towns and villages with fewer than 10,000 residents. This plan recognises that we cannot achieve everything in isolation; we need to work ever more closely with our partners and stakeholders.

Our strong and cohesive communities continue to be some of our proudest achievements. The way we look out for each other and handle the challenges we have faced together is what makes our beautiful county the best place to live, work and raise a family.

As a council, we know our mission is to ensure:

- The people of Wiltshire are **empowered** to live full, healthy and enriched lives.
- Our **communities** continue to be beautiful and exciting places to live.
- Our local economy **thrives** and is supported by a skilled workforce.
- We lead the way in how councils and counties mitigate the **climate** challenges ahead.

We are committed to listening to and speaking for Wiltshire. The council is a modern and democratic organisation that focuses on learning and adapting rapidly, paying continuous attention to our area's changing needs and ensuring we do what is right for the people of Wiltshire.

As a result, we are continually reviewing and refining our services to deliver better outcomes that empower local people. We will do this with a focus on a cost-effective, strategic and long-term approach to service reform.

We know that this is not without its challenges, which is why, in all that we do, we will continue to be inclusive and focus on preventing problems from arising and act quickly when they do.

We are striving to improve social mobility to reduce inequalities in our communities and joining national efforts to tackle this beyond our own geographic boundaries.

My administration will ensure we continue to work with, and for, our local communities to keep Wiltshire the distinctive place it is, creating pride in our county and our strong communities. It will be courageous and assured in its activities, focused on doing what is right for Wiltshire over the long-term and taking the kind of action that may not yet have been seen elsewhere.

Cllr Richard Clewer,
Leader of the Council

Contents

Photo: Salisbury aerial view

Our mission

We have vibrant, well-connected communities
We ensure decisions are evidence-based
We have the right skills to prosper
We live well together
We get the best start in life
We have the right housing
We stay active
We take responsibility for the environment
We are safe
We are on the path to carbon neutral (net zero)

Wiltshire is a place where...

● Thriving Economy ● Resilient Society ● Sustainable Environment ● Empowered People

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Improving social mobility and tackling inequalities

In everything we do, we consider the impact of the action on social mobility and ask how we can help to tackle the disparities in opportunities that exist within Wiltshire.

Understanding communities

We ensure our dialogue with communities is open, transparent and inclusive, in the right place and at the right time so that our services meet our distinctive local need.

Working together

We design and deliver our services in partnership with service users, local communities and other public sector partners where appropriate. We collectively consider how to integrate our work, get maximum value for public sector spend and plan our use of the public sector estate together.

Introduction

This Business Plan marks the start of many exciting new opportunities for Wiltshire. It will help shape the future and allow us to respond to the challenges that arise with dynamism and courage.

The last two years have been some of the toughest faced by residents and public service alike. We recognise that, along with other councils across the country, we faced significant challenges before the COVID-19 pandemic, including challenging resource decisions amidst growing demand for our services.

These challenges remain and we now need to go even further to ensure Wiltshire Council is fit for the future by actively investing in our organisational resilience and the agility of our workforce.

For each of the outcomes in this plan, our services have undertaken thorough delivery planning and we have set out our aims, what we are already doing and what we will implement in the years ahead. The activities set out will be the basis for measuring our success and are accompanied by indicators that tell us how successful we are in delivering the services that you, our residents, need and cherish most.

As Chief Executive, I am keen to instil the principles of working as one council, recognising that our residents do not live their lives in the compartmentalised way that our people and place-based services were typically run. I am confident that the transformation that will be delivered within the council over the next ten years will improve your interactions and experiences with the council.

We cannot do this alone. Working with our local communities, local businesses and our partners in the NHS, fire, police, justice, military, schools, voluntary sector and central government will be critical to success.

We will seek common cause with our partners and neighbouring local authorities to get the right solutions for you and for Wiltshire. We will develop clear plans for partnership working, communicating, influencing and for developing our commercial approach to complement this Business Plan.

Together we will deliver services over and above our statutory obligations for you, the people of Wiltshire, and ensure that your council is the highest performing in the country.

Terence Herbert,
Chief Executive

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Empowered
1. PEOPLE

We get the best start in life

Children having the best start in life is a fundamental part of improving their long-term life chances, and affords them the best opportunity to live long, full, healthy and enriched lives. We know that families whose children fall behind in development or education find it even more difficult to help their children catch up.

We aim to:

- Ensure every one of our children achieves their optimal physical, emotional and mental health.
- Support the development of speech and language, ensuring that children are ready to learn at 2 years of age and ready for school at 5 years of age.
- Guarantee that there are enough high-quality and accessible pre-school places.
- Find the right specialist support for children with special educational needs.
- Provide additional support to meet the needs of children who are looked after by the council, helping them to achieve their educational potential and creating opportunities for aspirational next steps in education, employment or training.
- Ensure all school pupils, including those who are vulnerable, can access a high-quality education provision and are well prepared for their next stage in life.
- Support schools to implement an effective whole school approach to health and wellbeing.
- Build the opportunity of greater independence for children with additional needs.
- Provide opportunities for young people to be involved in positive activities.
- Work with the health system to ensure the right support and services are available for families locally.
- Improve the overall health of our children.
- Empower a cycle of positive change for young people that inspires engagement, skills development, cultural awareness, educational achievement, wellbeing, physical and mental health.

Over the course of this Business Plan we shall:

Continue to...

- Focus on the first 1001 days of a child's life and the impact they have on a person's future.
- Develop the market in children's services to ensure sufficiency for early years, fostering agencies, children's homes and supported accommodation.
- Provide 'early help' to make sure families will get the right help at the right time from the most appropriate professionals.
- Encourage our educational settings to strive for excellence in provision and achievement, using the best education establishments to help improve others.
- Provide high quality Early Years services from birth to 5 years.
- Run a successful Healthy Schools programme.
- Support schools and education settings to develop their specific knowledge base and practice in meeting the needs of social care experienced children within an education setting.

Implement...

- A system-wide and strengths-based approach to improve maternal, children's and young people's health and wellbeing to reduce health inequalities.
- Recommissioned Children's Community Health Services.
- An Early Years strategy to pull all services together.
- Improved special educational needs and disability transport with a strengths-based approach.
- A multi-agency solution to providing good access to mental health services for children and young people.
- Opportunities for all young people to engage in wider society and the council.

Photo: Getty Images

We stay active

Keeping physically, socially and mentally active has direct and positive impacts on brain function, weight management, reducing disease, and the ability to enjoy life. Improving all these things for residents will lead to greater happiness, more economic independence, and less service reliance.

We aim to:

- Help the people of Wiltshire to increase their activity levels and improve their health.

- Tackle health inequalities across Wiltshire.

- Give communities access to quality leisure and sports opportunities in buildings and facilities that are safe and well maintained at good value to those communities.

- Allow everyone in Wiltshire to enjoy access to libraries and the chance to help design the range of activities that go on in them.

- Help more residents to prioritise and optimise their health and mental health.

- Maximise independence for individuals with a learning disability and or complex needs.

Over the course of this Business Plan we shall:

Continue to...

- Review how our leisure centres, libraries and other buildings are used, making sure they are fit for purpose, working to provide new campus leisure facilities in Melksham and Trowbridge.

Implement...

- Alignment of the council's work to public health priorities to empower healthy and safe behaviours. This will include integrating public health outcomes with the priorities of area boards.

- An enabling and empowering model of support that enables people with a learning disability to maximise their independence.

- Programmes of sporting and physical activities aimed at those who face the greatest barriers to participation.

- More sporting and physical activity opportunities in communities by supporting local communities to improve and add to their local facilities.

Photo: The Vale Community Campus - Pewsey

Photo: Getty Images

We are safe

Safeguarding our residents from harm is one of the council's most important responsibilities. The council delivers care services to many of the county's most vulnerable residents but also works closely with other service providers, regulators and emergency services to reduce unacceptable levels of risk to safety and safeguarding. Public protection services also help to ensure we stay safe and close partnership working with Wiltshire Police helps to tackle crime.

We aim to:

- Reduce the risk from health and environmental hazards, including infectious diseases.

- Improve sexual health and uptake of immunisation and screening programmes.

- Reduce preventable winter deaths.

- Give people choice and control, with flexible options of support to meet their care and support needs to ensure they receive the right support at the right time.

- Provide effective and flexible support to young people as they enter adulthood.

- Help protect and sustain a flexible market in care that encourages local business, makes use of volunteers, can respond to changes in demand and manages risk.

- Ensure the quality and cost of care provision is actively managed.

- Enable people with care needs to leave hospital as soon as they are able.

- Make better use of technology to help people stay safe in their homes and be more independent.

- Give looked after children and young people the most secure home possible.

- Ensure food outlets and workspaces are safe places for our residents to be.

- Support our partners in reducing the number of people killed or who are seriously injured on Wiltshire's roads.

Over the course of this Business Plan we shall:

Continue to...

- Help protect those at risk from health and environmental hazards, including infectious diseases and major incidents, through effective outbreak management and encouraging uptake of immunisation and screening programmes.

- Help residents to live in warm and safe homes.

- Ensure children and young people who cannot live at home are matched to the right carers: extended family, in foster care or with adopters.

- Protect individuals and businesses with an effective standards service.

- Deliver impartial and professional building control services to residents and businesses.

- Provide education and engineering solutions to improve road safety, promoting the use of speed indicator devices, community speed watch and 20mph limits where communities want them.

Implement...

- A transformed way of commissioning home care and day care, including the development of micro-enterprises and the voluntary and community sector.

- A technology strategy to help people to live independently.

- Promotion of safe, compliant and successful traders as great examples to others.

- Fully embedded transitional safeguarding across adult social care.

- A collaborative, multi-agency approach to hospital discharge planning and post-discharge support.

- Wiltshire Support at Home to enhance the provision of domiciliary care.

- A highly developed brokerage function to ensure we get the best value care provision.

- A 'whole life pathway' for those with long-term care needs that will ensure that the transition between children and adult services is seamless.

- A reform of adult social care, making the most of opportunities that will bring the council into contact with all service users, including self-funders.

Photo: Getty Images

Resilient
2. SOCIETY

Photo: Bradford-on-Avon

We live well together

Communities that are cohesive achieve more and are more resilient in the face of shocks and setbacks. A strong community contributes enormously to a sense of personal wellbeing and is one of the known social determinants of health. Our communities will continue to be able to grow sustainably with good access to leisure, arts, heritage and culture.

We aim to:

- Ensure that children are safe and families stay together.
- Support people to remain independent of formal services and to live and age well in their own homes.
- Reduce smoking prevalence to 5% or less.
- Improve workplace health and wellbeing.
- Allow people with poor mental health more opportunity to recover within their community.
- Improve health outcomes for Wiltshire's diverse communities, including our Gypsy, Roma, Traveller and Boater communities.
- Make sure young people get the support they need without having to wait.
- Link communities to services provided by the council through volunteering.
- Help deliver opportunities for people to manage their own mental and physical health in community activities.
- Strengthen Wiltshire's economy.
- Get community backing for development.
- Rectify breaches of planning control in a timely manner.

Over the course of this Business Plan we shall:

Continue to...

- Provide opportunities for volunteering within council services and promote and support volunteering in communities.
- Delay the need for formal care by working with people in their own homes.
- Support the integration and alignment of military and civilian communities and services.

Implement...

- The Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategy for Wiltshire.
- Support for the national 'Levelling Up' programme and community initiatives in Wiltshire's market towns.
- Reviews of the programme for monitoring and enforcing breaches of planning control.
- A support offer alongside children's services for parents and carers who have mental health conditions, learning disabilities or autism.
- Support to encourage more of Wiltshire's population to avoid taking up or to stop smoking.
- Support for community-based cultural activities, linking major arts organisations, museums and community groups.
- Local branding for Wiltshire producers to back their quality and digital initiatives by promoting local produce, heritage and events.
- A review of the pre-application planning service and how major applications are supported.
- A new model for support of people with mental health conditions.

Photo: Malmesbury aerial view

We ensure decisions are evidence-based

Communities that get involved and feel they can influence decisions are more engaged and are happier. This can be achieved by making it easier for everyone to participate and engage in their community and in public services, as well as the decisions that affect their local areas.

We aim to:

- Ensure an open and transparent approach to decision making.

- Communicate with communities in a way that promotes constructive discussion, tailored to the community's needs and developing better solutions to these.

- Empower communities and groups to act in their local area.

- Assist parish councils with the knowledge and skills to inform planning decisions that affect their communities.

- Provide data and information to communities to support them with making the best decisions for themselves.

- Make sure that the support we provide meets the needs of those who receive it.

- Plan solutions for families with the whole family.

- Make contracting decisions that deliver the best value for money across the life of the contract.

- Deliver a consistent approach to the council's commercial activity.

Over the course of this Business Plan we shall:

Continue to...

- Ensure that children and young people are at the heart of service development and are involved in the decisions that affect them.

- Communicate with all of our communities, including those who are harder to reach.

- Support communities to produce and ratify their neighbourhood plans.

- Register and determine assets of community value.

Implement...

- Measures to ensure that fathers' voices are more fully heard and are used to inform our service planning.

- The commercial vision for the council and a Commercial and Procurement Strategy to enable delivery.

- Choice and control to allow people to direct their own care needs.

- Increased engagement and intelligence sharing with residents, partners and wider communities.

- A transparent five year pipeline of contracts to reflect the total annual spend of the council.
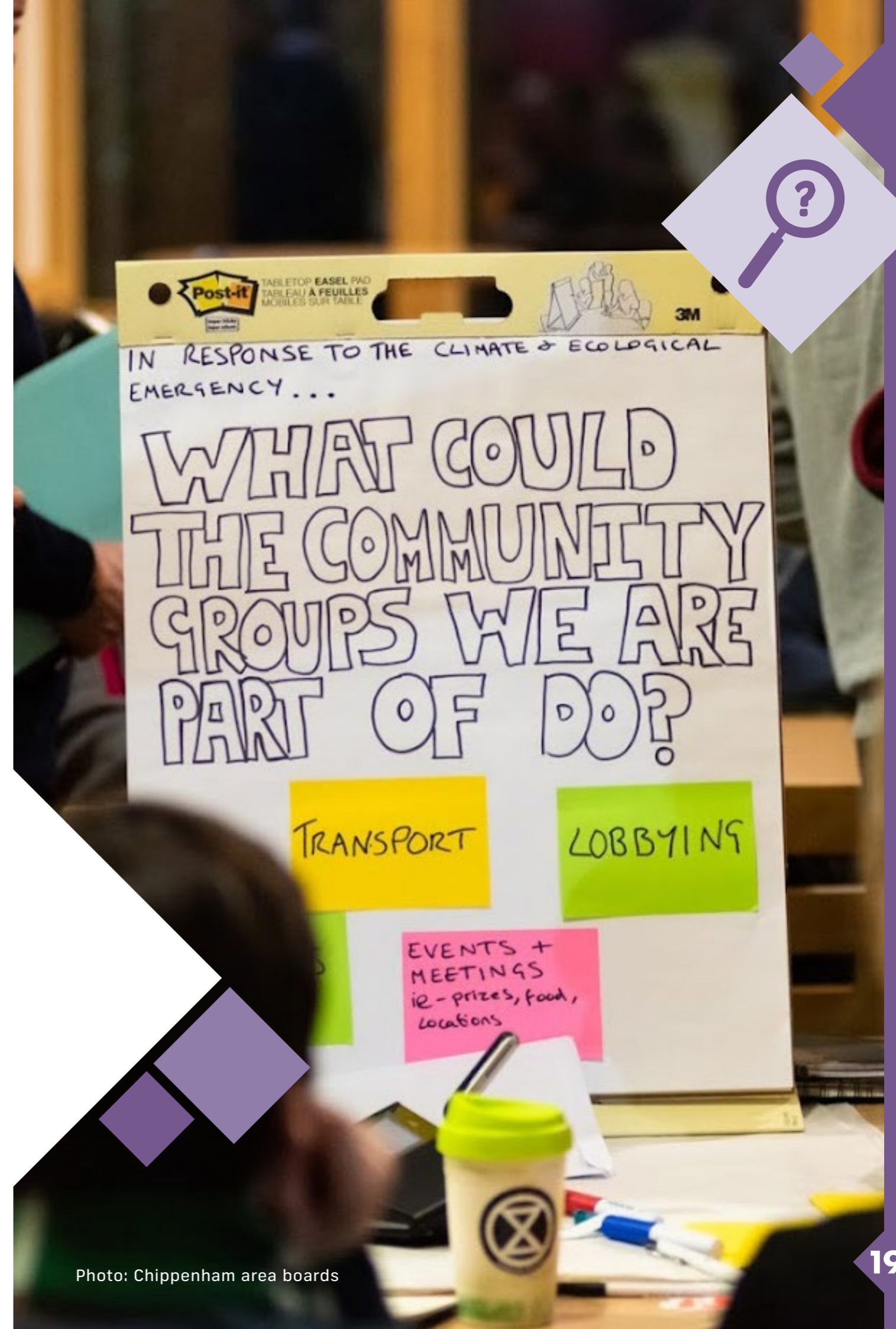
Photo: Chippenham area boards

We have the right housing

Improving housing supply is critical for ensuring people can play an active part in their community. Residents need access to high quality and affordable housing that is close to their family, that is right for them and in beautiful places.

We aim to:

- Prevent homelessness and help people remain in a sustainable home.

- Allow families and individuals who need support to have choice and control, with flexible options of support to meet their care and support needs.

- Have a sustainable, robust and flexible care home market that meets the needs of the population and the projected demand for beds.

- Build the highest quality affordable housing with the lowest viable carbon footprint.

- Deliver a planning system that supports swift, evidence-based decisions and encourages the development we want to see.

- Ensure that the needs of communities, businesses and the environment are balanced through robust use of the Local Plan.

Over the course of this Business Plan we shall:

Continue to...

- Develop the care market in a way that promotes choice and diversity of supply, develops new care models and ensures best value for money and a fair cost for providers.

- Help housing customers to maximise their income and reduce the cost of running their homes.

- Operate an efficient and effective Local Land Charges service.

Implement...

- Digitisation of the Local Land Charges service.

- Increased work to support tenancies and prevent homelessness.

- The council house build programme for at least 1,000 houses over 10 years.

- An updated Local Plan as an effective policy framework for the sustainable growth of Wiltshire, that addresses the strategic needs of the county.

Photo: Wiltshire homes

Photo: Marlborough aerial view

Thriving
3. ECONOMY

Photo: Wiltshire Market (pre COVID-19)

We have the right skills to prosper

Wiltshire needs a workforce with the right skills to match their ambitions and one that provides the skills that our businesses need. We also need to encourage more young people to live and work in the county. With the right workforce, we can continue to attract and retain high value businesses and investment.

We aim to:

- Allow children and families to benefit from working with a consistent, knowledgeable and highly skilled lead professional in the council.

- Make sure that all children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities, and their families, have a voice that is heard.

- Ensure that schools are spaces that encourage learning, and that there are the right number of places for pupils where they need them.

- Help young people to make informed decisions about their future, and improve the chances for disadvantaged young people to enjoy a good career.

- Support a robust care industry that trains, employs and values local people.

- Help more adults with learning difficulties develop the skills they need to live independently.

- Deliver high quality, customer-focused services to all residents.

Over the course of this Business Plan we shall:

Continue to...

- Deliver the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inclusion Strategy.

- Find opportunities for people with learning difficulties to participate in the community.

- Support schools to improve attendance, achievement and teaching quality.

- Support schools operationally to deliver safe, secure and financially-sound environments across the county.

- Support educational establishments to reduce the risks to vulnerable pupils by developing early help practices and multiagency support, enabling all pupils to realise their potential.

Implement...

- Support care providers to develop the skills of their workforce and to recruit and retain the best people to care for residents.

- Replacements for maintained schools' time expired temporary accommodation.

- Work between schools, colleges and businesses to increase opportunities for young people.

- Work with Further Education providers to address the skills gaps that exist in supporting some of our industries.

- Work with key stakeholders to promote T-Levels and other vocational progression routes, to improve outcomes for disadvantaged groups.

- Maximised use of external funding to support disadvantaged residents to improve their confidence, knowledge and skills and champion the creation of learning and employment opportunities for young people.

- A strengthened training and development offer to our caring workforce.

- A School Places Strategy to manage the supply and demand for places.

Photo: Getty Images

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We have vibrant, well-connected communities

Being able to get around easily and robust digital infrastructure helps people to access good services. It is important that there are options for different modes of transport and opportunities to meet and engage with others. This will also help grow the local economy in a sustainable way.

We aim to:

- Shape our communities sustainably through a robust Local Plan.
- Deliver infrastructure to enable local communities to live, work and play locally, businesses to invest and everyone to take responsibility for the environment.
- Support the provision of reliable and useful technology (including broadband) and equip residents with the skills to make use of it.
- Understand the needs of all our communities and the differences between them.
- Help create and support vibrant town centres.
- Attract investment into Wiltshire's communities.
- Help build an efficient and effective transport network, including viable alternatives to the car.
- Support local business and increase the proportion of Wiltshire's wealth that is spent in the local economy.
- Encourage the growth of business activity in the health and life sciences, defence technologies, cyber industries, military, research and development and advanced manufacturing sectors.
- Offer a gold standard of support to our military veterans.
- Demonstrate what, and how, the council is delivering against the priorities we share with the community.
- Enable a strong and active voluntary sector that is proactive in communities.
- Provide useful, modern spaces in communities for groups to interact in.

- Make the best use of council-owned assets for the benefit of communities, including transferring those assets to communities where appropriate.
- Provide safe and reliable home to school transport.

Over the course of this Business Plan we shall:

Continue to...

- Support communities to live safely.
- Provide accessible and reliable technology services to residents.
- Maintain and improve the existing transport infrastructure, including rights of way and bridleways.
- Work towards integration of military and civilian communities and the development of shared services and facilities.
- Strengthen the infrastructure and resilience of the voluntary and community sector.
- Deliver capital investment as part of a strategic approach to placemaking, working with partners in public and private sectors and optimising the use of assets in council and public ownership.
- Promote new train stations in Devizes, Wilton and Corsham.

Implement...

- Investment in digital technology and skills, enabling residents to engage with their communities in more ways.
- Enhanced engagement with harder to reach groups and communities.
- A revised approach to transferring council assets to communities.
- New strategies for regeneration, the visitor economy and cultural offers, with continued funding for arts organisations and museums.
- An exploration of new models of rural public transport that make use of technology and smaller minibus-type services.

- Investment in cycle routes, as part of a strategic solution aimed at connecting all our communities.
- Major road programmes to reduce congestion and air pollution, and explore solutions to issues at J17 M4, Salisbury, Melksham and Westbury.
- Provision for micro-business units to be developed in our rural communities through the Local Plan.
- New Local Plans and Local Transport Plans.
- A new working agreement with the voluntary sector.
- A review of library service delivery, in conjunction with communities.
- The Future Chippenham Masterplan of development and distributor road delivery.
- Assistance to the Government's 'Project GIGABIT' and other broadband capital programme, to maximise broadband connectivity across Wiltshire.
- An Enhanced Partnership Scheme with local bus operators to improve rural links.

Photo: Salisbury Reds electric bus

Sustainable
◆ 4. ENVIRONMENT

Photo: Getty Images

We take responsibility for the environment

Wiltshire's natural beauty, historic sites, villages and houses, unique habitats and all wildlife play a key part in the county's visitor economy and the wellbeing of the people of Wiltshire. Experiencing the natural environment plays an important role in tackling levels of anxiety, stress and depression.

We aim to:

- Maintain and improve the natural and built environment.
- Enable everyone to have access to cleaner air.
- Improve and protect biodiversity.
- Ensure access to the natural environment for as many as possible.
- Cherish and protect Wiltshire's historical sites.
- Find and promote new opportunities for people and businesses to reuse and recycle.
- Reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, increase recycling and keep Wiltshire looking beautiful.

Over the course of this Business Plan we shall:

Continue to...

- Work with partners to protect and enhance our historic and natural landscapes within the World Heritage Site, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Protect key archaeological sites while delivering essential infrastructure.
- Promote and encourage sustainable sympathetic development.
- Encourage and, where necessary, enforce businesses to play their part.
- Safeguard private water supplies.

Implement...

- Long-term plans to support and enhance strategic waterways and green corridors.
- A review of all waste services in conjunction with residents and business, including all operational sites.
- A fit-for-purpose set of operational depots across Wiltshire.
- Deliver of new educational campaigns and pursue further prosecutions on fly tipping.

We are on the path to carbon neutral (net zero)

Globally, the planet is 1.2 degrees warmer than before the industrial revolution. This is already causing significant climate impacts, with more extreme weather having an impact in Wiltshire. The council has acknowledged a climate emergency and committed to becoming carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030. Through its leadership, it must now seek to make the whole of Wiltshire carbon neutral too.

We aim to:

- Become a Carbon neutral organisation by 2030.
- Assist the county to have a smaller carbon footprint.
- Support decarbonisation of existing transport and increased use of public transport options as well as walking and cycling.
- Prepare the county for the impact of climate change.
- Invest in assets to support our lowering carbon output.
- Find cost effective solutions to operate the council's buildings as carbon neutral.

Over the course of this Business Plan we shall:

Continue to...

- Monitor and manage the sustainable use of all council land.

Implement...

- Promotion of behaviour change in communities, to speed up carbon reduction.
- A strategic plan across all the council's services to reduce carbon output.
- Carbon monitoring in new contracts the council enters into.
- Investment to make council assets carbon neutral.
- A new Local Transport Plan.
- A walking and cycling strategy.
- A fleet of low carbon vehicles.

Photo: Getty Images

Photo: Getty Images

Wiltshire
5. COUNCIL

Photo: County Hall

An efficient and healthy organisation

Wiltshire Council strives to be the highest performing council in the country, and wants to deliver over and above its statutory duties.

To achieve this, we will continue to operate as an efficient organisation and we will work ambitiously with our partners, have strong checks and balances in place and a workforce that thrives on its opportunities to innovate and conduct critical analyses.

We aim to:

- Provide a secure and stable virtual environment for our staff to work in and through which the people of Wiltshire can interact with us and which improves the way we offer support

- Manage the information we collect and protect it in a way that is used to help make the best possible decisions for residents.

- Ensure we have a motivated, flexible workforce that can adapt to the changing requirements of the county and respond to national and international events.

- Build a highly trained staff base that recruits and retains the very best people.

- Provide services and support from welcoming, efficient buildings that represent great value for money.

- Become a strong, forward-looking organisation that is open to and embraces change.

- Monitor and account for all public money spent.

- Treat every individual, family and household fairly and equally.

- Run an organisation that the people of Wiltshire are rightly proud of.

Over the course of this Business Plan we shall:

Continue to...

- Digitise processes and build new and more efficient ways for people to interact with the council.

- Champion working in partnership across the public and voluntary and community sectors.

- Grow our traded services.

- Review and rationalise the council's assets.

Implement...

- Council-wide transformation that increases efficiency and resilience.

- A review and rebuilding of our IT infrastructure.

- A new Enterprise Resource Planning System.

- Redesigned workspaces and workplaces.

- Data and business insights from a central hub.

- A robust corporate planning cycle including performance and risk management.

- More financial training for all managers.

- A self-assessment against the equalities framework.

Photo: Wiltshire Council office

Your council

We are clear about who we are and the organisation we want to be. Our staff understand what is expected of them and what they can expect from us, with the following values set out in an 'Our Identity' document:

- We are public servants, innovating and collaborating with partners and residents to build stronger communities.

- We are an evidence-based, high performing organisation. We reward achievement, recognise effort and are unequivocally focused on making a difference and delivering the best outcomes for our residents.

- We are one council, which is an inclusive and agile environment where we celebrate each other's successes, recognising that our residents do not live their lives in the compartmentalised way that services have historically run

Throughout this Business Plan, we will continue to ensure that all communications are fully accessible and considerate of seldom heard communities, and are supported with appropriate and specialist material as required.

A Communication Strategy will be developed to demonstrate the council's delivery of this. Everything we do will be underpinned by:

Delivering value (financial, performance and risk management)

We set our budget based on the contribution that spending makes to delivering our mission.

We produce Statements of Accounts and carry out an audit process that meets statutory production deadlines and ensures there is no qualification, in addition to updating the Finance Control Environment processes and documentation.

We ensure that all managers are suitably skilled, trained and able to effectively deliver good financial management and performance.

We have a business-like approach with an up-to-date commercial policy, good returns on our assets and clear business cases for everything we do. Our procurement processes consider the wider social value that can be delivered, for example, carbon reduction, smoking cessation and enabling local and other small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to tender for council contracts.

We enable the effective delivery of savings, working within the governance process that will establish a savings delivery board and the set framework. We will identify and implement a robust process to track and monitor savings as part of the budget monitoring process, working in conjunction with the relevant transformation (and other) boards

We enable sensible risk-taking and regularly report on the progress of delivering the business plan outcomes.

The Business Plan is supported by an annual corporate planning cycle that develops more detailed approaches and resource assessments for delivering each of the outcomes. These will be updated annually and used to inform the budget setting.

Progress, including financial, is monitored using performance measures that are Cabinet-approved and delivered in conjunction with the council's Business Intelligence function.

Cabinet will receive combined finance, performance and risk reports on a quarterly basis.

A skilled, agile and engaged workforce

We ensure staff have the knowledge, skills and confidence to respond flexibly, where decisions are made based on evidence and data and where we strive to be high performing.

Our Identity is embedded across the organisation and we will deliver a new People Strategy that encompasses organisational (service and job) design, behaviour, ways of working, upskilling, agile and flexible deployment and being able to respond to changing demands.

We continue to build our own engaged and skilled workforce while attracting, selecting and recruiting the best staff, ensuring there is good ongoing recognition and engagement of staff, and empowering staff to self-serve wherever possible.

Transformation and Business Change

The council is a healthy and efficient organisation that embraces transformation, is forward looking and driven by evidence-based actions.

Councillors have a clear understanding of the council's performance against Business Plan outcomes and associated risks.

Senior leaders and decision makers can access up-to-date corporate level performance information directly.

We have clear insight into how our services work from the customer's point of view and measure how well they are performing.

We redesign services through a rigorous programme and project-based approach, with regular checkpoints and benefits analysis to ensure they are efficient, productive and streamlined to support the delivery of the Business Plan. Over the course of the plan, this approach to service redesign will also lead to reduced cost.

We create a culture within the council that enables us to absorb, anticipate and adapt to change, creating organisational resilience through a cohesive vision shared by council officers across all services and supported by councillors.

We establish the principles, standards and a framework for all projects across the council, and develop and deliver a balanced and affordable programme portfolio that enables us to meet our mission.

We proactively identify opportunities to advance our strategy and vision through transformation initiatives that will deliver measurable performance, business improvement and culture change, embedding the vision set out in Our identity.

We have clear coordination of all transformation activity, bringing services together, ensuring alignment with the business plan and key principles and preventing duplication of effort. This includes through the delivery of a new Enterprise Resource Planning system (ERP) to further enhance the use of insight and the management of resources.

This rationalises the use of council buildings, improves income generation, improves cross-functional and partnership working, reduces travel and improves employee wellbeing.

Transformational change is not only delivered successfully, but also embedded in the council's capabilities. Operating models are as efficient and effective as possible, being fit-for-purpose in achieving our strategic aims in addition to continuing to grow traded services and increase the council's income.

Quality, timely and well-structured information and technology

We ensure the communities and businesses we serve can engage and transact with us responsively and seamlessly, irrespective of the services they access.

We empower decision makers by providing them with access to accurate, consistent and timely information that supports their understanding and insight to deliver the best outcomes for our residents.

We invest and transform digital infrastructure to underpin all of Wiltshire's operations and services.

We redefine the digitally enabled democracy to provide simple but innovative ways to collaborate between residents, businesses and councillors.
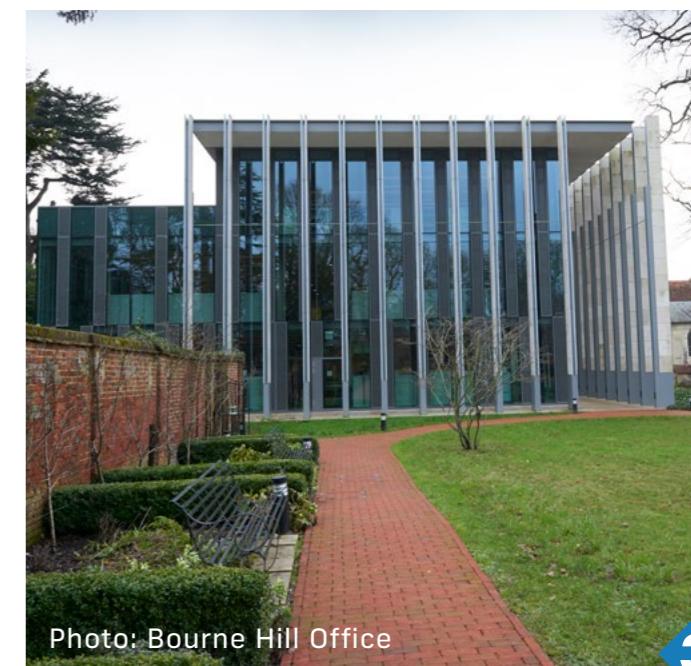
Photo: Bourne Hill Office

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Measuring our performance – key indicators

The annual corporate planning cycle is already underway and detailed planning for each area of the council has been completed. These plans describe how services will work together to contribute to our mission, and the metrics that will be used to monitor progress.

Detailed below are the key metrics that we will use for measuring the success of each outcome, alongside examples of the supporting metrics that will help to understand the impact of our work.

	Wiltshire is a place where...	Key metrics	Examples of contributing metrics
Empowered People (Children and Young People)	We get the best start in life	Educational attainment and gap for those receiving pupil premium	• Level of development at reception • Uptake of free school meals • Attendance at youth events • School transport provision
	We stay active	% physically active adults and children	• Leisure membership • Libraries and heritage visitor numbers • Referrals to the reablement service • Uptake of health support programmes
	We are safe	Re-referral rates to children's services	• % children places with Wiltshire Council foster carers • Recruitment and retention of trained social workers • Overall Child Protection/Looked After Children numbers
		Public Protection	• Anti-social behaviour • Youth reoffending rate • Licencing interventions
		Adult Safeguarding	• 'Flow' rate – out of hospital discharge • Section 42 referrals • Spot purchase beds • Inadequate CQC inspections • Use of personal payment and budgets • Domestic abuse
Resilient Society	We live well together	Volunteering hours supporting the work of the council	• Volunteer training • Number of volunteers 'on the books' • Library opening times • Miles of bridleways and paths kept clear
		Stability for Looked After Children	• Placements made out of county • Children placed within 25 miles of home • Siblings at the same school • Attainment for care leavers/ suitable accommodation
		Enabling adults who have been in local authority care and support services to be members of local community	• Number of residential or nursing care placements • Placements supported by the community • Placements designed with the community • Adults with mental health problems and learning disabilities living independently • Adults with learning disabilities in employment

	Wiltshire is a place where...	Key metrics	Examples of contributing metrics
	We have the right housing	Delivery of affordable housing	• Number of affordable homes overall • Stone Circle and joint venture contribution • Progress towards 1,000 council homes built • Rural and urban delivery
		Homelessness	• Housing register • Rough sleeping and sofa surfing • Homelessness prevention
Thriving Economy	We have the right skills to prosper	Employment rate (Labour Force Survey data)	• NEETs • Apprenticeship take up • Sectoral skill gaps • GCSE results • % substandard school accommodation
	We have vibrant, well-connected communities	Town centre vibrancy	• Footfall/ Place Boards/ Town Council data • Events held • Use of car parks • Customer perspective • Council app usage
		Transport and links	• Greater use of public transport • Miles of roads resurfaced • Cycle lanes delivered • Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points • Bus usage/ miles supported
Sustainable Environment	We take responsibility for the environment	Waste circular economy	• Dry recycling as a % of household waste • Residual household waste • Fly tipping reports
		Green and Blue Infrastructure	• Air quality • Water quality, private supply • Evidence of Biodiversity • Access to natural environment, including walking and cycling
	We are on the path to carbon neutral (net zero)	Carbon emissions in Wiltshire	• Total council emissions • Renewable energy generation • Council houses retrofitted • Average energy performance ratings for homes in Wiltshire
Your Council	We have an efficient healthy council	Customer satisfaction	• Ease of contact • Channel shift to online • Feedback from front-facing services
		Financial health and sustainability	• Savings delivery • Error count
		Skilled, adaptive and engaged workforce	• Internal progression and deployment • Apprenticeships and upskilling through training and qualification • Staff engagement rates • Staff turnover, absence and retention rates

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Wiltshire Council Corporate Scorecard

Arrows show the direction of travel. Green is a positive change, red a negative a change and orange neither positive or negative.

Gold shared measures are main indicators	Unshaded indicators support a main indicator	Grey shaded indicators are selected from a basket of possible measures - the name of that basket appears above the measures

Measure description	Previous positions		Latest position	Latest report	Number definition	Direction of Travel	Trend	Comment
Wiltshire is a place where We Get the Best Start in Life								
Educational Gap: Phonics (The percentage point gap between all pupils at KS1 and those receiving pupil premium - achieving phonics)	20.0%	18.1%	**21.2%**	Aug-21	annual - academic year	⬆ (red)		
Educational Gap: KS4 (The percentage point gap between all pupils and those receiving pupil premium - achieving 5+ in English and Maths at KS4)	31.1%	26.2%	**29.4%**	Aug-21	annual - academic year	⬆ (red)		
Wiltshire is a place where We Stay Active								
Percentage of Children who are Physically Active	43.7%	50.5%	**53.7%**	Mar-21	annual	⬆ (green)		The improvement shown in Wiltshire in the past three years has not been mirrored in the national or regional figures. Wiltshire now shows better levels of activity than the England or South West average.
Percentage of Adults who are Physically Active	70.8%	71.2%	**72.1%**	Mar-20	annual	⬆ (green)		Small improvements in the two years to March 2020 put the activity levels in adults in Wiltshire above the national and regional average. No survey results during 2020/21 due to the pandemic.
Healthy Me Service (Percentage of children completing the programme)	48.0%	42.0%	**33.0%**	Mar-21	annual	⬇ (red)		
Wiltshire is a place where We are Safe								
Re-referrals to Children's Services (% referrals within 12 months of previous referral)	15.0%	14.0%	**14.0%**	Nov-21	monthly	⬇ (green)		Every month of the current financial year has, so far, shown a lower re-referral rate than the 16% for 2020/21.
Public Protection								
Total number of licensing interventions (Notifications received, Number of Licensing Hearings, Number Animals inspections carried out and Number of Licensing Transactions)	1,359	2,204	**2,227**	Dec-21	per quarter	⬆ (green)		
Adult Safeguarding								

Measure description	Previous positions		Latest position	Latest report	Number definition	Direction of Travel	Trend	Comment
Total number of Inadequate CQC Inspections (No. of CQC inspections of Wiltshire Care Homes resulting in 'Inadequate' rating in the last 12 months)	1	0	**3**	Dec-21	annual	⬆ (red)	✓	Although the trend is in the wrong direction the numbers remain very small.
Weeks where 'Spot Beds' were used (The % of weeks of adult residential care that made use of 'spot bed' purchase rather than through pre-purchased services or contracted additional supply)	-	-	**41.0%**	Dec-21	annual	↔ (amber)	▮▮	Spot bed purchases are often used when specific requirements are unable to be met by the existing purchased or contracted provision. Only 38% of residential care for 65+ year olds was met through spot bed purchase in 2021. This is the first year in which the measure has been compiled in this way.

Wiltshire is a place where **We Live Well Together**

Stability for Looked after Children

Measure description	Previous positions		Latest position	Latest report	Number definition	Direction of Travel	Trend	Comment
Percentage of Looked After Children Placed more than 20 miles from home (Excludes unaccompanied asylum seeker children)	36.0%	37.0%	**36.0%**	Nov-21	monthly	↔ (amber)	〰	The proportion has been stable all year; fluctuating between 35% and 38%. The final 2020/21 position was 37%.
Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation (% of 19-21 year old care leavers in suitable accommodation in a four month window)	90.0%	89.0%	**88.0%**	Nov-21	monthly	↔ (red)	〰	Little change in the eight months of this financial year but a fall from the 92% reported at the end of 2020/21.

Wiltshire is a place where **We ensure decisions are evidence-based**

Participation

Measure description	Previous positions		Latest position	Latest report	Number definition	Direction of Travel	Trend	Comment
Voter turnout in Neighbourhood Plan referendums	14.0%	14.0%	**35.1%**	Sep-21	latest vote	⬆ (green)	📊	The median turnout over the last three years is 34.4%. Southwick, held on 30 September 2021 was above that average. There have been 12 referendums in that time with the largest turnout being 51.8% in Broad Chalke in July 2021.
Voter turnout in Unitary by-elections	29.5%	29.9%	**35.6%**	Mar-20	latest vote	⬆ (green)	📊	The latest vote was in Till and Wylye Valley in March 2020. The median turnout since the start of 2019 in five unitary by-elections is 29.5%.

Wiltshire is a place where **We have the Right Housing**

Measure description	Previous positions		Latest position	Latest report	Number definition	Direction of Travel	Trend	Comment
Delivery of affordable housing	156	194	**171**	Dec-21	year to date	↔ (amber)	📈	The cumulative total for affordable homes completed is 521 which is 80% of our target of 650 affordable homes for 2021/22. 171 were delivered in Q3.

Measure description	Previous positions		Latest position	Latest report	Number definition	Direction of Travel	Trend	Comment
The number on the housing register (total number on the register at the end of the period, not including those on the open market register)	3,342	3,479	**3,786**	Dec-21	quarterly	⬆		
Total households in temporary accomodation	79	89	**100**	Sep-21	quarterly	⬆		An improvement on the situation in June 2020 where there were 135 households in temporary accommodation but an increase in each of the last three quarters.

Wiltshire is a place where **We have the Right Skills to Prosper**

Unemployment rate (% of the work age population [16+] claiming out of work benefits)	8,825	8,455	**8,310**	Nov-21	monthly	⬇		The claimant number has fallen in every month of the current financial year.

Wiltshire is a place where **We have Vibrant, Well-Connected Communities**

Transport and links

Use of public transport (Number of passenger trips on both the commercial and supported bus network)	633,577	583,997	**690,833**	Nov-21	monthly	⬆		Growth shows change in activity but also follows an annual cycle.
Roads resurfaced (Miles of carriageway subject to surface treatments)		82.5	**46.8**	Mar-21	annual	⬇		
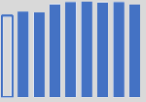
Town centre vibrancy
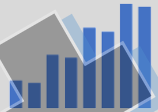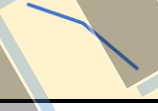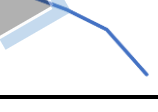
Town centre footfall (Footfall surveys come from Salisbury and Trowbridge)	702,354	1,403,943	**1,694,745**	Dec-21	quarterly	⬆		Footfall impacted in the last two years by national public health policy.

Wiltshire is a place where **We Take Responsibility for the Environment**

Waste economy

Recycling rate (Dry recycling and composting as a % of household waste)	45.9%	46.0%	**45.3%**	Nov-21	monthly	⬆		Each month this financial year has seen a higher recycling rate than the final average for 2020/21.

Measure description	Previous positions		Latest position	Latest report	Number definition	Direction of Travel	Trend	Comment
Residual household waste (Mean Kg per household of residual household waste after recycling)	284.0	327.1	**371.6**	Nov-21	monthly - year to date	↔		The residual household waste follows an annual cycle. With four months (25%) of the financial year left to report residual household waste has reached 67% of the 2020/21 total.

Wiltshire is a place where **We are on the path to Carbon Natural (Net Zero)**

Measure description	Previous positions		Latest position	Latest report	Number definition	Direction of Travel	Trend	Comment
Wiltshire's Carbon Emissions (Tonnes of Co2 - Territorial emissions only, i.e. these are emissions that arise within the county)	2,681	2,653	**2,587**	Dec-19	annual with a 2-year lag	↓		This measure counts only the CO2 produces within the county and the complexity of measuring it means that data is only available after two years.
Wiltshire Council's carbon emissions (measured in tCO2e which includes carbon dioxide emissions)	14,864	11,641	**4,401**	Mar-21	annually	↓		The last year saw a particularly steep decline in the council's carbon emissions. The Council aims to be carbon neutral by 2030.
Energy performance certificates at level A or B (% or registered EPC recorded at one of the top two levels)	23.6%	20.7%	**18.2%**	Dec-20	annually	↓		This does not show the EPC rating of all homes in Wiltshire. It shows simply the EPC certificates registered in that time period.

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject:	**Schools Capital Programme 2022 – 2027 Report**
Cabinet Member:	**Cllr Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills**
Key Decision:	**Key**

Executive Summary

The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places to meet the demand arising across Wiltshire, whether from demographic or population change, strategic housing development growth or military moves.

The Cabinet approved the Schools Capital Programme 2021–2026 in March 2021 and the Wiltshire School Places Strategy 2017-2022 in December 2017. The current programme of work is based on the basic need priorities for capital investment in the short, medium and longer term.

The Council also has responsibilities for the effective management and ongoing maintenance of the schools' estate (community, voluntary controlled and Foundation schools only).

The Council receives annual capital funding allocations from the Department for Education (DfE) to meet basic need (new places) and condition (capital maintenance works) only. Day to day revenue maintenance is funded from school budgets. In 2020, Full Council also approved an additional £5m of Council funding for school maintenance works over a 5 year period, and an additional £100k per year to improve the accessibility of schools.

In line with the Wiltshire School Places Strategy 2017-2022, this report provides an update on the current capital programme of work and seeks approval for a small number of additional capital schemes and annual condition related works.

The Wiltshire School Places Strategy is currently being updated and will be re-published in 2022 to continue to inform future years programmes to ensure our schools provide sufficient places where they are needed.

Proposal(s)

- To note the progress on previously approved schemes at Appendix A

- To consider and approve the new schemes, subject to planning approval and completed S106 agreements, requiring a total commitment of £4.17m as outlined at Appendix B.

- To approve the Schools Planned Maintenance Programme totalling £3m for 2022/23 as outlined at Appendix C.

- To authorise the Director of Education and Skills to invite and evaluate tenders for the projects described in this report, and, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, to award the contract for the project (subject to approval of any necessary statutory proposals) and to authorise, in consultation with the Head of Estates and Development, in accordance with the relevant scheme of delegation (under Part 3 Section D1 of Wiltshire Council's constitution), the acquisition of all land (and the completion of any legal documentation) reasonably required in order to facilitate the Schools Capital Investment Programme.

Reason for Proposal(s)

The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places to meet the demand arising across Wiltshire, whether from demographic or population change, strategic housing development growth or military moves.

The approved Wiltshire School Places Strategy 2017- 2022 and its Implementation Plan identifies the priority basic need schemes requiring capital investment in the short, medium and longer term and these latest proposals for inclusion in the Schools Capital Programme will enable the priority works to be progressed. The Council also has Landlord responsibilities for the effective management and maintenance of the schools (for which the Council is responsible) estate and the approved programme will enable urgent and priority repairs and maintenance projects to proceed.

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject: **Schools Capital Programme 2022 – 2027 Report**

Cabinet Member: **Councillor Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills**

Key Decision: **Key**

Purpose of Report

1. To agree the Schools Capital Programme for 2022 – 2027. This paper addresses investment to improve the condition of maintained schools and expansion of mainstream schools. Investment in special school places and resource bases is not included in this paper.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places to meet the demand arising across Wiltshire, whether from demographic or population change, strategic housing development growth or military moves. This programme is informed by the approved Wiltshire School Places Strategy and Implementation Plan 2017-2022 which clearly identifies the priorities for capital investment in the short, medium and longer term. Under the *Growing the Economy* priority Wiltshire Council's Business Plan mentions the need to provide school places for a growing population.

   The Council also has responsibilities for the effective management and maintenance of the Councils schools' estate (community, foundation and voluntary controlled schools only). Schools need to be fit for purpose and safe for all site users.

Background

3. The Council receives annual capital funding allocations from the Department for Education (DfE) for basic need (new places) and condition (school capital maintenance). Capital maintenance relates to urgent and essential structural works e.g. roofs, walling, windows, drainage etc in addition to plant (electrical and mechanical works (heating/lighting etc)). All other day to day maintenance works and low level cost works are the schools' responsibility funded from their delegated or devolved funds.

   It should be noted that the LA has not yet received confirmation of DfE maintenance funding for 2022/23 onwards. We are therefore assuming that funding for 2022/23 onwards will be a consistent with this years' allocation.

The figures shown in Table 1 below, include the estimated DfE allocations and slippage from previous years on current schemes. Full Council on 25 February 2020 agreed to allocate a further £1m of Council funds each year for the 5 years from 2020/21 years to school maintenance. This will help to stem the decline of the school building stock and enable some of the historical backlog of works to be addressed. There is more information on this in paragraph 12.

Full Council in Feb 2020 also approved £100k a year over the next ten years to support the admission of pupils with disabilities to schools. This will fund ramps, handrails, accessible toilets and similar works to mainstream schools to support inclusion.

Table 1 – Capital Funding for Schools (£m)

Description	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	Total £m
Basic Need (sufficiency)*	18.220	4.354	2.042	0.400	0.400	25.416
School Condition Funding *	5.057	2.800	2.750	2.700	2.650	15.957
School Capital Maintenance (Council funds)	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	3.000
Stonehenge School replacement block	3.342	0.750	0.053	0	0	4.145
Access and Inclusion	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.500
Total £m	27.719	9.004	5.945	3.200	3.150	49.018

*estimated based on previous years allocations

4. The Council also secures wherever possible, S106 developer contributions and will seek Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) planning obligations for essential school infrastructure in areas of new housing development which are usually project or school specific. These are only included in the figures above where projects using Section 106 or CIL allocations are already approved and underway.

Main Considerations for the Council

5. Wiltshire Council considered and approved a Schools Capital Investment Programme Report in March 2021. All of the major projects identified in that report are being funded by the DfE school capital allocations and/or S106 contributions and a progress report can be seen at Appendix A.

The School Places Strategy (SPS) identifies the demand for additional school places across Wiltshire. The SPS provides a 'snap-shot' in time and pupil projections are reviewed on a regular basis. The SPS is being updated and following consultation will be published later this year.

Basic Need (Mainstream)

6. Demand for school places is influenced by a number of factors including changes in the birth rate, migration (inward and outward), housing development, the economic situation, parental preference etc and in Wiltshire specifically, military moves have a significant impact.

    Cabinet approved and committed the majority of the school capital projects at its meetings in January 2018, February 2019, March 2020 and March 2021 and many of those projects are either now complete or underway to ensure the Council meets its obligation to provide sufficient school places and to ensure where at all possible that parents get a place at a preferred school, as identified at Appendix A.

7. There are a small number of new projects that have been identified as a priority in the last 12 months that now require approval and inclusion within the programme. They will be largely funded by S106 developer contributions specific to the schools concerned. These new projects can be found at Appendix B.

    Section 106 contributions are secured from developers through planning obligations, where there is an increase in demand for school places arising from housing development and local schools are at capacity. Some projects can progress once the funding is received, however in many cases where the Council is 'pooling' contributions it may be the case that we have to wait to secure additional sums before projects can be started. Since 2013 the Council has received approximately £50m in Section 106 contributions for new school places.

    New school builds linked to housing development are not started until planning approval has been given for the development and the housing developers have commenced on site. The first trigger payment for additional school places is usually required on commencement of development so the Council receives 50% of the funding up front and 50% part way through the development. For larger developments the payments can be phased over more payments.

8. The birth rate in Wiltshire has been dropping for the last few years, in some areas this has been balanced by new housing, but the trend overall is downwards particularly in rural areas. The largest cohorts entered primary schools in between 2015 and 2018 and will therefore feed through into secondary schools from September 2021. The pressure on places will therefore be on the secondary sector over the next few years rather than primary.

9. In some areas, where sites have been secured for new primary schools on new housing developments, the drop in the birth rate may mean that the new

school is not required immediately. As all new schools need to open as Academies, the Council will need permission from the DfE to bring a school forward. The DfE will not agree to open a new school unless the Council can demonstrate that there are sufficient local pupils to make it financially viable without having a detrimental impact on numbers in existing schools. The land for new schools is secured through Section 106 agreements which usually allow at least 10 years for a site to be developed before it would need to be returned to the developer.

Stonehenge School Project

10. The Strategic Assets and Facilities Management Service identified that the lower school block at Stonehenge school requires complete replacement. The building is end of life, in very poor condition and beyond economical repair. Full Council at its meeting on 23 February 2021 approved £3m of Council funding, to be used with £1.5m DfE maintenance grant, to enable this project to go ahead. Once the replacement block has been completed, the old block will then be demolished and turned into a sports pitch.

11. Costs on this project have increased significantly since they were estimated in 2020. Increased global demand in the construction sector, combined with the multiple and complex impacts of the pandemic, Brexit and logistic issues, have resulted in unprecedented shortages, delays and ultimately, increased prices of materials and labour across the economy. The amount of asbestos to be removed from the old building was also underestimated and Sport England requirements for the specification of the new sports pitch has increased costs. Therefore, an additional £1.5m of existing DfE grant funding will need to be added to the project budget to enable this very high priority project to proceed. Approval to do so is sought alongside the new projects in Appendix B.

Maintenance

12. In addition to basic need (growth related) capital projects, there is a significant backlog of priority capital repair and maintenance schemes in those schools for which the Council remains responsible.

In March 2021, Cabinet approved a list of 41 large planned maintenance projects including roof replacements, full rewires and heating system replacements. These projects, with the exception of 4 which have been deferred to 2022/23, have been successfully completed despite Covid-19 restrictions and the rising cost of materials. In addition, £800k was set aside to fund reactive/emergency works including those identified through ongoing servicing. This has resulted in 72 additional projects at schools, ranging from boiler replacements to drainage works. This has been well received by schools as issues raised are being dealt with immediately.

13. Condition surveys of schools are all being updated, with nearly half having been undertaken in the last two years. The remainder will be completed over the next 2 years. This will then be followed by a rolling programme where all schools are surveyed every five years.

Condition surveys identify work that is required along with the priority of the work, when it should be completed and an approximate cost. The newly completed surveys have identified additional works and added to the backlog, with the total works required in schools increasing from £14.2m last year to £15.6m now, this is despite investment of £3.5m over the last year on the projects mentioned above.

When determining the works to be addressed in 2022/23, the Strategic Assets and Facilities Management Service provide a list of priority works across all schools that the LA remains responsible for and in view of the limited resources available only the highest priority maintenance works are included. This does mean that not all priority works can be funded in any year. Table 2 overleaf shows the £15.6m of remedial works identified on school condition surveys by the year in which works were/are recommended to be completed.

Table 2 – Value of remedial works identified in condition surveys still outstanding, by year of identification and type of works (£)

	15/16 (£)	16/17 (£)	17/18 (£)	18/19 (£)	19/20 (£)	20/21 (£)	21/22 (£)	22/23 (£)	23/24 (£)	Total
Ceilings	4,819	25,799	28,268	233,795	57,940	48,508	1,875	8,186	35,904	445,093
Electrical	6,351	87,567	147,833	162,715	337,733	110,143	29,089	1,031,953	616,269	2,529,654
External Areas	10,881	178,301	349,708	199,854	149,702	170,027	58,777	262,213	96,490	1,475,953
External Walls Windows & Doors	15,531	124,744	149,138	195,917	173,548	132,202	275,159	223,335	292,347	1,581,924
Floors And Stairs	15,388	82,782	163,593	272,283	399,121	254,445	86,554	471,968	360,917	2,107,052
Internal Walls & Doors	4,574	30,195	33,711	75,507	28,630	29,490	26,893	7,688	64,893	301,582
Mechanical	9,407	38,980	106,374	447,908	102,627	221,400	222,852	1,148,171	1,198,997	3,496,716
Roofs	12,080	48,404	184,857	78,341	158,534	361,081	291,676	1,809,995	216,962	3,161,929
Sanitary Services	190	9,564	10,406	54,787	12,102	8,725	61,528	418,973	12,216	588,493
Total	79,222	626,337	1,173,889	1,721,108	1,419,938	1,336,021	1,054,403	5,382,483	2,894,994	15,688,395

14. The new planned maintenance schemes recommended for inclusion in the 2021/22 programme of work total an estimated £2.342m, plus the £0.658m held for emergencies. The priority schemes are shown at Appendix C.

15. As far as we are aware none of the schools on the list are planning to convert to Academy status. However, if a decision is taken by a school to convert to Academy status, prior to commencement of any approved maintenance work, and before a contract is committed, then the work will be reviewed and where appropriate, removed from the list. When schools convert to Academy status, building maintenance responsibility for those academies transfers to the academy itself and the Council's capital funding allocation correspondingly reduces. That funding is transferred to the ESFA who funds academies direct.

16. For the past 15 years the Council has also had a programme to replace old mobile and pratten classrooms with new permanent extensions. At the start of this programme there were over 300 such "temporary buildings" in Wiltshire schools. There are still 19 pratten classrooms in maintained schools which were added just after World War II. There are also 67 mobiles remaining, which will reduce to 60 once projects that are already approved have completed. This includes the replacement of 6 mobile classrooms at Holbrook Primary School. Many of the mobiles and prattens have reached the end of their intended lifespan and some are now beyond repair and require replacement.

17. Of the remaining mobiles and prattens, 53 have been classified as requiring replacement within the next 5 years. These buildings were only ever intended to be temporary and have reached the end of their intended lifespan. To replace these 53 mobiles and prattens would cost approximately £25m. At present, approximately £850k of the school condition funding is used every year on these replacement projects. Over the next 5 years this will enable only 9 out of the 53 mobiles and prattens to be replaced.

18. With a significant maintenance backlog and the rising cost of materials, there is no possibility of using more of the maintenance funding to replace the mobiles and prattens. Most schools are using these very old mobiles and prattens every day as main classroom spaces and these need to be prioritised for replacement. A bid for additional Council capital funding was submitted in late 2021 to obtain further funding to extend this programme of mobile and pratten replacements before these buildings fail completely. Full Council at its meeting on 15 February 2022 will be asked to approve £3m of Council funding for this purpose. As there is currently a declining birth rate, only schools where there is a forecast need for the places to remain would be prioritised. In some cases, it may be possible to replace a double mobile block with just a single classroom extension.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

19. There has been no Overview and Scrutiny engagement as the funding allocated in this report is either ringfenced grant or Section 106 funding which must be spent in accordance with the terms stated in each Section 106 agreement.   The Children's Select Committee is regularly informed of DfE changes and the implications with regards to funding for schools.

Safeguarding Implications

20. All school projects are designed to ensure that schools provide safe and secure places for children and young people in the immediate community. Additionally, some condition related projects relate to replacing security fencing in schools to ensure children are safeguarded. If a decision was taken not to extend a school to meet demand in a local area then there is a risk that young people would need to be transported to schools a long distance from their locality leaving them more vulnerable due to the distance they are from home.

Public Health Implications

21. The development of quality school buildings and site infrastructure will provide a range of sports facilities for pupils, students, staff and the local community including dedicated sports halls, primary activity halls, hard games courts and grass pitches. The investment in school sites provides the opportunity for young people in the community to participate in sports and thereby promote healthy behaviours and practices in the population. There is significant evidence of the benefits of a good education on health and wellbeing outcomes throughout the lifecourse and improvements made to facilities aid this.

Procurement Implications

22. Responsibility for commissioning approved capital building projects rests with the Council's Property Services Team. Responsibility for approving related procurement activity rests with the Corporate Procurement and Commissioning Board (the Board). This report is about a series of procurement of works contracts to deliver school place capacity and improve school buildings. The service will adhere to corporate governance by providing the forward plan to the Board, identifying options for their procurement and seeking approval of the recommended route(s) to market.

The range of routes to market has three real options: one-off tender exercises managed and advertised entirely within Wiltshire Council; use by call down of pre-existing framework contracts for building services, these frameworks already being put in place by Property Services/SPH; use of existing frameworks that have been put in place by external organisations such as the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation, or the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation. The choice depends on the nature and extent of the works required. Whichever approach is chosen it will be compliant with procurement legislation.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

23. Through detailed planning and effective design, officers continue to ensure that all accommodation improvements promote and deliver equality of opportunity and access to facilities.

The Equalities Act 2010 states that reasonable adjustments must be taken into consideration in design. By adopting compliant design principles, and ensuring

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all schemes meet Building Regulations it should be possible to eradicate disability access difficulties and discrimination in new school buildings. This will be a fundamental objective of any rationalisation and/or expansion works carried out at existing school properties.

The Local Authority has a duty and responsibility to provide sufficient school places both in terms of mainstream and specialist provision to meet demand arising from all areas of the community including in response to inward migration. The programme of work has also considered the needs arising from military moves into the County.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

24. The council has declared a climate emergency, committed to becoming carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030. Whilst this does not include schools, the ambition is also to seek to make the whole of Wiltshire carbon neutral too. The Council has promoted the Let's Go Zero campaign to Wiltshire schools and held virtual information sessions on carbon reduction for Headteachers and Governors.

    It is important to note that the Council only maintains 40% of the school estate. The remaining 60% of schools are either Academies or Voluntary Aided schools, where the Diocese is the landlord. Whilst we can encourage and support all schools to seek grant funding to reduce the carbon footprint of their buildings, the Council receives no capital funding to make adaptations to these categories of school nor does it have any control over decision making.

25. In the 40% of schools which are maintained by the Council, we are committed to reducing carbon emissions through innovation and new greener technologies available on the market. With the maintenance projects at schools this is being achieved through the installation of LED lighting, energy saving heating solutions and the application of warm roofs when replacing old flat roofs to increase the thermal values of each.

    In recent years new school schemes have been designed to meet BREEAM 'Very Good' and the design process has provided opportunities for improved energy efficiency and minimised the associated lifetime carbon emissions. The two new primary schools completed in 2020 incorporated the below:

    - LED lighting throughout, both internal and external
    - Photo Voltaic Panels
    - Smart lighting on PIR controls
    - Passive ventilation louvers which can be left open so that the building can naturally cool overnight whilst also being secure
    - Control systems on the heating which enables zoning and management of temperatures
    - Exposed soffits to help with overnight cooling
    - High performance windows to achieve low U values
    - Thermal modelling to understand how the building would perform throughout the year.

In future, new schools will be designed and built to be carbon neutral although it must be recognised that this will significantly increase the cost of providing new schools. The national Education Building Development Officers Group, on behalf of all Local Authorities, have asked the DfE to increase capital grant funding for school maintenance to enable greater investment in greener technologies but no decision has been announced to date.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

26. The Cabinet has approved the School Places Strategy 2017-2022 which identified the need for additional school places across Wiltshire. If this updated capital investment programme is not approved, then there is a risk that the Council will not be able to meet its statutory obligations to provide sufficient school places for children resident in Wiltshire.

    Capital funding has been allocated by the Department for Education (DfE) based on the annual SCAP return data which identifies current school capacity and projected future numbers of pupils, for the purpose of delivering additional school places (basic need). The Council must report annually on how this funding is being spent. If this funding is not allocated to deliver school basic need schemes there is a financial risk that this funding will not be made available to the Council in the future. The same applies to funding allocated for school maintenance and condition works.

    The Council, in its capacity as Landlord, has a responsibility for managing its sites and building assets efficiently and to ensure all school buildings under its control (community, voluntary controlled and foundation) are maintained appropriately. If these assets are not maintained, then there is an increasing risk to health and safety of users as buildings fall into disrepair and increasing costs when more extensive work is required to make sure buildings remain operational.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

27. It is important that the Council meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and this programme of work will ensure that places are provided in locations where they are needed and delivered in a timely way. There is a financial risk however that costs could increase and exceed the funding envelope agreed. Note that current pressures in the building materials and labour market make this a greater risk than at previous times. To mitigate this, project briefs and specifications will be in line with policy and the project management and design teams will ensure that where possible, value engineering exercises are undertaken to reduce costs and keep within budget.

    There is a risk that projects could be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. Project managed timelines will be closely monitored on a monthly basis to avoid slippage where at all possible.

    There is a risk that a school project, predominantly funded by S106 contributions, is procured and subsequently the developer goes into liquidation.

Therefore, when phased S106 payments are agreed, the Council requires a bond to be provided at the developers cost to secure the funds

Many schools have already converted, or are in the process of converting, to Academy status. There is a risk that an academy may not want to expand its places to meet additional demand in an area. The Council will work in partnership with all providers to ensure that expansion projects to provide additional places can be delivered in a timely way to support all communities.

In view of the recent increase in construction prices and materials and uncertainty around the future rates of inflation, there is risk that all projects not yet tendered could increase in price. DfE funding for basic need is provided on a cost per place basis so future grant should also rise accordingly and this will enable us to prioritise future schemes. Our Section 106 cost per place requirements will also increase in line with inflation.

Financial Implications

28. The funding allocations for basic need and maintenance works in schools are shown in table 1 above. Funding announcements have not yet been made for 2022/23 onwards. Should funding be reduced the maintenance programme would be scaled back appropriately.

    In addition to formula allocations, the School Capital Programme is supported by S106 developer contributions allocated to location specific schemes and where appropriate CIL funding secured from major developments.

    To ensure the local authority fulfils its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places to meet demand both in terms of mainstream and specialist provision the Council is supplementing school maintenance funding and providing funds to improve access and inclusion.

    In light of the risks around increased prices, scheme prioritisation and monthly budget monitoring will continue to ensure that future works are affordable.

Legal Implications

29. Wiltshire Council in the exercise of statutory duties and obligations is required to undergo a continuous programme of monitoring and review in accordance with the Wiltshire School Places Strategy and Implementation Plan 2017-2022.

    The School Capital Programme 2022-2027 report does not present immediate legal issues over and above the implementation, monitoring and due diligence obligations associated with the exercise of statutory powers.

    Where it is proposed, the Council will carry out construction works to foundation, academy or voluntary controlled school sites, the Council will need to ensure that legal arrangements are in place to secure access to the site for the construction team before the Council enters into any contracts for the works.

Depending on the land ownership and the status of the school site, the Council may be required to transfer school land to the governing body pursuant to the provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Any proposed construction works will be subject to Legal Services working with the Strategic Assets and Facilities Management team to assist with the carrying out a full due diligence exercise of the site to identify any site constraints which would have an impact on the proposed works, for example, any rights of way across the site or covenants restricting use of the land.

Workforce Implications

30. None identified.

Conclusions

31. The Council has a statutory duty to provide and maintain sufficient high-quality school places to meet the demand arising across Wiltshire, whether from demographic or population change, housing developments or military movements. The Cabinet has approved the Wiltshire School Places Strategy and Implementation Plan 2017-2022 which clearly identifies the priorities for capital investment in the short, medium and longer term and this proposed Schools Capital Investment Programme will enable the priority works to be progressed.

Proposal

32.
   i.   To note the progress of previously approved schemes as at Appendix A.

   ii.   To approve the new schemes subject to planning approvals and completed S106 agreements as at Appendix B.

   iii. To approve the Schools Capital Maintenance Work totalling £3.0m for 2022/23 as at Appendix C.

   iv.   To authorise the Director of Education and Skills to invite and evaluate tenders for the projects described in this report, and, following consultation with the Cabinet Member, to award the contract for the project (subject to approval of any necessary statutory proposals) and to authorise, in consultation with the Head of Estates and Development, in accordance with the relevant scheme of sub-delegation (under Part 3 Section D1 of Wiltshire Council's constitution), the acquisition of all land (and the completion of any legal documentation) reasonably required in order to facilitate the Schools Capital Investment Programme.

Reason for Proposal

33. The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient high-quality school places to meet the demand arising across Wiltshire, whether from demographic or population change, strategic housing development growth or military moves. The approved Wiltshire School Places Strategy and Implementation Plan 2017-

2022 which is kept under review, clearly identifies the priorities for capital investment in the short, medium and longer term and directly informs this updated Schools Capital Programme. The Council also has landlord responsibilities for the effective management and maintenance of the schools' estate (schools for which it remains responsible) and the investment programme will enable urgent and priority repairs and maintenance projects to proceed.

Helean Hughes	**Director Education and Skills**
Report Author:	Clara Davies School Place Commissioning Lead clara.davies@wiltshire.gov.uk , 01225 713872
Date of report	1 February 2022

Appendices

Appendix A – Progress report on previously approved schemes

Appendix B – Proposed new capital schemes requiring approval (non-maintenance)

Appendix C – Proposed schools planned maintenance programme 2022/23

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:

- Wiltshire School Places Strategy 2017-2022

- Schools Capital Investment Programme 2016-2019 Report – Nov 2015

- Schools Capital Programme 2017-2020 Report – Jan 2017 and Update Report July 2017

- Schools Capital Programme 2018-2021 Report – Jan 2018

- Schools Capital Programme 2019-2024 Report- Feb 2019

- Schools Capital Programme 2020-2025 Report – Mar 2020

- Schools Capital Programme 2021-2026 – Mar 2021

Appendix A

**School Capital Programme (previously approved schemes) Progress Report –
Projects reported as completed in previous years have been removed.**

School	Project	Status
Primary		
Lea and Garsdon Primary	Expansion by 0.5FE	In construction
St Bartholomew's Primary, Wootton Bassett	Expansion to 2FE	Complete
Bitham Brook Primary School	Expansion to 2FE	In construction
Mere Primary School	Conversion of former children's centre to school accommodation	Due to commence summer 2022
Wootton Bassett Noremarsh Junior	Provision of mobile to accommodate large intake in Sept 2021	Complete
Forest and Sandridge Primary	Expansion to 2.5FE	Design underway
Holt Primary School	Expansion to 1FE	Design underway
Pathfinder Way, Melksham	New Primary School (approval to commence design only)	Design to be commenced 2022
Secondary		
Royal Wootton Bassett	Expansion by 120 places	Complete
Melksham Oak	Expansion of Secondary School	Complete
Kingdown School	Expansion by 300 places	Design underway
Abbeyfield School	First phase of expansion to provide 150 places.	Design underway
St Augustine's, John of Gaunt and Clarendon	Creation of additional places funded by Section 106 funding	Designs underway
Alternative Provision - Trowbridge	Creation of AP places at Hope Nature Centre, Trowbridge	In construction
Marlborough St Johns	Expansion by 40 places	In construction
Alternative Provision - North	Provision of AP places in the North	Not commenced to date
Projects to replace poor quality accomodation		
Preshute Primary	Replacement of poor quality temporary buildings	Complete
Holbrook Primary School	Replacement of poor quality temporary buildings	Design underway
Studley Green	Replacement of poor quality temporary buildings	Not yet started due to insufficient funding, design to commence shortly
Bishop Cannings Primary	Replacement of poor quality temporary buildings	Due to commence construction in 2022. Funded by S106
Stonehenge School	Replacement of Lower School Block	Due to commence construction in 2022/23

New School Capital Schemes (non-maintenance) – No additional Council funding is sought for these projects, approval is sought only to allocate existing funding as shown in Table 1 to the schemes below

School	Project	Status	Cost Estimate £m	Requiring Approval £m
Holt Primary School	Expansion of small 7th class to make school full 1FE, funded by S106. Project expanded to include additional car parking, hard play area and safeguarding improvements.	Design underway	£0.6m	£0.4m (Section 106 of £0.2m approved last year)
St Nicholas School, Porton	Small expansion funded by Section 106	Not started	£0.12m	£0.12m Section 106 funding
Mere Primary School	Expansion of the school by 105 places. Project approved by Cabinet in 2021 but scope and costs have increased.	Design underway	£1.1m	£0.3m (£0.8m approved previously)
Stonehenge School	Replacement of Lower School Block with large new block. Project approved in 2021 but costs and scope have increased.	Preparing tender documents	£6m	£1.5m (£4.5m approved previously)
Marlborough St John's	Expansion to provide at least 40 places. To be funded by S106	In construction	£1m	£1m Section 106 funding
Devizes School	Small expansion to be funded by Section 106	Design underway	£0.32m	£0.32m Section 106 funding
Lavington School	Small expansion to be funded by Section 106	Design underway	£0.23m	£0.23m Section 106 funding
Springfield South	Provision of mobile classroom to add temporary places until new Free School opens in Salisbury	Design underway	£0.3m	£0.3m
Total				**£4.17m**

Priority School Planned Maintenance Projects 2021-22

Costs include direct fees and charges associated with work planned, including any necessary asbestos removal.

School	Type of Maintenance Works	Est Cost £
Bratton Primary School	Heating controls and fencing	20,000
Devizes Downlands	Windows and door framing	80,000
Nursteed Primary	Window and door glazing, hot water boiler replacement	26,000
Holt Primary	Fencing	13,000
Silverwood Rowde	Structural works	9,000
Silverwood Trowbridge	Roof replacement	75,000
Southwick Primary	Boiler and heat distribution, window and door framing	120,000
Hilperton Primary	Fencing	15,000
Newtown Primary	Roof replacement, window and door replacements	235,000
Studley Green Primary	Drainage	15,000
Minster Primary	Fire alarm upgrade	6,000
Bitham Brook Primary	Roof covering	11,000
Westbury Infants	Floor screed, window and door ironmongery	52,000
Matravers School	Boiler replacement	140,000
Westwood with Iford Primary	Roof replacement, drainage, floor screed, fencing	150,000
Box Primary	Window and door framing	40,000
Brinkworth Earl Danby's Primary	Roof replacement	45,000
Broad Town Primary	Drainage	6,000
Priestley Primary	Roof covering, heat source equipment	9,000
Redland Primary	Roof replacement	76,000
Crudwell Primary	Heat source and distribution	20,000
Hullavington Primary	Roof replacement	125,000
Lacock Primary	Fire alarm upgrade	6,000
Langley Fitzurse Primary	Roof replacement	90,000
Lyneham Primary	Roof replacement	80,000
Preshute Primary	Window and door framing	9,000
Longleaze Primary	Roof replacement	200,000
Amesbury Primary	Fire alarm, paving	2,000
Amesbury Stonehenge	Lighting, fencing	100,000
Dinton Primary	Lighting	25,000
Ludgershall Primary	Roof replacement	70,000

Newton Tony Primary	Water distribution	46,000
Harnham Junior	Fire alarm upgrade	18,000
Old Sarum Primary	Drainage	20,000
Stratford Sub Castle Primary	Heating distribution, drainage and pipework	63,000
Winterbourne Earls	Roof replacement	205,000
Various schools	Legionella and statutory compliance works	£120,000
Total		**£2,342,000**
Contingency retained for emergency reactive works		**£658,000**
Overall Total		**£3,000,000**

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Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject:	**Adoption of the Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire - Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan (2022-30)**
Cabinet Member:	**Cllr Nick Botterill - Development Management, Strategic Planning and Climate Change.**
Key Decision:	**Key**

Executive Summary

Green Infrastructure is defined by the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) as 'a network of multifunctional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity.'

In February 2019 the council acknowledged the climate emergency and committed to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030. The Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy (GBI) will support the delivery of the council's emerging Climate Strategy particularly around the themes of: Natural Environment, Food and Farming, Green Economy and Carbon Neutral Council (through carbon sequestration). The GBI Strategy will also support biodiversity recovery and health and wellbeing.

The draft strategy has been informed by a series of stakeholder workshops held in February 2020 and on 25th May 2021 as well as internal and external consultation.

Appended to this report is the final Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire - Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan 2022-30 (**Appendix 1**). The final strategy incorporates changes made in response to the public consultation which took place, alongside the Climate Strategy, in September and October 2021.

A consultation report, outlining the consultation process and the main findings from the consultation and online survey is provided in **Appendix 2** supported by **Annex 1**.

Appendix 3 sets out changes to Goal 1 with track changes shown in red for clarity.

Proposal(s)

That Cabinet:
1. Notes the consultation feedback on the draft Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire - Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan 2022-30.

2. Approves the final Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire - Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan and recommends it to Council for adoption as part of the council's policy framework.

Reason for Proposal(s)

To ensure Wiltshire has in place a strategy to support the council's Business Plan missions on climate, wellbeing, and the natural environment and fulfil the requirement set out in the Core Strategy to have a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire.

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject:	**Adoption of the Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire - Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan 2022-30**
Cabinet Member:	**Cllr Nick Botterill - Development Management, Strategic Planning and Climate Change**
Key Decision:	**Key**

Purpose of Report

1. To ask Cabinet to consider the consultation responses and recommend the Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire – Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan, to Council for adoption.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The goals, vision and delivery themes as set out in the Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy (GBI) will contribute to all four of the emerging Business Plan priorities (2022-32) of:

> i. Empowered People
> ii. Resilient Society
> iii. Thriving Economy
> iv. Sustainable Environment

Background

3. At its meeting held on 26 February 2019 the council debated the following notices of motion:

> 12b) Acknowledging a Climate Emergency and Proposing the Way Forward;

> 12c) Environment and Global Warming.

> The council resolved to acknowledge that there is a climate emergency and to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030.

> The minutes of the meeting are available online (see pages 21 to 24). Cabinet has also pledged to make Wiltshire Council carbon neutral by 2030.

4. As of November 2021, The Climate Emergency Task Group revised objectives include the scrutiny of delivery plans, policies and programmes, such as the Local Plan, Local Transport Plan and Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy to ensure that they support the objective of making Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030.

5. Both the Wiltshire Core Strategy and consultation on the emerging Wiltshire Local Plan Review, undertaken last year, recognise the need for a Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy.

Main Considerations for the council

6. The revised Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire - Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan (GBI) attached as **Appendix 1,** has been subject to significant internal as well as external consultation. Public consultation was undertaken between 1 September and 17 October 2021 alongside the Climate Strategy. The consultation webpage can be viewed via this Link. The consultation sought the views of key stakeholders, community groups and individuals as well as statutory bodies on the draft strategy, it's goals, vision and key themes for delivery.

7. The consultation made both draft strategies public at the same time due to shared objectives that they each contained. Awareness raising and community engagement took place through an online survey, three webinars and four face to face library events, as well as extensive communications through social media and Wiltshire's parish/town/city councils.

8. This report also contains an overview of the main consultation results and the key changes contained in the final version of the strategy being brought forward for adoption.

9. The revised Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire – Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan, is attached as **Appendix 1** which reflects consultation feedback received. Further details can be found in **Appendix 2** (feedback report including the online survey results, email comments and the council's response) and **Appendix 3** (changes to Goal 1 shown with track changes shown in red for clarity).

Consultation Results

Overview of the strategy goals, vision and delivery themes

10. A total of 211 survey responses were received of which 88.8% of respondents found the GBI strategy either understandable or very clear and easy to understand. In addition, 96.6% of respondents having read the strategy felt the GBI Strategy was either important or very important.

11. 180 of these responses were from the online survey and 31 were additional written responses sent via email. Overall, the survey comments submitted can be placed under three broad headings and these are discussed below:

- **Timescales for action** – (the need for action, targets and urgency).
There was a clear desire for action and targets, however, whilst the need for this is agreed, this is an overarching long-term strategy that sets the goals and the vision up to 2030. The steps needed to reach the vision will come from separate shorter-term action plans with interim targets that can be tracked to monitor progress and reported against. These will also be linked with any national targets arising from the Environment Act 2021 which are as yet unknown.

  To clarify the purpose and function of the GBI Strategy the introduction and explanation of the role of the strategy and mechanisms for its delivery through implementation and action plans has been re-written. It is therefore now hoped that the function of the GBI Strategy and how it provides an overview for more detailed plans coming forward shortly, can be better understood.

- **Clarity of message** – there were some comments regarding the graphics and font size. These issues have been addressed where possible throughout the document and a glossary of terms has also been added to cover phrases and terminology that cannot be simplified. The opportunity has been taken to correct any other typographical errors or minor changes in the interest of clarity and accuracy.

  In addition, it is proposed to include more hyperlinks on the web-based version, both across the document to make navigation through the document easier, but also to outside sources to ensure maps and references can be more easily accessed.

- **Inclusivity** - Given the somewhat technical nature of the strategy, it is positive to know that 88.7% of those who responded, found the document either clear and easy to understand or understandable. However, there were some comments regarding the use of technical language and phrases and a lack of explanation as to their meaning. The inclusion of a glossary, referred to above, will assist in this regard.

  It is also proposed to produce an 'easy read' version of the finalised document to assist those with learning difficulties and other disability impairments who may not cope with the long-read version. This was trialled with the Climate Strategy and found to be very successful in engaging a demographic who often feel excluded from consultations on public policy.

12. The survey contained an optional set of questions to help establish if the consultation had reached a full representation of the community. The key findings are summarised below with further details appended to this report.

   - 2011 census records black and minority ethnic (BME) communities making up 6% of the population of Wiltshire (excluding Swindon) however only 3% who responded to the demographic questions identified as BME.

   - 12% of respondents who responded to the demographic questions stated they had a disability or long-term illness which is slightly higher

than the 9% for the population of Wiltshire showing a good level of engagement.

- There was a slight underrepresentation of those who identified as male under the gender demographic at 35.8%.

- Proportionally, younger and working age people were underrepresented and those of 55+ years overrepresented. Only 4% of respondents were aged between 18-34 years compared to 17% of the population of Wiltshire being in this age bracket.

13. The 3 goals of the strategy were supported and although, when asked to rank the goals 'halting loss and improving biodiversity' was ranked as more important than 'adaption and resilience to climate change' and 'contribution to health and wellbeing' respectively. However, a number of comments came back to say that they generally felt all three were equally important and felt they captured the key objectives of a GBI strategy.

14. The Wiltshire Climate Alliance did propose that a further goal around net zero 'Goal Zero' be added or that the ambition to reach zero carbon emissions be more adequately reflected in the climate change goal. As support for the 3 goals was comprehensive bar this suggestion, it is felt that adding a further goal is not needed. Instead, it is proposed that Goal 1 text be amended to emphasise mitigation of climate change and nature-based solutions more clearly to support working towards net zero carbon. The changes are identified in **Appendix 3**.

15. There were no adverse comments or suggestions related to the vision, therefore no changes are proposed.

16. The six delivery themes were well supported through the survey, and feedback indicated support for all of them without the need for changes or deletions. It is therefore not proposed to change them and so these will remain as follows:

- Nature Recovery & Landscape Management

- Sustainable Farming & Land Management

- Woodland & Trees

- Flood & Water Management

- Healthy Living

- Economic Recovery & Valuing Natural Capital

17. Comments related to the content under each theme was received, most of which came through the more detailed email responses. These have been considered and where appropriate changes to the wording have been incorporated. These comments and the council's response to them is set out in **Appendix 2 - Annex 1.**

18. Overall, the strategy was extremely well supported and welcomed. Future community engagement and partnership working was also well supported with over 77% confirming that they would either like to be fully involved or kept

actively engaged in some way and interested in partnership working in the future. 56% of respondents were already members of an environmental group of some sort, which again shows active engagement in the subject with those involved.

19. Delivery will be heavily reliant on partnership working and community projects on the ground and so a key focus will now be directed at how best to capitalise on this through; the finalisation of the GBI Settlement Frameworks, which will look at identifying key strategic GBI within the 15 principal settlements and market towns; the roll out of the Community Environmental Toolkit; and development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (a requirement of the Environment Act, 2021).

Summary of comments

20. Whilst there was some criticism of the format of the GBI Strategy and the lack of targets, the importance of the Strategy overall and its goals and themes were overwhelming endorsed. Many of the respondents are already actively engaged in this sphere in either a personal or professional capacity and are therefore pleased to see Wiltshire Council engaging actively in this topic and willing it to move as fast as possible in developing and adopting policy that benefits the environment.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

21. As part of the governance supporting the development and delivery the GBI Strategy the draft was discussed with the Climate Emergency Task Group prior to the public consultation on 5th August and following it on 10th December 2021. The Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is also chairman of the Climate Emergency Task Group which reports to the Environment Select Committee.

Safeguarding Implications

22. The 3 goals of the strategy focus on climate change, biodiversity loss and the wellbeing of our communities which can impact all sectors of society, but particularly the most vulnerable. The consultation undertaken on the Strategy has looked to be representative of all groups in Wiltshire and has made efforts to reach vulnerable groups such as those with disabilities (please see **Appendix 2** for further information). The final strategy also looks to be inclusive and will be supported by an 'easy read' version.

Public Health Implications

23. Adopting the GBI Strategy, which looks to: improve physical and mental well-being through increased opportunities to connection with nature and access green spaces; and protect and enhance green and blue spaces within urban settings, to help improve air quality and mitigate against temperature extremes such as urban heating, should have an overall positive impact on public health. New active travel routes for walking and cycling, that could follow through

implementation projects, will also have the potential to have a positive impact on the health of the population.

Procurement Implications

24. There are no direct procurement implications as a result of the strategy itself. Much of the delivery will be through partnership working. New requirements in the Environment Act 2021 will align with the aspirations of the strategy and will attract new burden funding and grants. These are not quantified at present.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

25. One of the key principles is for the GBI Strategy to be equitable, ensuring the transition to a climate and ecological resilient future is fair.

26. The consultation and engagement approach for the GBI strategy has been undertaken so that it is inclusive with specific efforts to reach groups of society traditionally seen as harder to reach (please see **Appendix 2**). An 'easy read' version of the final Strategy will be produced and made readily available.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

27. This report sets out the council's response to environmental and climate change considerations following the acknowledgement of a climate emergency and agreement by full Council. The proposed adoption of a GBI strategy for Wiltshire should have a positive impact on the environment and climate of Wiltshire. The GBI Strategy and Climate Strategy are interlinked, and both strategies have implications for the council's services, as well as partnership work.

28. The strategy will be delivered in conjunction with the emerging Business Plan principle 'Sustainable Environment' which includes the mission that 'we take responsibility for our environment' and 'we are on the path to carbon neutral (net zero)'. This should mean that in time all of the council's activities, underpinned by the GBI Strategy and Climate Strategy objectives, will be able to optimise their contribution to climate and environmental impacts.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

29. The Wiltshire Core Strategy identified that a Green Infrastructure Strategy would be in place shortly following adoption. The lack of one could impact the current Local Plan Review and so there is a significant reputational risk associated.

30. Work to enhance and deliver a strong green and blue infrastructure will improve health and support the transition to a greener more sustainable future so all of these elements would be negatively impacted if, the strategy and the projects that will flow from it, did not go ahead.

Financial Implications

31. The GBI strategy sets a framework for delivery in partnership across multiple agencies. The Strategy, in itself, does not have any financial implications

however it does make reference to further policy and guidance documents and potential projects that will require resourcing for example, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

32. The council will also have responsibility for overseeing delivery through the new Climate and Environment Forum, supporting community initiatives with advice and guidance as well as through crosscutting projects such as: improvements to the active travel network; nature-based solutions to climate change and carbon reduction; and biodiversity improvements.

33. These projects will require funding as well as officer resources. The scope and scale of this will be detailed in a separate implementation and action plan report as more information becomes available particularly from DEFRA following on from the Environment Act. That report will set out all the known and estimated associated costs and funding opportunities related to implementation for approval.

Legal Implications

34. The GBI Strategy is not a statutory document and as such there were no statutory requirements for the consultation. However, Consultation was undertaken in respect of this strategy and the consultation that was undertaken is considered sound as it was undertaken when proposals were still at a formative stage and provided sufficient information and time for consultees to provide appropriate comment.

35. The consultation feedback, as set out in appendices to this report and in particular **Appendix 2**, provides the detail of the consultation responses and these responses have led to changes to the final proposed strategy and provides an appropriate summary for the decision maker to have due regard.

36. This Policy once adopted by full Council will form part of the Budget and Policy framework as set out in Part 3 section B of the Council's constitution. All decisions made by Cabinet, Committees and Officers have to be made in accordance with the Budget and Policy framework including this policy.

Workforce Implications

37. Changes to how the council maintains and manages assets under the council's control will affect the focus of work to be implemented. However, it is not anticipated to add any increased workforce burden.

38. As outlined in the financial implications section above there is likely to be additional resources required to support projects, these will be scoped as further information becomes available and will be presented in a future report.

Options Considered

39. The proposed adoption of the GBI strategy is the reason this item has been highlighted as a key decision. The other main options are to not adopt the Wiltshire GBI Strategy, or to not adopt this version and send it back for further

drafting. These options would have a direct impact on the ability of the council to meet its commitment to producing a GBI strategy as set out in the Core Strategy.

40. Delaying adoption will also impact the council's ability to make delivery plans and continue work to address biodiversity loss a requirement in the Environment Act 2021.

Conclusions

41. The adoption Adoption of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire - Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan (2022-2030) will be instrumental in setting the framework for improving the natural environment for biodiversity, Wiltshire's communities and to help sequester carbon and use nature-based solutions to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

42. The next steps will include the development of an implementation and action plan which will complement the Strategy.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Final Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire - Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan 2022-30 (final version).

Appendix 2: Consultation feedback and evaluation report supported by Annex 1 (consultation feedback via written comments and the council's response).

Appendix 3: Goal 1 amendments (with track changes in red).

A Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire

Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan 2022-2030

Supporting the resilience of Wiltshire's communities, businesses and wildlife in a changing world

The Strategy

Wiltshire Council

Contents

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Preface

Welcome to the first Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire.

The strategy has been shaped through engagement with a wide range of internal stakeholders and external partners, starting with an initial workshop in February 2020 attended by some 50 representatives of 29 organisations. A webinar attended by many of the same stakeholders was held in May 2021 to identify priorities for the emerging strategy to focus on.

A joint public consultation on the draft Wiltshire Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy and the Wiltshire Climate Strategy ran for 6 weeks from 1st September to the 17th October 2021. This included consultation events at local libraries and an online survey. A total of 213 responses were received from both private individuals and stakeholder organisations, the majority of which have been overwhelmingly positive and supportive of the green infrastructure approach. The feedback has been invaluable in helping take forward the final strategy for adoption by the Council in February 2022.

Key messages

Our rich and varied environment underpins Wiltshire's natural capital; it makes Wiltshire an attractive place to live, work and visit, enhances our quality of life and well-being, and underpins the economy.

Wiltshire's natural environment is undergoing substantial changes driven by factors including climate change, biodiversity loss, population growth and development.

Wiltshire's multi-functional network of green and blue infrastructure assets supports a range of ecosystem services, providing multiple economic, social and environmental benefits for people, places and nature.

The Strategy sets out a long-term vision, strategic goals and principles for delivering green and blue infrastructure across Wiltshire by a range of partners and stakeholders, working together at a variety of scales.

Highlighting "what" is needed and "how" this will be achieved, it provides a high-level framework for developing delivery strategies and detailed implementation plans that reflect community needs and national priorities.

Together with the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Wiltshire, the Strategy has a significant role to play in delivering nature-based solutions to support the Council's Climate Strategy and new Local Plan.

The Vision for Wiltshire's Green & Blue Infrastructure

Wiltshire's multi-functional network of high quality, biodiverse and accessible green and blue infrastructure is widely valued by our communities, businesses and visitors.

Managed sustainably through strong leadership and partnerships, the green and blue infrastructure network provides a range of well-being benefits for people, places and nature across Wiltshire.

As a result of working with natural processes to support delivery of multi-functional ecosystem services, Wiltshire is better able to adapt to a changing climate and biodiversity loss has been reversed.

Networks of green and blue spaces and corridors in the countryside and our towns support access to nature and healthy lifestyles, and provide high quality landscapes and beautiful places for people to live, work and visit.

Strategy overview

WILTSHIRE CLIMATE STRATEGY

WILTSHIRE NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

WILTSHIRE HEALTH & WELL-BEING STRATEGIES

Our shared GBI goals
(Chapter 3)

Goal 1: Mitigation, adaptation and resilience to climate change

By 2036, we will have increased our ability to mitigate/adapt to climate change through nature-based solutions

Goal 2: Halting the loss of and improving biodiversity

By 2036, we will have gained a more biodiverse and resilient ecological network in Wiltshire

Goal 3: Contributing to health and well-being

By 2036, we will have increased the health and wellbeing benefits of access to nature

How we will work
(Chapter 4)

GBI delivery focused around 7 themes
- Flooding & Water Management
- Sustainable Farming & Land Management
- Nature Recovery & Landscape Management
- Woodland & Trees
- Healthy Living
- Sustainable Development
- Economic Recovery & Valuing Natural Capital

Guided by a set of delivery principles
- Partnership Working
- An Integrated Approach
- Goal Oriented & Mainstreamed
- Evidence-led
- Nature-based Solutions
- Planning Principles

Where and when we will target GBI delivery

Focus on supporting the delivery of prioritised action plans targeting GBI delivery at two scales
- **Landscape–scale** – delivery of strategic landscape-scale projects within priority areas identified by the Wiltshire Nature Recovery Strategy (requirement of the Environment Act 2021)
- **Settlement-scale** – delivery of local projects focussed in and around settlements that support local priorities such as those identified in any Neighbourhood Plan or Community Environmental Plan developed using the Toolkit guidance or Wiltshire Design Guide

Our natural environment plan: supporting the resilience of Wiltshire's communities, businesses and wildlife in a changing world

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Background

What is Green & Blue Infrastructure?

Developing the Strategy

Section one - Setting the scene

1.1 Background

Strengthening networks of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure has an important role to play in halting biodiversity loss and nature recovery, building resilience to climate change (see **Box 1.1**) and promoting healthy, resilient and safe communities.

BOX 1.1 Responding to the Climate Emergency

As a result of global warming, Wiltshire is set to experience warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. Extreme weather events will become more frequent.

Wiltshire Council has a key responsibility for addressing climate change through adaptation and mitigation measures, both within its services and as part of its community leadership role. In response to the global climate emergency, Wiltshire Council acknowledged the climate emergency and committed to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030. Wiltshire Council established a Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group (renamed the Climate Emergency Task Group) and the council has produced a draft Climate Strategy which is looking at all issues around climate change and in particular how Wiltshire can become carbon-neutral, shaping the next five years of the council's action on climate change.

In collaboration with local nature, health and enterprise partnerships and neighbouring authorities, Wiltshire Council has developed a bold vision and strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of green and blue infrastructure at a catchment and landscape-scale.

In addition to providing a framework for co-ordination of environmental land and water management in Wiltshire, the Strategy will also inform and support implementation of the Local Plan.

BOX 1.2 Access to Green Space in a Pandemic

The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has revealed the critical role of access to local green space for people's health. The Government's priority was to save lives and the best way to protect yourself and others from illness was to stay at home. However, exercise was still important for people's physical and mental wellbeing, so the Government said people could leave their homes for exercise once a day.

www.mind.org.uk - coronavirus and your wellbeing

Bringing nature into your everyday life can benefit both your mental and physical wellbeing. It can improve your mood, reduce feelings of stress or anger, and make you feel more relaxed.

Power of parks in a pandemic

When half of the world was living under lockdown, the ability to go outside and get some fresh air had never been so important.
As those who could afford to do so converged on green spaces, seeking exercise and solace amid the coronavirus pandemic, parks became stages for collective joy, anxiety, and social-distancing infringement crackdowns.

In the context of the global climate emergency, biodiversity loss and the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic (see **Box 1.2**), investment in the provision of high quality, biodiverse and accessible green and blue infrastructure has never been more vital.

1.2 What is Green & Blue Infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is defined by the National Planning Policy Framework (2021) as '*A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity*'.

As outlined in **Box 1.3**, green infrastructure embraces a range of public and private natural assets. This Strategy refers to these assets collectively as Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI).

BOX 1.3   What can GBI include and why is it important?

Planning Practice Guidance on the Natural Environment advises:

Green infrastructure can embrace a range of spaces and assets that provide environmental and wider benefits. It can, for example, include parks, playing fields, other areas of open space, woodland, allotments, private gardens, sustainable drainage features, green roofs and walls, street trees and 'blue infrastructure' such as streams, ponds, canals and other water bodies. (Paragraph 004)

Green infrastructure is a natural capital asset that provides multiple benefits, at a range of scales. For communities, these benefits can include enhanced wellbeing, outdoor recreation and access, enhanced biodiversity and landscapes, food and energy production, urban cooling, and the management of flood risk. These benefits are also known as ecosystem services. (Paragraph 005)

Natural resources - air, land, water, wildlife, plants and soil - provide our most basic needs, including food, energy and security, and keep us healthy. Where natural resources are under pressure from unsustainable uses and activities, this presents a risk to long-term social, economic and environmental well-being.

Well-designed and sustainably managed GBI assets have the potential to provide a range of **ecosystem services** (as highlighted in **Box 1.4** and illustrated on **Diagram 1.1**), which in turn provide multiple benefits for people, places and nature.

BOX 1.4   Ecosystem Services

- **Supporting services** (such as soil formation, nutrients cycling or plant growth) are essential for supporting all other services.
- **Regulating services:** ecosystem services that regulate the environment – such as pollination, pest/disease control, carbon storage, water purification and flood attenuation.
- **Provisioning services:** ecosystem services that provide goods – such as drinking water, food, fuel, energy and construction materials.
- **Cultural services:** ecosystem services that provide aesthetic, spiritual, religious, recreational or scientific enrichment – such as access to green spaces and historic places for recreation and tourism.

DIAGRAM 1.1   GBI & Ecosystem Services

REGULATING SERVICES
- Water, Air & Soil Quality
- Climate & Hazard Control
- Pest & Disease Control
- Pollination

PROVISIONING SERVICES
- Food
- Fresh Water
- Building Materials
- Energy & Fuel

CULTURAL SERVICES
- Spiritual Enrichment
- Cultural Heritage
- Recreation & Tourism
- Wellbeing

SUPPORTING SERVICES
- Soil Production
- Plant Growth
- Nutrient & Water Cycling

> *'From the basics such as food, water and clean air, the wonders of our landscapes and wildlife, we are all fundamentally connected to nature'.*
>
> **(Dr Gary Mantle MBE, Director of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust)**

Embedding GBI into well-designed built development can help reinforce and enhance the local built, natural and historic character of Wiltshire's landscapes and townscapes, contributing to a sense of place and natural beauty.

In addition to helping reverse the decline in biodiversity by enhancing ecological connectivity, facilitating biodiversity net gain and nature recovery networks, GBI can help communities and wildlife become more resilient to a changing climate through nature-based solutions such as:

• Replicating natural functions of catchments, and restoring flood storage and drainage functions to manage flood risk
• Increasing tree cover to help capture carbon and aid thermal cooling in urban areas
• Preventing soil erosion and increasing biodiversity
• Providing renewable energy opportunities

GBI can contribute to healthy living and well-being by providing opportunities for recreation, relaxation and growing local food, while also supporting sustainable growth and economic development.

> *'The environment can be pivotal to people's health and wellbeing including litter, air quality, parks and open spaces'.*
>
> **Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2022**

Whilst individual GBI assets can serve one or more functions, connectivity between different GBI assets helps to maximise the ecosystem services and well-being benefits that they can generate. Well-connected GBI assets create GBI networks that are adaptive and resilient to urbanisation and climate change.

Physical connections make the most impact. Linear landscape features such as river corridors and hedgerows provide ecological corridors for the dispersal of wildlife. Connecting green spaces and places via a network of sustainable walking and cycling routes along green corridors encourages and enables access to nature in a more sustainable and healthy manner.

> *'The need for greenspace and green infrastructure to be valued, well connected and managed for the benefit of all has never been more important'*
>
> **(Salisbury Area Greenspace Partnership)**

Adopting an integrated and joined up "GBI approach" to managing natural assets can significantly reduce costs for public bodies, businesses and individuals, whilst providing quality of life benefits for residents, workers and visitors.

As illustrated in **Diagram 1.2**, GBI networks can connect people and wildlife with GBI assets at various scales. GBI Assets range from 'blue infrastructure' (such as rivers, canals and lakes) to urban GBI (such as parks, green roofs and street trees). They can be specific sites at the local level or broader landscape-scale features at the strategic level such as river floodplains and woodlands.

Where connected together by rights of way, bridleways, cycleways and green and blue corridors, GBI assets around individual buildings, streets, neighbourhoods and in the wider countryside combine to create multi-functional GBI networks interspersed within and between urban and rural places.

DIAGRAM 1.2 GBI Networks
Adapted from GI Design & Placemaking (Scottish Government, 2011)

← **LOCAL/URBAN SCALE GBI** → ← **STRATEGIC/LANDSCAPE SCALE GBI** →

CONNECTIONS
• Footpaths
• Cycling routes
• Green corridors

CONNECTIONS
• Footpaths
• Cycling routes
• Green corridors
• Blue corridors

CONNECTIONS
• Greenways and trails
• Footpaths
• Cycling routes
• Active travel routes
• Green corridors
• Blue corridors

BUILDINGS

STREETS

NEIGHBOURHOODS

WIDER COUNTRYSIDE

© Google

© Stephen Clarkson

© Henry Lawford

ASSETS
• Green roofs
• Green walls
• Gardens or grounds
• Rainwater collection systems
• Driveways (permeable)
• Trellises/ pergolas

ASSETS
• Boundary features (hedges)
• Street trees
• Grass verges
• Sustainable Drainage Systems (e.g. swales)
• Porous paving

ASSETS
• Amenity greenspaces
• Public parks & gardens
• Play areas
• Allotments & community growing spaces
• Playing fields, sports pitches
• Cemeteries & churchyards
• Swales, reeds
• Urban woodlands
• Ponds
• Water courses
• Urban nature reserves
• Conservation areas

ASSETS
• Historic parks and gardens
• Country parks
• Forests & woodlands
• Downland, grasslands & heathland
• AONBs
• World Heritage Sites
• Community woodlands
• Nature reserves
• Farmland

1.3   Developing the Strategy

The GBI Strategy was developed by CBA on behalf of Wiltshire Council.

The Strategy applies to the whole of the Wiltshire Authority Area as illustrated on **Map 1.1**. It should be noted that the New Forest National Park Authority is the local planning authority for that part of the Wiltshire Authority Area within the National Park.

The GBI Strategy as a whole is a material planning consideration as it supports GBI policy in the Wiltshire Local Plan. Settlement GBI Frameworks will be prepared to provide more detailed planning guidance on local priorities and opportunities for GBI provision in and around key settlements.

The Strategy is primarily aimed at planning authorities, developers, partnerships, farmers and land managers working across Wiltshire with a key role to play in the planning and delivery of strategic GBI initiatives and projects. It will also help deliver an integrated approach with town and parish councils, communities and other local stakeholders.

Existing Wiltshire-wide strategies, plans and studies that helped shape the GBI Strategy include:

- River Basin District & Catchment Management Plans
- Landscape Strategy
- Landscape Biodiversity Areas
- Health & Wellbeing Strategy
- Countryside Access Improvement Plan
- Open Space Study
- Air Quality Strategy
- Local Transport Plan

In addition to other emerging strategies highlighted on **Diagram 2.2**, site-specific GBI asset management plans for heritage sites, wildlife sites, country parks and urban open spaces will also have an important role to play in supporting delivery of the GBI Strategy.

MAP 1.1   Location & Context
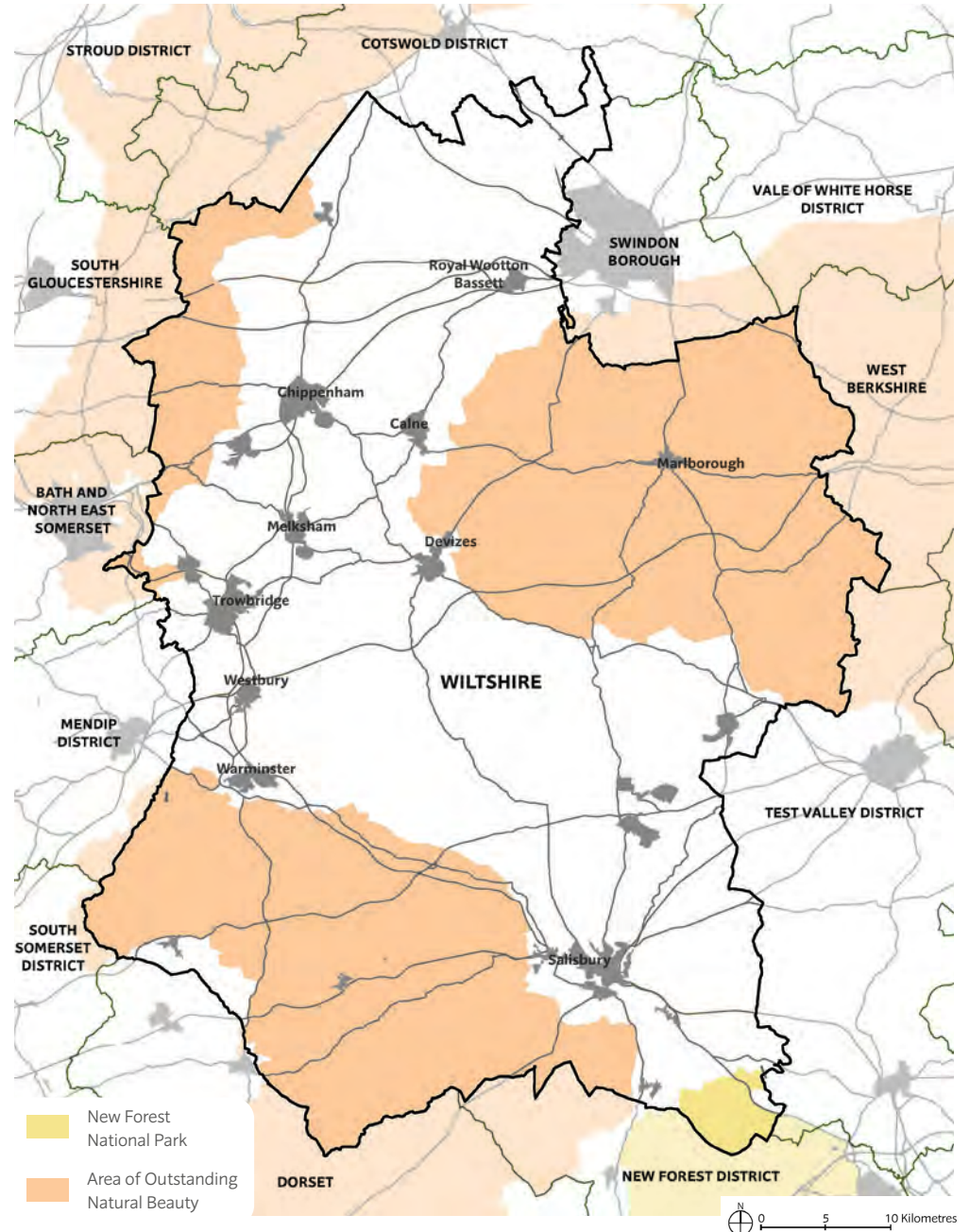
Section two - Shaping the vision

Policy Context

Wiltshire's Landscape Context

Defining Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network

Defining Strategic GBI Priorities & Opportunities

Defining Local GBI Priorities & Opportunities

Section two - Shaping the vision

2.1   Policy Context

As reflected by emerging legislation and national policy in England (see **Diagram 2.1**), the provision of GBI has become an integral element of the UK's approach to sustainable development (see the **Evidence Base** for details).

DIAGRAM 2.1   GBI Policy Framework

Halt Biodiversity Loss (15)

Combat Climate Change (13)

Healthy Lives & Well-Being (3)

Clean Water (6)

National Planning Policy Framework

National Design Guide

National Planning Practice Guidance

Wiltshire GBI Strategy

UK 25-Year Environment Plan

National Pollinator Strategy

Sustainable Water, Energy & Food (12)

Clean Energy (7)

Agriculture Act

Environment Act

Sustainable Cities & Communities (11)

Sustainable Economic Growth (8)

Resilient Infrastructure (9)

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Due to the crosscutting and integrated nature of GBI, this Strategy provides a framework to support delivery of the following key target areas for action in the Government's 25-year Environment Plan:

- Using and managing land sustainably.
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscape.
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing.
- Increasing resource efficiency, reducing pollution and waste.
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local plans to adopt a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and GBI, taking into account climate change factors such as flood risk, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape.

It is intended that the GBI Strategy will support delivery of Wiltshire Council's Business Plan alongside a range of other partnership-based strategies and plans as highlighted in **Diagram 2.2**, such as management plans for the AONBs.

In particular, the GBI Strategy has a key role to play in supporting the Council's climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies by promoting nature-based solutions to combating the effects of a changing climate that deliver multiple benefits for people, paces and nature.

Importantly, the Strategy will also inform the Wiltshire Local Plan, enabling priorities and opportunities for GBI provision to support growth identified through the Strategy to be supported by planning policy and guidance.

DIAGRAM 2.2 Wiltshire GBI Strategy Context

Local GI Asset Plans

Wiltshire Landscape Strategy

AONB Management Plans

Catchment Plans

Neighbourhood Plans

Wiltshire GBI Strategy

National Park Management Plans

Wiltshire Community Plan

Local Nature Recovery Strategy*

Wiltshire Climate Strategy

Flood Risk Management Strategy

Wiltshire Council Business Plan

Swindon & Wiltshire LEP Industrial Strategy

Wiltshire Local Plan

Wiltshire Minerals & Waste Plans

Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Wiltshire Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Wiltshire Open Space Study

World Heritage Site Management Plan

Wiltshire Carbon Management Plan

Wiltshire Transport Plan

Wiltshire Air Quality Strategy & Action Plan

Wiltshire Countryside Access Plan

* in preparation

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2.2   Wiltshire's Landscape Context

Located in the south-west of England, Wiltshire covers approximately 3,255km2 (325,500ha) and has a population of around 498,000. The population is largely rural with nearly half living in towns or villages of fewer than 5,000 people.   A quarter of Wiltshire's inhabitants live in settlements of fewer than 1,000 people. The geographical context for the GBI Strategy is shown on **Map 1.1**.

Although Wiltshire is dominated by the vast sweeps of the chalk downland, its landscape is highly varied with intimate river valleys contrasting with the open chalklands, woodlands and broad clay vales.

The **chalk downlands** of the North Wessex Downs, Salisbury Plain, Cranborne Chase and the West Wiltshire Downs, form undulating open scenery characterised by large fields and isolated tree clumps.

In contrast, the **river valleys** appear well wooded due to the enclosure of smaller fields by hedgerows and the presence of riverside trees and copses.

Extensive deposits of clay-with-flints on top of the chalk support major **woodlands** such as Savernake Forest and the Great Ridge, Grovely and Tollard Royal woods.

Escarpments form the most dramatic features of the Wiltshire landscape and are the locations of a number of chalk carvings such as the white horses and regimental badges.

Earthworks & ancient trackways give the chalklands a distinct archaeological feel, particularly in the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage sites.

Settlements are concentrated in the river valleys or below the 'spring line' beneath the escarpments. The traditional building materials of brick, stone, flint and thatch add to the picturesque qualities of these villages.

The oolitic **limestone** of the Cotswolds forms a gently undulating plateau with deeply incised, heavily wooded valleys. Much of the plateau is under arable cultivation with large fields separated by dry stone walls. The use of 'traditional' local stone has ensured that villages blend well with the landscape.

The **clay vales** are areas of gently undulating topography and varied landscape with permanent pasture on the flood plain and arable cultivation on the better drained soils. Throughout the vales there are numerous villages and many of the major towns of Wiltshire.

The Thames and Bristol Avon Vales are separated by low wooded hills, remnants of the ancient Braydon Forest, which occur on the outcrop of corallian limestone stretching from near Westbury to Highworth. In places this forms an important escarpment, especially around Lyneham. The Thames Vale is broad and relatively flat with more extensive floodplains and meadows than those in the Vale of Pewsey or Bristol Avon Vale. In the Upper Thames Valley, the extraction of gravel deposits has created numerous lakes, which form the core of the Cotswolds Water Park.

On the edge of the chalk downlands, in the south-west of the study area, is a series of wooded ridges and valleys on the **greensand** where there are many large estates, such as Fonthill in the Vale of Wardour, Longleat and Stourhead.

In the south-east of Wiltshire, on the sands and gravels, the heavily wooded landscape is more typical of the **New Forest** extending into Hampshire.

2.3   Defining Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network

Three main elements form the backbone of Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network as illustrated on **Map 2.1**:

• Strategic GBI Sites
• Strategic GBI Corridors
• Sub-Regional Strategic GBI

The Network includes a range of habitats such as woodland, chalk grassland and grazing marsh, which support a variety of wildlife species. It also incorporates accessible open space, nationally valued landscapes, watercourses and rights of way.   The components of the Strategic GBI Network are presented on a series of maps (see **Box 2.1**).

These GBI assets combine at a landscape-scale to create an integrated network of green and blue spaces, corridors and linkages, connecting people, places and nature across Wiltshire and in neighbouring areas.

Comprising a mosaic of land uses, natural features and habitats, the multi-functional Strategic GBI Network has the potential to deliver a wide range of economic, environmental and social well-being benefits (see the **Evidence Base** for details).

Established strategic partnerships provide a mechanism for bringing together all sectors to focus on valuing and delivering benefits from Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network.

Strategic GBI Sites

The Strategic GBI Sites comprise the following natural assets:

• Biodiversity Sites
• Priority Habitats
• Woodland
• Historic Environment Designations

MAP 2.1   Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network

Strategic GBI Sites
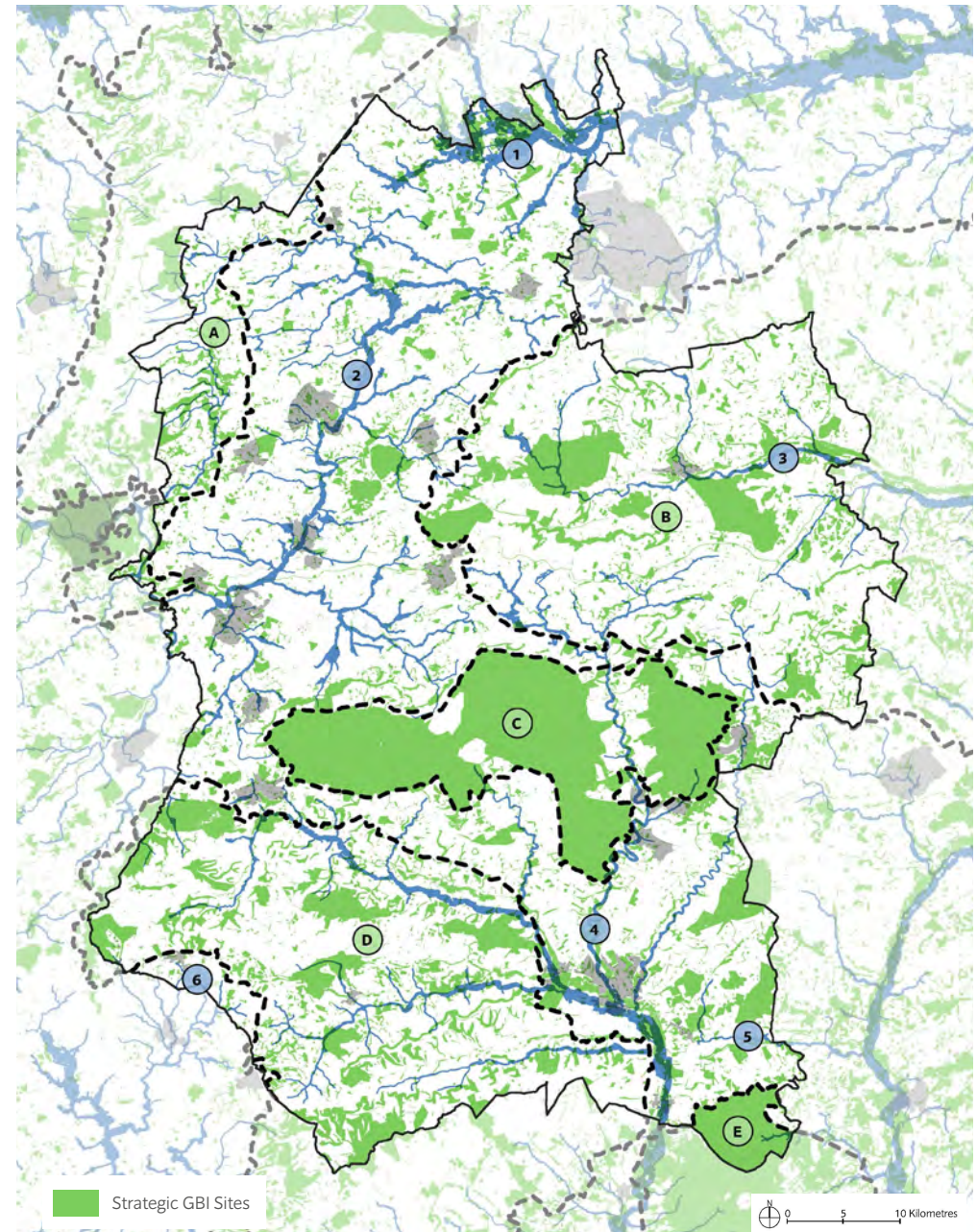
Strategic GBI Corridors

Focussed on river systems and navigable waterways, the following Strategic GBI Corridors connect with many of Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Sites and main settlements:

1. Thames Corridor
2. Bristol Avon Corridor
3. Kennet Corridor
4. Hampshire Avon Corridor
5. Test & Itchen Corridor
6. Stour Corridor
7. Wiltshire Canals - Kennet & Avon, Wilts & Berks, Cotswold (not mapped)

Sub-Regional Strategic GBI

The Sub-Regional Strategic GBI comprises the following nationally and internationally protected areas:

A. Cotswolds AONB
B. North Wessex Downs AONB
C. Salisbury Plain SPA
D. Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs AONB
E. New Forest National Park

The overarching, cross-cutting nature of GBI encompasses the access and well-being agenda as well as other relevant aspects of the three AONBs, the Salisbury Plain SPA/SAC and the New Forest National Park. These include biodiversity, landscape character, economic growth and flood risk management.

Being predominantly undeveloped countryside areas of high environmental value, these precious landscapes provide extensive and well-connected networks of Strategic GBI Sites and Corridors at the sub-regional level that offer multiple benefits for nature, people and businesses. In this context, these protected areas are a significant element of the nation's and Wiltshire's high level GBI network (see **Evidence Base** for further details).

Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network provides a focus for prioritising strategic action and investment in GBI by partners working across Wiltshire and beyond.

BOX 2.1 Components of the Strategic GBI Network

Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network includes the following GBI assets (see the **Evidence Base** for details):

- **Map 2.2** - National Character Areas
- **Map 2.3** - Landscape Character Types & Areas
- **Map 2.4** - Nationally Valued Landscapes
- **Map 2.5** - Historic Environment Designations
- **Map 2.6** - Biodiversity Sites
- **Map 2.7** - Priority Habitats
- **Map 2.8** - Landscape Biodiversity Areas
- **Map 2.9** - Woodland
- **Map 2.10** - Agricultural Land
- **Map 2.11** - River Basin Districts & Catchments
- **Map 2.12** - Watercourses & Waterbodies
- **Map 2.13** - Strategic GBI Sites: Accessibility
- **Map 2.14** - Strategic GBI Sites: Connectivity

The Network also includes the following urban GBI assets in and around Wiltshire's main settlements (these will be set out in the Settlement GBI Frameworks):

- Parks & Recreation Grounds
- Outdoor Sport
- Natural Greenspaces
- Accessible Natural Greenspaces
- Amenity Greenspaces
- Allotments
- Churchyards & Cemeteries
- Education & School Grounds
- Rivers and Waterbodies
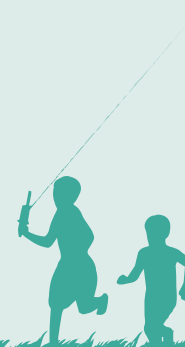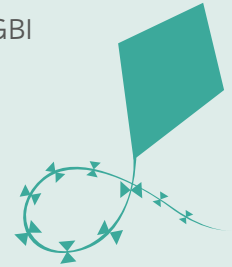
MAP 2.2 National Character Areas
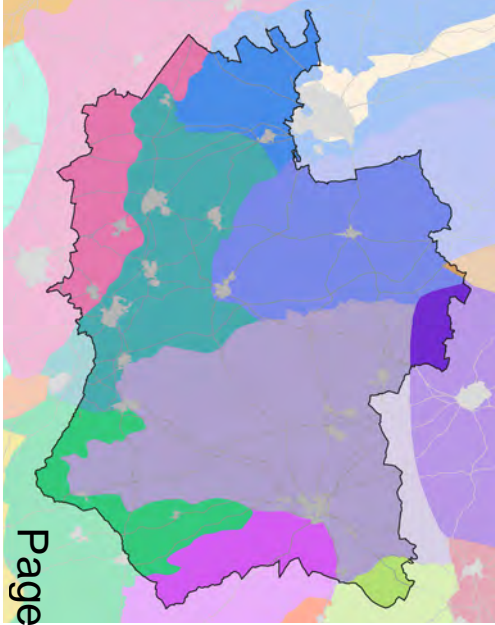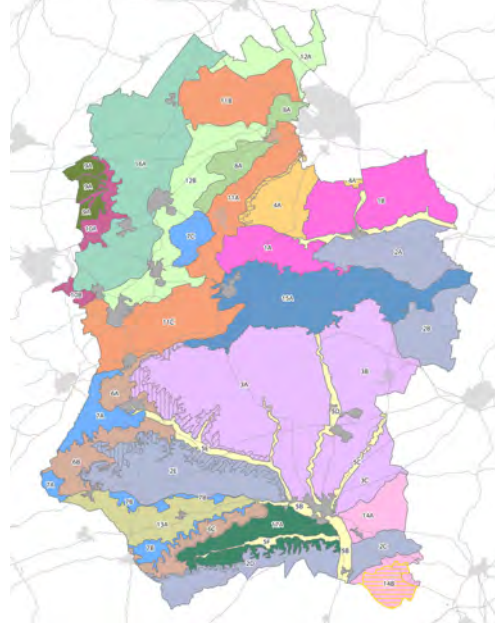
MAP 2.3 Landscape Character Types & Areas

MAP 2.4 Nationally Valued Landscapes
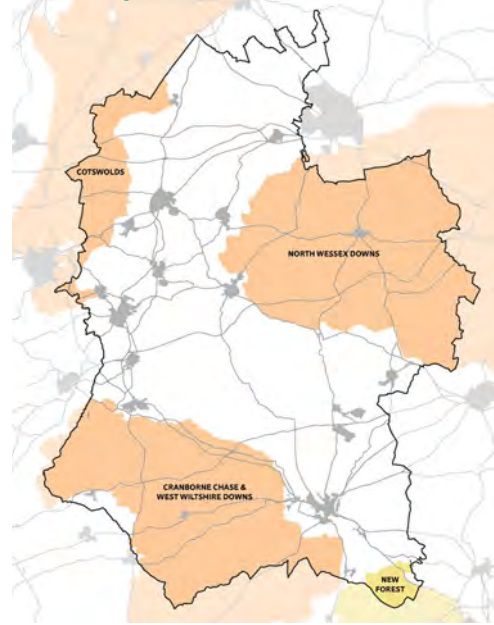
MAP 2.5 Historic Environment Designations
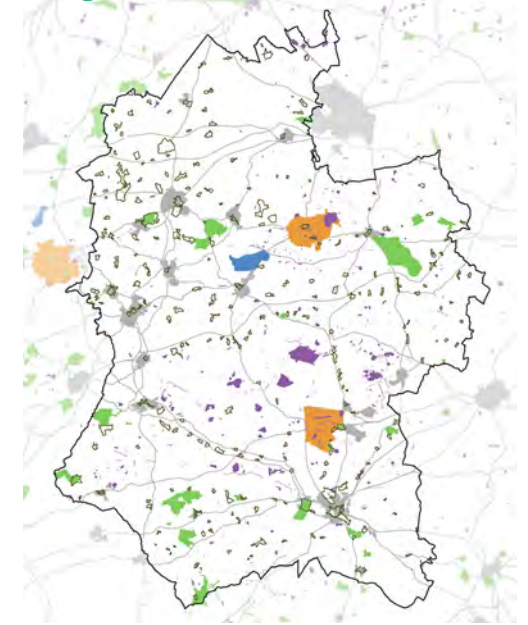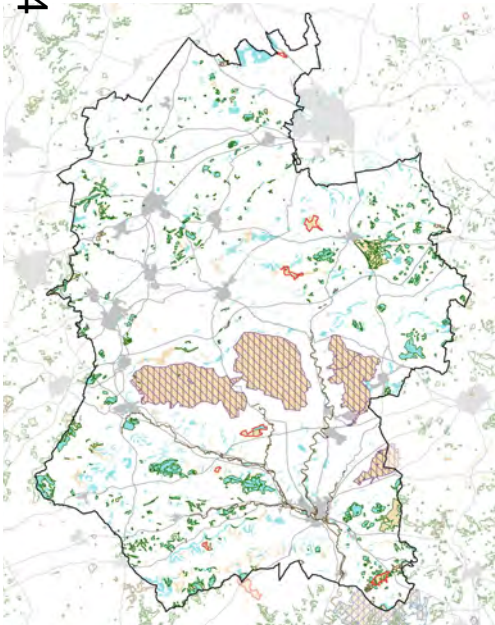
MAP 2.6 Biodiversity Sites

MAP 2.7 Priority Habitats
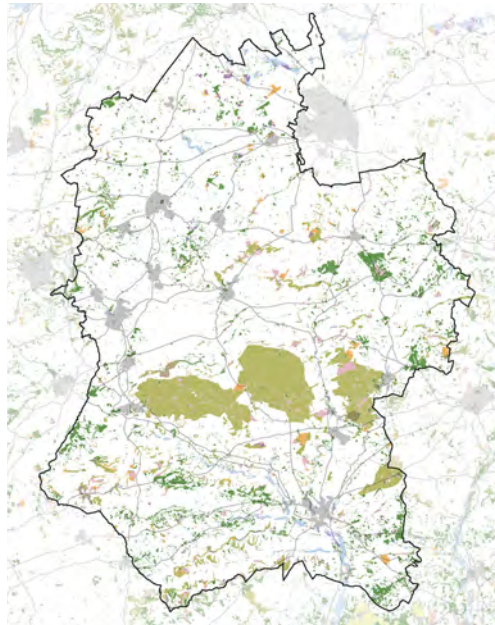
MAP 2.8 Landscape Biodiversity Areas
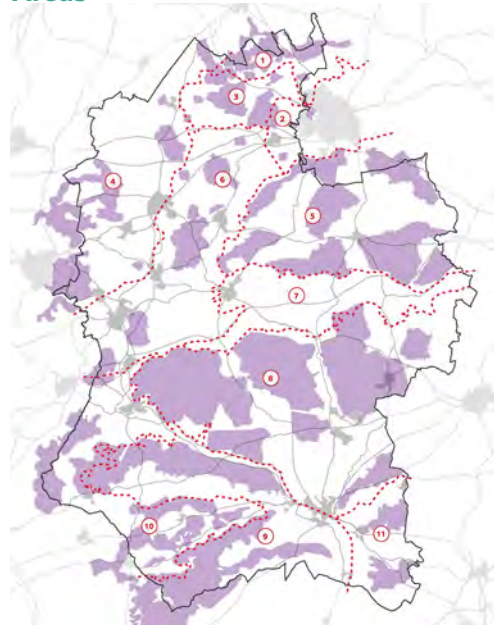
MAP 2.9 Woodland
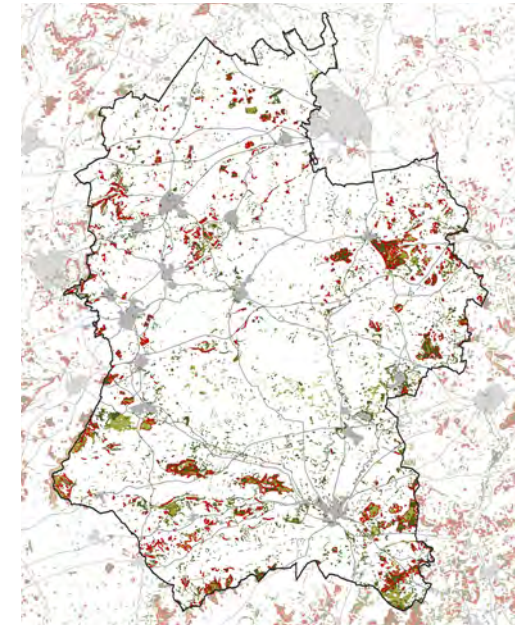
MAP 2.10 Agricultural Land
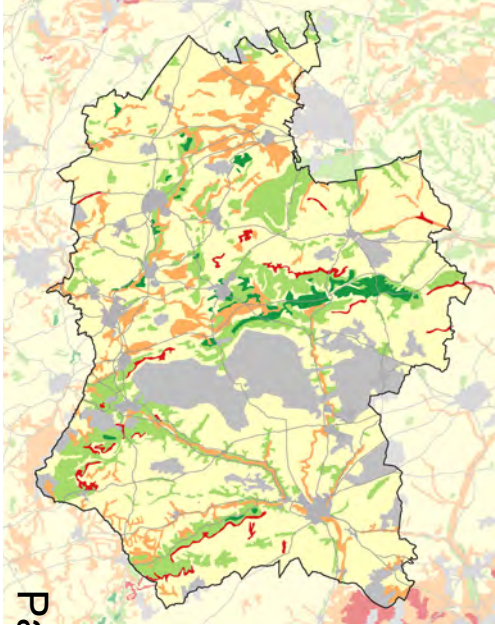
MAP 2.11 River Basin Districts & Catchments
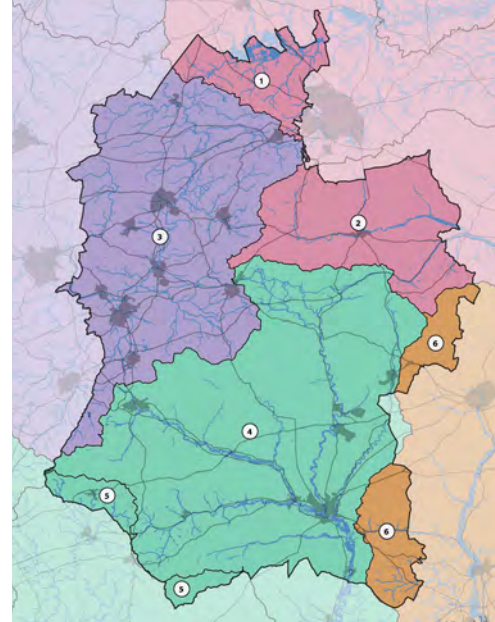
MAP 2.14 Strategic GBI Sites - Connectivity
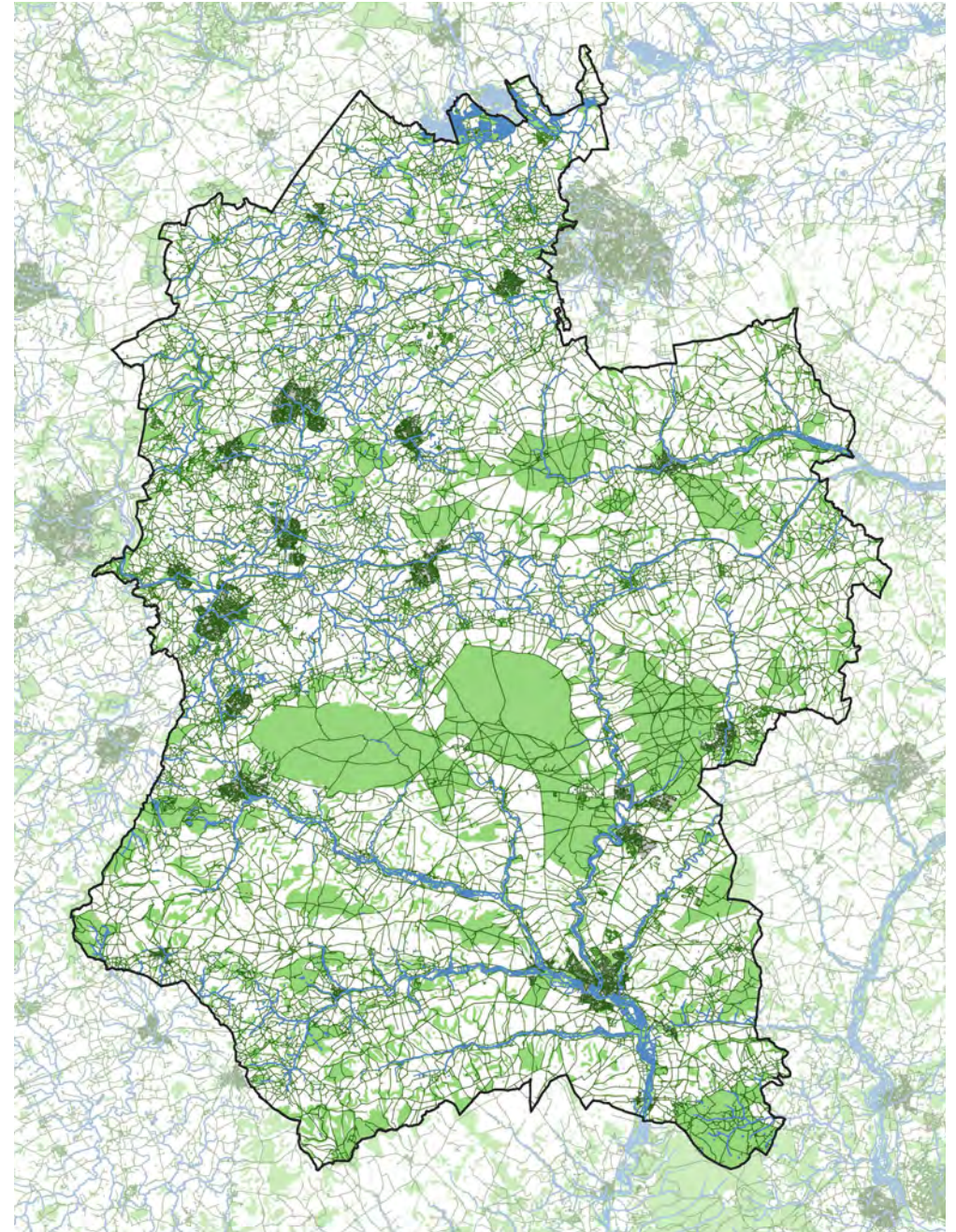
MAP 2.12 Watercourses & Waterbodies
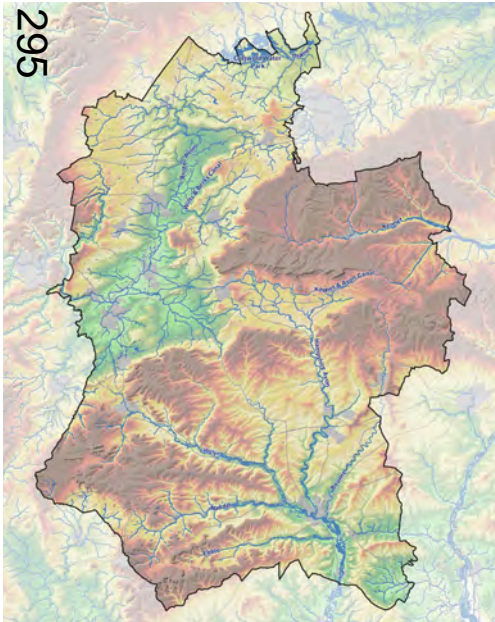
MAP 2.13 Strategic GBI Sites - Accessibility
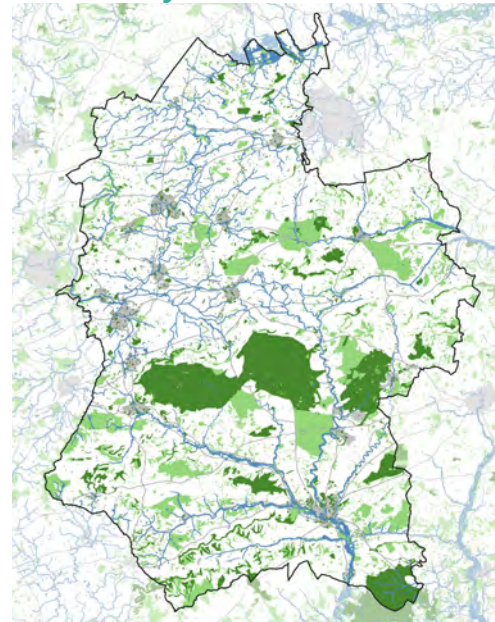
2.4   Defining Strategic GBI Priorities & Opportunities

As Wiltshire is a large area with a diverse range of GBI assets, Strategic GBI Areas have been defined to provide an integrated spatial framework for identifying strategic priorities and opportunities to strengthen Wiltshire's GBI Network at the landscape-scale (see **Box 2.2** and **Map 2.15**).

BOX 2.2   Strategic GBI Areas in Wiltshire

1. Thames Vale
2. Bristol Avon & Cotswolds Limestone
3. Bristol Avon Vale
4. Kennet & Marlborough Downs
5. Hampshire Avon & Vale of Pewsey
6. Hampshire Avon & Salisbury Plain
7. Test and Itchen & Chute Forest
8. Test and Itchen & the New Forest
9. Hampshire Avon & Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs
10. Hampshire Avon & the Vale of Wardour
11. Dorset Stour Vale & Hills
12. Dorset Stour & Cranborne Chase Downs

MAP 2.15 Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Opportunity Areas

Strategic GBI Sites

Watercourses & Waterbodies

0   5   10 Kilometres
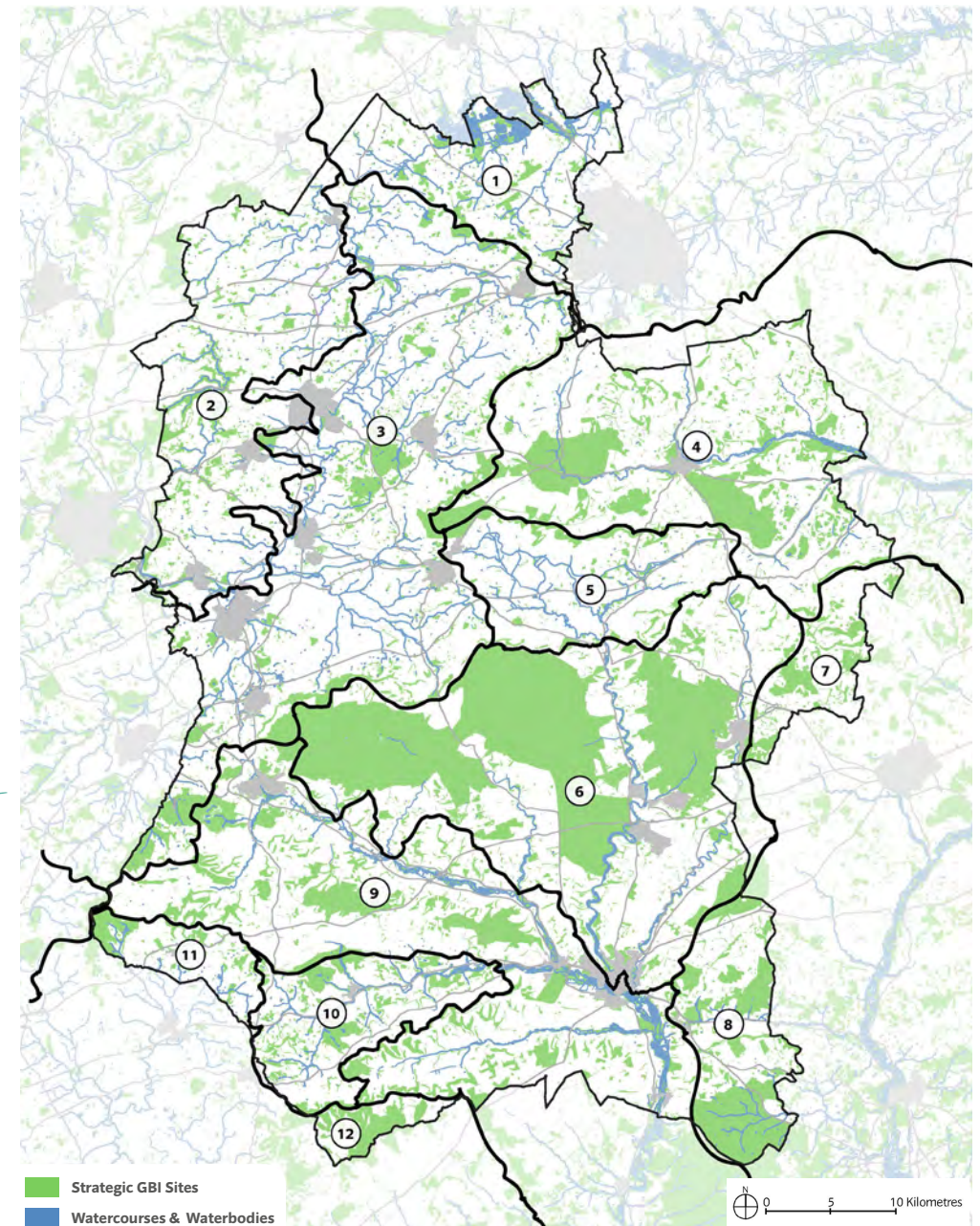
The Strategic GBI Areas largely reflect River Catchments defined by the Environment Agency, Landscape Biodiversity Areas as defined by the Wiltshire & Swindon Local Nature Partnership and Landscape Character Types/Areas defined by Wiltshire Council (see **Evidence Base** for further details).

These Strategic GBI Areas are a key part of how the Strategy will be delivered. Informed by the review of existing priorities and opportunities, Wiltshire Council will work with partners to identify and keep track of future priorities and opportunities for improving the management of Wiltshire's GBI Network across each of the Strategic GBI Areas in line with this Strategy's goals.

For example, Wiltshire Council will work with partners to develop Nature Recovery Networks based on the Wiltshire & Swindon Landscape Biodiversity Areas Framework, which identify priorities for restoring, maintaining and enhancing the connectivity of priority habitats at the landscape-scale to help in the recovery of priority species.

The role of the Strategy is to help support these initiatives by developing a shared vision and goals which can draw out ways to integrate our efforts, and prioritise action in pursuit of a multi-functional and better connected GBI network for Wiltshire that helps address our biggest challenges.

2.5 Defining Local GBI Priorities & Opportunities

In addition to looking at landscape-scale opportunities within Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Areas, we also need to focus in on towns where a significant level of change is expected. The protection and enhancement of Wiltshire's GBI Network will be crucial in helping to ensure that the growth set out in the Wiltshire Local Plan can be delivered in a sustainable manner.

In particular, the development proposed in the Local Plan will necessitate a focus on improving GBI provision within the Principal Settlements and Market Towns, particularly along river and canal corridors. Development also offers potential opportunities to create new and enhanced linkages between the towns and the countryside for people and wildlife.

Set within the context of the Wiltshire-wide Strategic GBI Network, Settlement GBI Frameworks will be developed to highlight key needs and opportunities for improving Local GBI Networks in and around the Principal Settlements and Market Towns identified for growth in the new Local Plan over the period to 2036 (see **Box 2.3** and **Map 2.16**).

BOX 2.3 List of Potential Settlement GBI Frameworks

Principal Settlements:

- Chippenham
- Salisbury
- Trowbridge

Market Towns:

- Amesbury, Bulford & Durrington
- Bradford on Avon
- Calne
- Corsham
- Devizes
- Malmesbury
- Marlborough
- Melksham & Bowerhill Village
- Royal Wootton Bassett
- Tidworth & Ludgershall
- Warminster
- Westbury
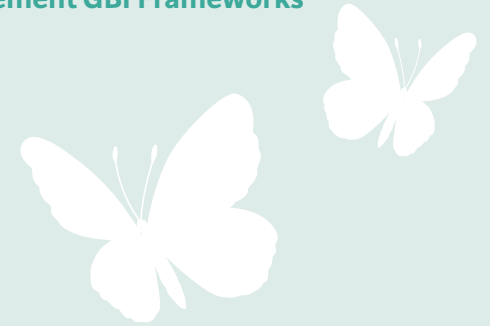
MAP 2.16 Potential Settlement GBI Frameworks
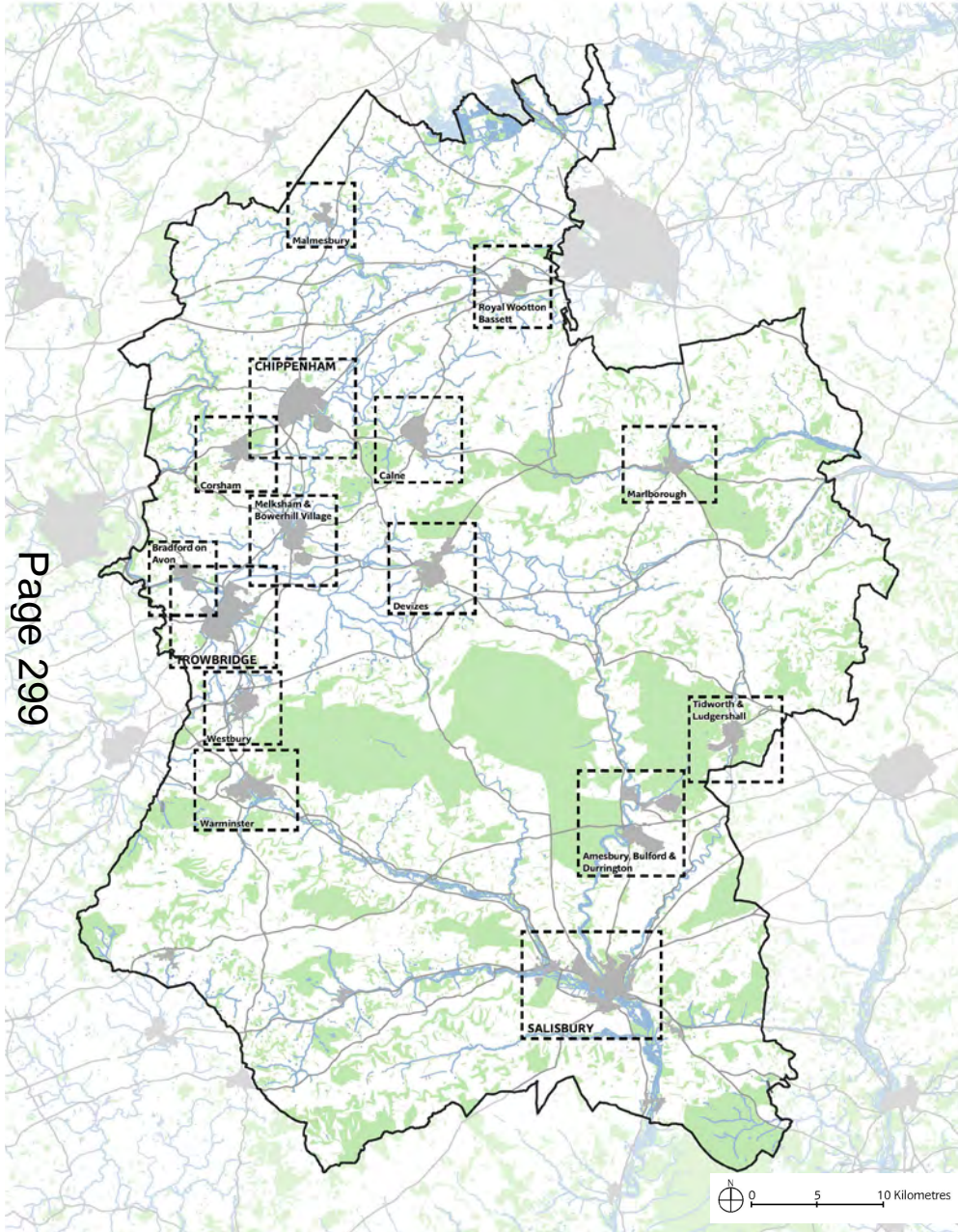
Local needs and opportunities will be informed by the GBI **Evidence Base** and through engagement with town and parish councils, and other local stakeholders as appropriate.

The Settlement GBI Frameworks will have a central role in informing local planning and delivery of GBI to support planned sustainable growth of these communities.

In addition to supporting the Local Plan's place-making approach, the Frameworks will also provide a tool for identifying shared priorities for improving Local GBI Networks in line with this Strategy's goals through partnerships and specific local initiatives.

While Settlement GBI Frameworks will not be developed for all settlements in Wiltshire, any town or village may wish to collate and develop its own local priorities and objectives for GBI linked into their Neighbourhood Plan.

Developing the Vision - the Big Challenges

Our Vision for GBI in Wiltshire

Our Goals for GBI

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Section three - Our shared vision

3.1 Developing the Vision - the Big Challenges

> *'The most important issue of the 21st century will be the condition of the global environment'*
>
> **(Ian McHarg, Design with Nature)**

There are many challenges, global and local. However, the following three overarching themes are important considerations for all well-managed, multi-functional GBI networks:

- **Climate Change**
- **Biodiversity**
- **Health & Wellbeing**

Our environment faces big challenges for current and future generations. The scale of human impact on the planet has never been greater than it is now.

At a global level, the 20th century brought many technological benefits and changes to our way of life, but we have also experienced unprecedented expansion in population, consumption, energy use, waste and pollution, and the conversion of land to agriculture.

Climate change is a defining issue of our times that will have serious impacts for future generations…

There is a growing body of scientific evidence that suggests that the UK's climate is changing, causing higher average temperatures and increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Climate change is one of the greatest threats to Wiltshire's GBI assets, as well as our economy and society more broadly. The resultant environmental change will have significant impacts on wildlife, natural processes and human populations.

The GBI network can play an important role in the mitigation of environmental impacts of climate change and GBI solutions are increasingly central to climate change adaptation. In response to the global climate crisis, Wiltshire Council's ambition is to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030. National policy requires local planning policies to address provisions of the Climate Act (see **Box 3.1**), Wiltshire Council has committed to a goal of achieving net zero carbon and becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The council has developed a draft Climate Strategy which sets out high-level objectives across 7 themes, including 'Natural Environment, Food and Farming' which has close links with the GBI Strategy.

BOX 3.1 National Policy & Climate Change

National planning policy requires local planning policies to be in line with the objectives and provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008. In August 2019, the Climate Change Act was amended to set a target for carbon emissions in the UK to become net zero carbon by 2050.
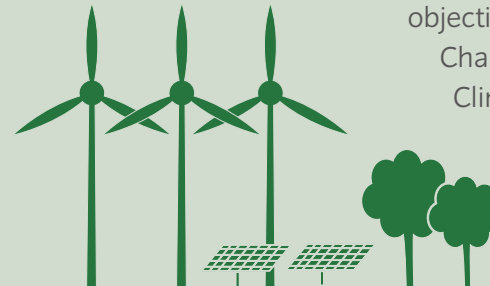
Net zero carbon means, on balance, not creating more CO2 than is stored up or offset. Any carbon emissions we create through burning fossil fuels must be balanced out by schemes to absorb it back out of the atmosphere – such as planting trees or using technology such as carbon capture and storage.

In reality, we can only absorb and offset a small amount of CO_2. This means the vast majority of our energy needs must be met by renewable forms of energy, and this will only be possible by reducing our energy use drastically.

With the Council seeking to be carbon neutral by 2030 it is likely to present both challenges and opportunities for Wiltshire's landscapes, wildlife, businesses (including agriculture) and communities.

Scenarios could include large-scale planting of trees and woodlands to store carbon and reduce flood risk; substantially increased woodland to help store carbon and planting of street trees to help counter the urban heat effect; and/or reducing carbon emissions through increased renewable energy generation.

Our Local Plan will play a key role in helping us achieve this challenge. It will influence where we plan for development, and how it is designed, as we move towards low-carbon lifestyles and encourage low carbon activities and alternatives to private car use.

Balancing measures for combatting climate with other land use planning priorities will be a significant challenge, which will require novel ways of thinking and strong leadership. As well as carbon reduction and climate change mitigation, we also need to put measures in place to help us adapt and be more resilient to a changing climate.

Flood risk cannot be eliminated but it can be managed to protect lives, communities and economic growth. Climate change is increasing the risk of flooding, and population growth means more people are likely to live in affected areas.

In recent years we have been experiencing greater incidents of flooding in the UK. The situation is likely to intensify as temperatures continue to rise: a warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture, leading to heavier rainfall; oceans are likely to become more acid, polar ice reduce and sea-levels rise.

Wiltshire's Surface Water Management Plan suggests that Wiltshire has a significant number of settlements that are susceptible to surface water flooding with up to 16,000 properties estimated to be at risk.

Under UK climate change projections, median rainfall in the South West of England is predicted to rise from 6-18% in 2020 to 18-41% by 2050, suggesting heavier, more intense rainfall during winter months.

Halting the significant decline of biodiversity is now widely recognised as a major global and local issue…

Biological diversity, or 'Biodiversity', is simply the variety of life on Earth – the variety of ecosystems or habitats, of species and of the genetic diversity they contain. We value wildlife in its own right but biodiversity also underpins much of the economic and social benefit we gain from nature.

The ecological network of diverse terrestrial and freshwater habitats across Wiltshire support a wide variety of flora and fauna. A healthy and biodiverse environment is important to ensure Wiltshire's future prosperity and the wellbeing of all who live, work and visit here.

Wiltshire on the face of it seems very green. However, in recent decades biodiversity in the area has been decreasing. Rural areas are dominated by agricultural land, which in some areas is often not biodiverse, and in urban areas the loss of gardens and increase in urban uses often reduces biodiversity. Where chalk streams run very low due to over-abstraction of groundwater, this can impact on riparian wildlife.

In line with national policy (see **Box 3.2**), we will explore how the Local Plan can improve the GBI network for biodiversity as part of the overall development strategy for the area and the wider response to climate change.

BOX 3.2 National Policy & Biodiversity

National planning policy requires us to protect and enhance valued wildlife habitats and sites of biodiversity importance. It also requires development to achieve a net gain for biodiversity to ensure habitats for wildlife are enhanced and left in a measurably better state than they were in before development.

Local Plans need to take a strategic approach to promoting the restoration and enhancement of the GBI network, taking into account its varied benefits including supporting biodiversity, providing opportunities for recreation, mitigating and adapting to climate change and enhancing landscape character.

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© Vincent Van Zalinge

© Andrew Smith

© Ewout van Sabben

© Peter Taylor

© Daniel Morris

© Venkata Suresh

Unhealthy lifestyles and lack of access to green space is an increasing well-being issue for many…

Wiltshire overall is a prosperous area, but it includes communities and individuals that do not experience the benefits of this wealth. Within Wiltshire, there are specific health and well-being issues facing some of those living in urban communities (such as poor air quality along some road corridors and access to local green space) and in rural communities (such as limited access to services and transport).

BOX 3.3 National Policy and Health & Wellbeing

National planning policy requires that Local Plans should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places by:

Creating places that promote social interaction between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other.

Making sure places are safe and accessible so that the fear of crime does not undermine quality of life.

Supporting healthy lifestyles by provision of greenspaces and sports facilities, and opportunities to walk and cycle in accordance with the Local Transport Plan

- Meeting the variety of needs in our community.

Plans need to ensure development is right for its location, and consider impacts of the development itself, including for issues like air quality and noise. Plans should also consider how they can contribute to the achievement of wider objectives, such as in Air Quality Management Plans.

…and poorly designed places can also reduce the well-being benefits of growth and new development

Wiltshire is a largely rural area with a nationally valued and distinctive landscape, including the iconic Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site. In addition to the historic cathedral city of Salisbury, Wiltshire contains numerous market towns and villages, many of which are cherished for their architectural heritage and distinctive qualities, making them very desirable places to live and to visit.

Some of Wiltshire's towns have experienced growth over recent years, but we have a track record as a place where good contemporary design and the historic environment co-exist in harmony.

The need for sustainable growth supported by resilient infrastructure is also a key issue...

Achieving strong economic growth and successfully developing strong and resilient communities depends on a healthy natural environment. The need for a green economic recovery after the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic is at the forefront of national and local government strategy.

Planning for jobs, homes and community facilities must be fully integrated with the planning of a resilient, multi-functional green and blue infrastructure network.

For development to be sustainable, we need to ensure that infrastructure is available to support new jobs and homes. Traditionally, people think about transport, schools and health facilities, utility networks like water and power, and telecommunications such as broadband. However, Green and Blue Infrastructure is equally important and must be considered in combination, in order to provide socio-economic, environmental and health benefits.

Resilient infrastructure that combines green/blue and grey infrastructure and makes full use of nature-based solutions will be key to supporting sustainable growth (see **Box 3.4**).

BOX 3.4 Blending Green/Blue and Grey Infrastructure

Combining green/blue and traditional grey infrastructure while creating assets, such as parks, not only contributes to clean air and storm water retention but also provide public amenities that improve quality of life. From renewable energy to sustainable transport systems, the environmental benefits of integrating GBI and grey infrastructure assets are manifold:

- Sustainable grey infrastructure assets can help manage climate and natural hazards, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, manage natural capital and enhance resource use efficiency.
- Integrating GBI such as trees and woodlands, following the "Right Tree Right Place" principle, into grey infrastructure assets can improve air quality and contribute to removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, increase flood protection and prevent soil erosion.
- Green roofs, where viable, act as giant sponges, soaking up rain water before it pollutes waterbodies, assisting with flood control and, collectively, can reduce temperatures in towns during the summer.

Our big themes for the GBI Strategy...

Through looking at the challenges faced by Wiltshire in its local and global context, three big themes stand out that form a basis for the GBI Strategy's vision, goals and implementation:

- Mitigation, adaptation & resilience to climate change
- Halting the loss of & improving biodiversity
- Contributing to health & well-being
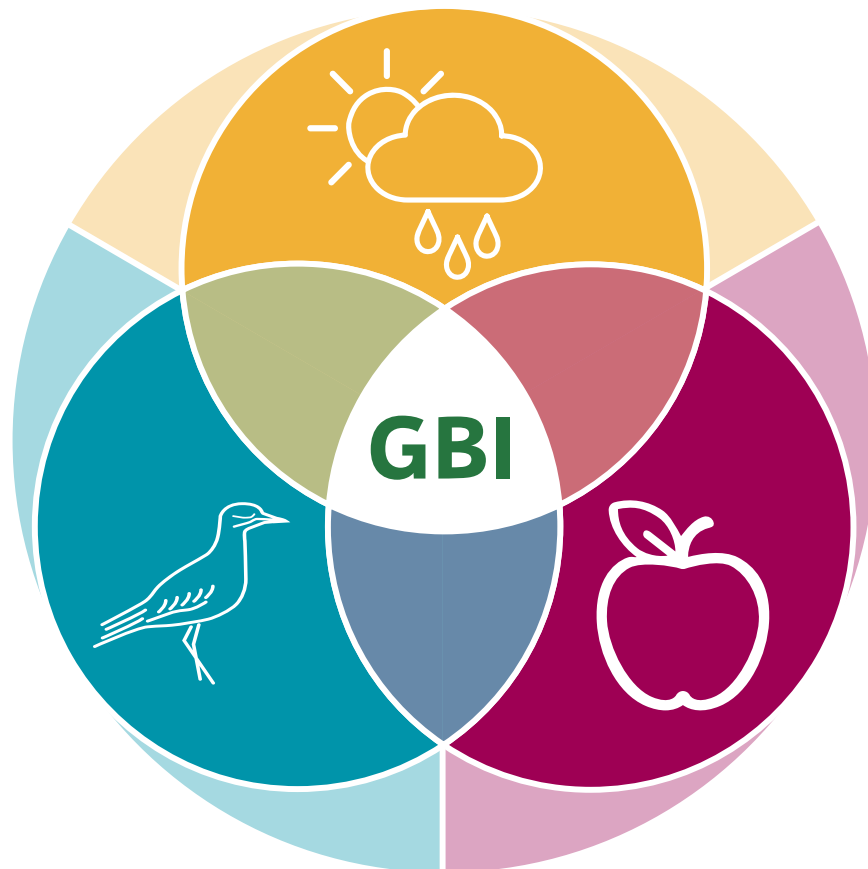
3.2   Our Vision for GBI in Wiltshire

GBI has an important role to play in helping address many of the big challenges facing our environment...

The natural environment is one of our most valuable assets. Our diverse and distinctive downland landscapes, wildlife and iconic world heritage help define Wiltshire. Nature underpins our wellbeing and prosperity, and the aspiration is for our communities, businesses and visitors to benefit from Wiltshire's natural capital.

The natural environment has the capacity to deliver multiple well-being benefits to the citizens of Wiltshire. These benefits include clean water, flood protection, space for leisure and recreation, food and fuel production, a sense of tranquillity, jobs and economic activity associated with a range of sectors including forestry, tourism, leisure and agriculture.

If future generations are going to realise the benefits that the natural environment can provide, then we need to pass on natural areas in a healthier and better condition than they are now. This means that we need to work together to develop approaches which protect and enhance the health of our natural resources as an important asset for Wiltshire.

Our shared vision and goals for GBI in Wiltshire have been shaped by discussions with a wide range of partners and stakeholders.

Our shared long-term vision for Wiltshire's GBI Network…

Wiltshire's multi-functional network of high quality, biodiverse and accessible green and blue infrastructure is widely valued by our communities, businesses and visitors.

Managed sustainably through strong leadership and partnerships, the green and blue infrastructure network provides a range of well-being benefits for people, places and nature across Wiltshire.

As a result of working with natural processes to support delivery of multi-functional ecosystem services, Wiltshire is better able to adapt to a changing climate and biodiversity loss has been reversed.

Networks of green and blue spaces and corridors in the countryside and our towns support access to nature and healthy lifestyles, and provide high quality landscapes and beautiful places for people to live, work and visit.

This GBI Strategy provides a framework for delivery of our vision…

The GBI Strategy is intended to set a framework that can be responsive to opportunities and constraints - such as land ownership, community aspirations, access to funding, land drainage requirements, development opportunities, conservation considerations, etc.

This vision is supported by the Strategic and Local GBI Networks outlined in **Section 2.0** and will be reflected in the Settlement GBI Frameworks. Together, these focus attention on priority areas, at the strategic and local level, that need to be safeguarded and managed to create a multi-functional network of green and blue spaces and links, for which investment can deliver the greatest range of benefits.
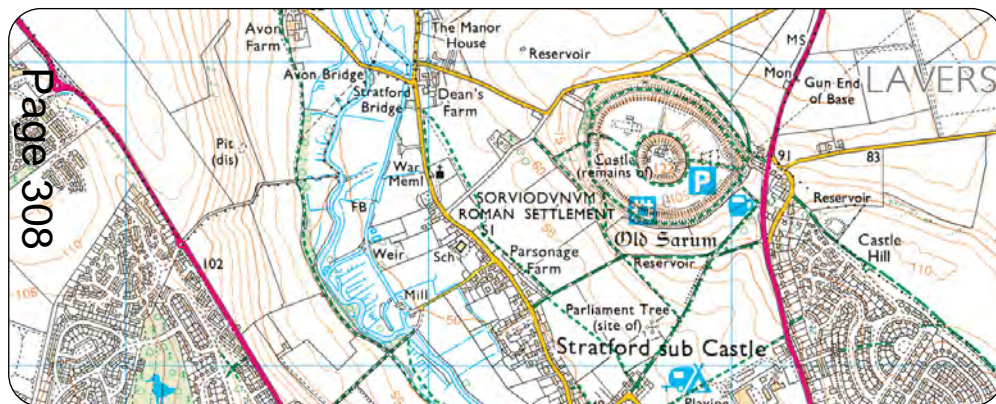
The GBI Networks encompass a range of GBI assets, functions, locations, sizes and levels of accessibility and use, and operates at every spatial scale and in all geographic areas, both rural and urban.

It provides the context for the delivery of strategic and local GBI interventions for improving the quality and connectivity of existing GBI assets, as well as the creation of new GBI assets in areas where there are identified needs.

As highlighted in **Box 3.5**, it is important to ensure that the integrity of the overall GBI Network is not compromised by inappropriate development or land management.

> **BOX 3.5 Safeguarding the Integrity of the GBI Network**
>
> In order to ensure that the integrity of the overall GBI Network is not compromised by inappropriate development or land management, there needs to be flexibility in how the GBI Network is protected and managed.
>
> In cases where there is an unavoidable harm to existing GBI assets in order to meet essential social and economic needs, this should be offset by mitigation and compensation measures to enhance the functionality of other GBI assets elsewhere within the GI Network. However, some habitats, such as ancient woodlands, are irreplaceable and need protection in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework.
>
> Where development is planned within or in close proximity to a GBI asset, it should become an integral feature to the layout, design and 'identity' of the development to ensure that the connectivity of the GBI Network for both public benefit and biodiversity is retained and enhanced.

Focusing investment on management of Wiltshire's existing GBI assets to improve their condition and quality is a clear priority for strengthening the resilience of the Strategic and Local GBI Networks - in particular, management of natural and semi-natural greenspaces, urban trees and urban green spaces.

Effective protection of existing GBI assets where under pressure from land use changes, inappropriate management and use, pests and diseases and/or climate change is also of importance. Addressing deficits in local GBI provision to meet the existing and future needs of communities in Wiltshire who are likely to experience growth-related pressures is also a priority.

The Strategic GBI Network paints the 'big picture' for GBI in Wiltshire…

Comprising a mosaic of land uses, natural features and habitats, built heritage, archaeological resources and towns and villages, the multi-functional Strategic GBI Network illustrated on **Map 2.1** has the potential to deliver a range of economic, environmental and social well-being benefits for people, place and nature in Wiltshire.

The Strategic GBI Network provides a framework for identifying priorities and opportunities to improve ecological connectivity at a landscape–scale by creating more, on a bigger scale with better management of more joined up habitats.

Buffering and extending designated wildlife sites by restoration of habitats creates stepping stones and corridors for dispersal of wildlife between these sites. Provision of pollen/nectar-rich wildflower habitats support bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

A network of green and blue access links provide multi-user, predominantly off-road, strategic access routes for pedestrians and cyclists including existing Rights of Way, linking and integrating residential and business areas to public transport services, leisure destinations and urban green spaces across Wiltshire's towns While these links have the primary function of providing access and recreational route linkages, with appropriate management they also provide corridors for wildlife dispersal to the designated wildlife sites.

The access network that connects communities in Wiltshire's towns and villages via the national cycle network to major destinations providing accessible natural greenspace - such as the Cotswolds AONB and Cotswolds Water Park, the North Wessex Downs and Avebury, Salisbury Plain and Stonehenge, Cranborne Chase AONB and the New Forest National Park.

New access connections along some sections of the links may be needed and existing access upgraded where appropriate to accommodate cycle use, such as along canal towpaths.
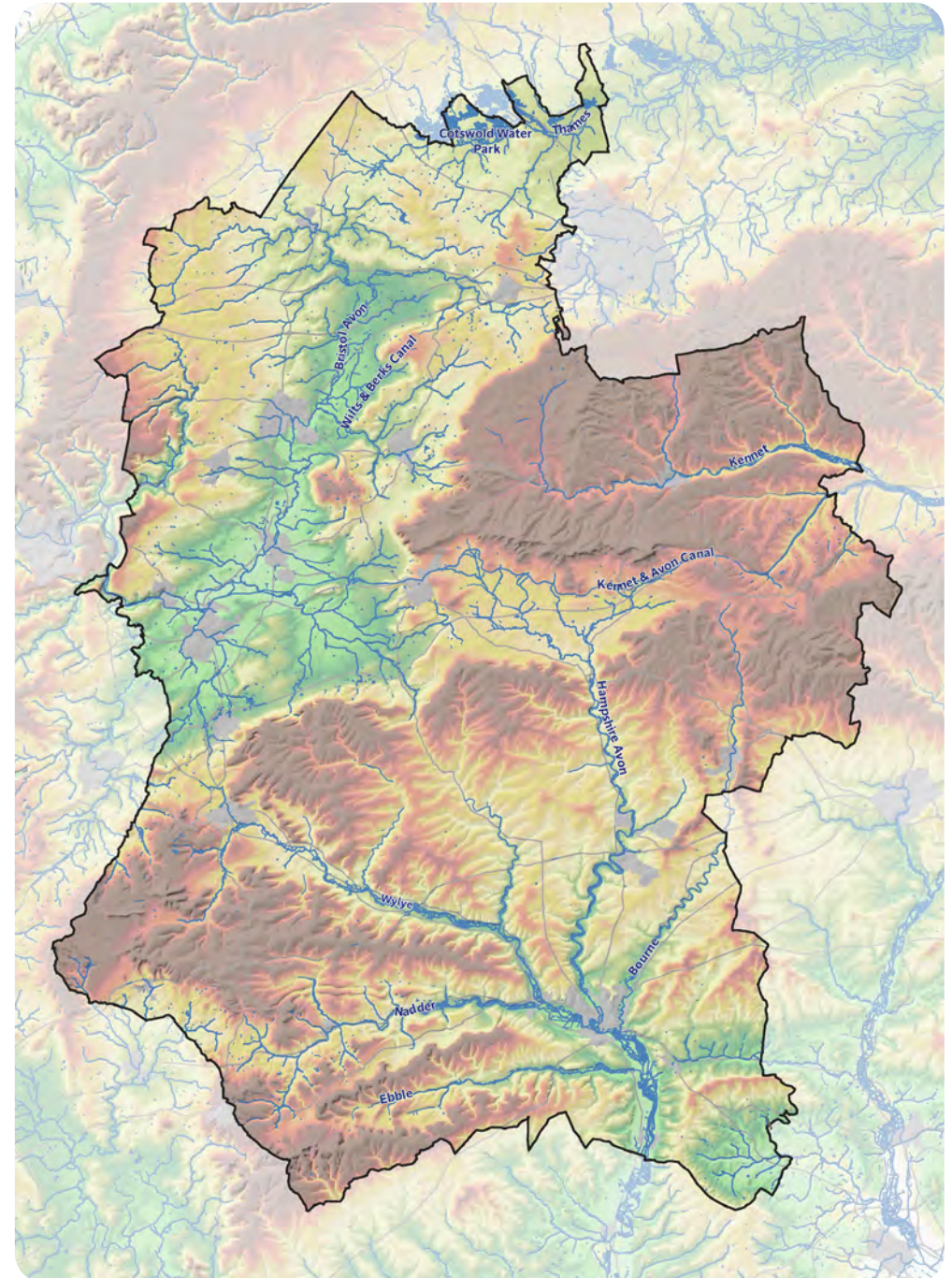
The Local GBI Networks highlight needs and opportunities for Wiltshire's key settlements...

Set within the context of the Wiltshire-wide Strategic GBI Network, the Local GBI Networks set out in the Settlement GBI Frameworks will identify GBI assets threading through the built environment, weaving together urban green spaces in areas where people live and work with public transport networks and the wider countryside.

With investment and appropriate management, the Local GBI Networks can deliver a range of well-being benefits for local communities.

GBI in and around settlements provides communities with green and blue spaces for recreation and access to nature and contributes to sense of place and sustainable travel opportunities by providing safe active travel routes for walking and cycling.

Street trees, woodlands and amenity greenspace in urban areas help counter the 'urban heat island effect' by providing shade to regulate the micro-climate, and domestic gardens and green roofs/walls, where viable, can provide linkages for wildlife through built-up areas.

These local GBI Assets also help in managing surface water runoff in urban areas and mitigate flooding and conveyance of pollutants to watercourses.

Local GBI needs and opportunities will be identified through the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans prepared by town/parish councils with the support of Wiltshire Council, and Community Environmental Plans developed using the Wiltshire Community Environmental Toolkit.

In a nutshell, our vision can be summarised as:

*   **More GBI** – creating new GBI assets to protect, enhance and expand what we already have.

*   **Higher Quality GBI** – improved and well-managed, resilient and multifunctional GBI Networks

*   **Better Connected GBI** – active travel networks that link people and wildlife throughout our towns and countryside.

3.3   Our Goals for GBI

In working towards achieving our long-term vision, we will focus action on delivering positive outcomes and benefits from investment in Wiltshire's GBI Network under the following three big themes illustrated on **Diagram 3.1**.

- **Mitigation, adaptation & resilience to climate change**
- **Halting the loss of & improving biodiversity**
- **Contributing to health & well-being**

These themes reflect the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (Goal 13); halt biodiversity loss (Goal 15); and to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (Goal 3).

In addition, the GBI Strategy will also make a contribution to many of the other UN Sustainable Development Goals - including Goal 6 (clean water); Goal 7 (clean energy); Goal 8 (sustainable economic growth); Goal 9 (resilient infrastructure); Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities); and Goal 12 (sustainable water, energy and food consumption/production).

We will act locally to achieve outcomes that contribute to national goals and targets for improving the UK's environment set out in the Government's 25-year Environment Plan published in 2018 (see **Box 3.6**).

> **BOX 3.6   Government's 25-year Environment Plan Goals**
>
> By adopting this Plan, we will achieve:
>
> 1. Clean air.
> 2. Clean and plentiful water.
> 3. Thriving plants and wildlife.
> 4. A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards (eg flooding/drought).
> 5. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently.
> 6. Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.
>
> In addition, we will manage pressures on the environment by:
>
> 7. Mitigating and adapting to climate change.
> 8. Minimising waste.
> 9. Managing exposure to chemicals.
> 10. Enhancing biosecurity.
>
> **25-Year Environment Plan Targets**

DIAGRAM 3.1 Wiltshire GBI Vision

OUTCOMES

Urban Cooling

Carbon Storage

Water & Soil Quality

ACTIONS

Air Quality

Flood Storage

Adaptation

Mitigation

Management

THEMES

Better Habitats

Conservation & Enhancement

Physical Health

Bigger Habitats

Climate Change

GBI

Access

Biodiversity

Health & Well-being

Mental Health

Creation & Restoration

Activity

More Habitats

Biodiversity Net Gain

Food

Sense of Place

Connected Habitats

Community Empowerment

Greener Development

Greener Living

OUTCOMES

ACTIONS

THEMES

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Our goals for improving Wiltshire's GBI Network are framed around the vision's 3 themes...

Goal 1: Mitigation, adaptation and resilience to climate change

By 2030, we will have increased our ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change through adoption of nature-based solutions...

Working in partnership we will do this by:

- Contributing to national targets and Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy objectives for cutting greenhouse gas emissions (including from urban and rural land use change, opportunities for active travel, and the agriculture and waste sectors)

- Considering the best nature-based pathways to help support 'Net Zero' for the county

- Supporting the delivery of climate change adaptation strategies and management plans for Wiltshire to improve its resilience to impacts of climate change associated with a 2°C temperature rise

- Reducing risks of harm from natural hazards through adoption of natural flood and water management approaches alongside traditional grey infrastructure at the local and catchment level

- Contributing to national targets for reducing over-abstraction of water, and meeting water quality objectives for biodiversity and drinking water

- By promoting nature-based carbon removal from the atmosphere through better soil management, the protection of existing natural carbon sinks and the promotion of tree and woodland establishment.

Goal 2: Halting loss of and improving biodiversity

By 2030, we will have gained a more biodiverse and resilient ecological network in Wiltshire...

Working in partnership, we will do this by:

- Supporting the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy to help build resilience to climate change and provide opportunities for species and ecosystem recovery.

- Helping to restore our terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term.

- Creating or restoring wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network, focusing on priority habitats as part of a wider set of land management changes providing extensive benefits.

- Taking action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species of animals, plants and fungi, and where possible to prevent human induced extinction or loss of known threatened species.

- Increasing carbon storage capacity of woodlands in England in line with the Government's aspiration of 12% woodland cover by 2060 in England involving planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042.

Goal 3: Contributing to health and well-being

By 2030, we will have increased the health and well-being benefits of access to nature, and improved the sustainable use and health of our natural resources...

Working in partnership, we will do this by:

- Safeguarding and enhancing the outstanding natural beauty and character of our landscapes to enhance a sense of place and support the local economy.

- Help make sure that there are high quality, accessible green spaces close to where people live and work, particularly to help adapt to climate change in urban areas.

- Encouraging more people to be active outdoors, participate in active travel opportunities and get involved with community food growing by encouraging better access to our GBI networks

- Empowering communities to get more involved in the management and protection of local GBI, taking ownership of local GBI assets and managing them for the benefit of the whole community where necessary.

- Improving our approach to sustainable soil, food and forestry management.

- Enhancing biosecurity measures to protect our wildlife and livestock, boost the resilience of plants and trees to pests and diseases and tackle invasive non-native species.

- Promoting nature-based solutions to improve air quality for people in locations that fail to meet national standards

Our key priorities for action...

While good progress has been made in recent decades to improve Wiltshire's environment, there is much more that we can still do to deliver GBI benefits for people, places and nature.

We recognise that some of the goals for GBI outlined above are likely to take longer than others to achieve.   So we have identified six key priorities for action to deliver GBI benefits in the short-medium term (see **Box 3.7**).

> ### BOX 3.7 Priorities for Action
>
> 1. **Creating more and better green spaces in our towns** to help prevent flooding and attract people to live, work and invest in the area.
> 2. **Planting the right trees in the right places** to support natural flood management, contribute to carbon net zero targets and strengthen ecological connectivity, provide shade and improve air quality.
> 3. **Supporting access to nature** via a viable walking and cycling network
> 4. **Encouraging environmentally sensitive farming** in ways that enhance soil quality, sequester carbon, encourage wildlife, produce food and provide employment.
> 5. **Supporting a green economic recovery** from the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic
> 6. **Embedding GBI into development and place-making** to include nature-based solutions such as implementing sustainable drainage systems, green roofs and living walls

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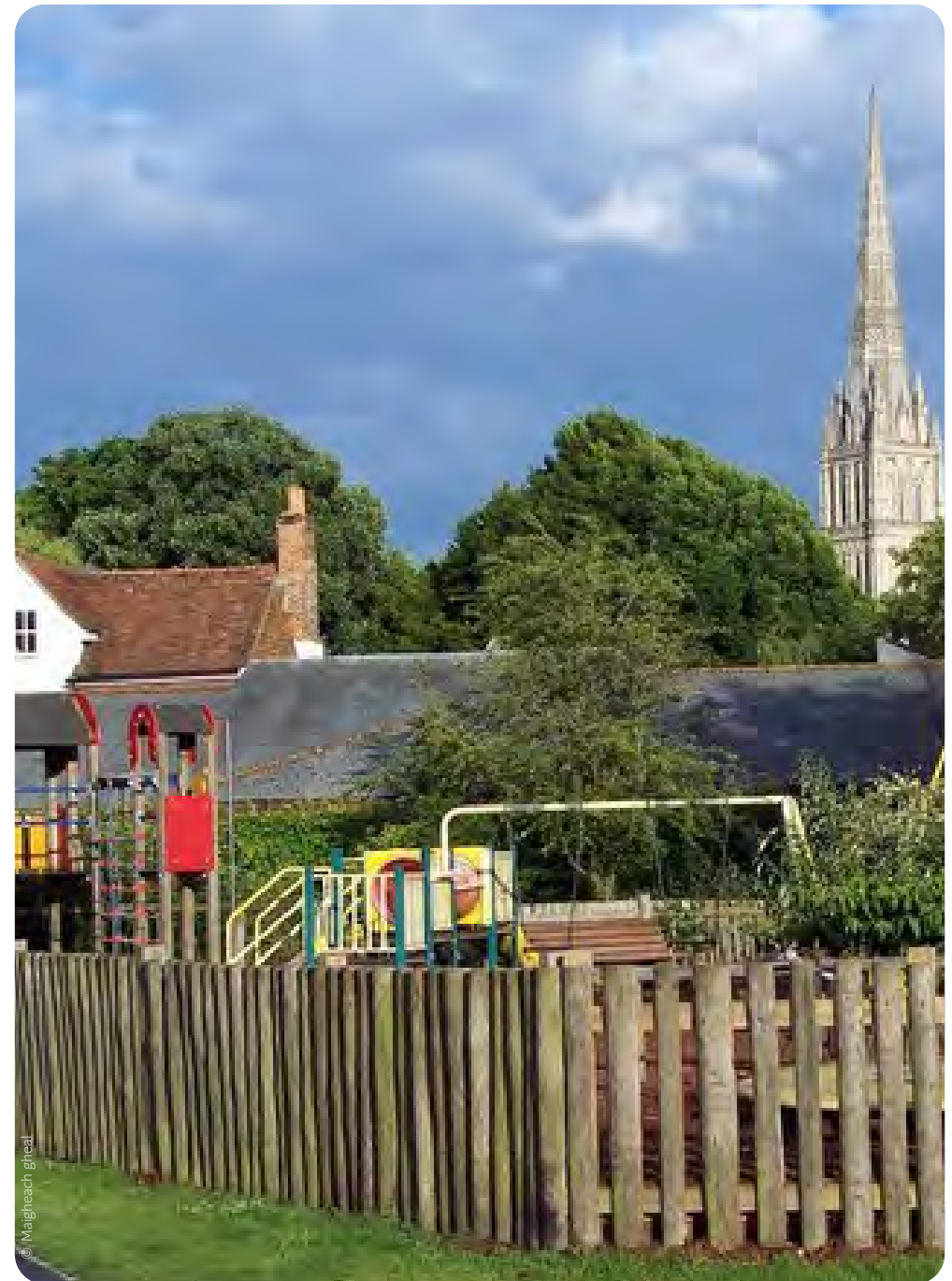
Section four - Delivering the vision

4.1   Overview

Our vision is for a high quality, well-connected and multi-functional GBI network in Wiltshire...

This GBI Strategy is the start of a new way of working, in partnership, across Wiltshire and beyond, to achieve the shared vision and goals.

Although the Strategy will need to evolve as things change, we have identified some immediate priorities. Work will focus on the priorities highlighted in **Box 3.3** to start with, whilst further priorities and opportunities are identified in support of the Strategy's three overarching goals.

Any actions that are undertaken in support of the Strategy must contribute to a high-quality, well-connected and multi-functional GBI network that achieves benefits for people, place and nature.

These are broken down into delivery themes and a set of principles to guide future initiatives and decisions.

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4.2   Delivery Themes

💧 Flooding & Water Management

🚜 Sustainable Farming & Land Management

🦋 Nature Recovery & Landscape Management

🌳 Woodland & Trees

💛 Healthy Living

£ Economic Recovery & Valuing Natural Capital

The areas of work outlined here will be an important contribution towards achieving our priorities. These are areas where often there are commitments already in place and a level of agreement between Wiltshire GBI partners. But further specific actions will need to be developed with the relevant partners.

Also included are some examples of work already happening.

Theme 1: Flooding & Water Management

We will encourage greater use of natural flood risk management solutions…

In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, the GBI Network and Strategy will be used as a starting point for planning developments that are flood resilient and do not increase flood risk.

In addition, we will also encourage greater use of natural flood risk management solutions alongside traditional flood defence infrastructure as highlighted below.

Natural flood management solutions

The GBI Strategy seeks to promote the use of more nature-based flood management solutions where appropriate, developed in accordance with the principles of the Working with Natural Processes (WWNP) approach to reducing flood risk (see **Box 4.1**).

Natural flood management can play an important role in flood risk management alongside more traditional defences (see case study in **Box 4.2**).

Techniques can include river bank restoration, reconnecting rivers with their flood plains and storing water temporarily on open land. Building leaky debris dams can reduce soil erosion and trap sediment, protect water courses and manage water flow. Trees have an important role to play as a nature-based solution to flooding and water management. Trees can:

- Catch rainfall to prevent water reaching the soil and adding to flooding, which can amount to 40% of annual rainfall
- Increase infiltration of water deep into the soil reducing surface water flows and recharging the ground water, helping prevent future drought
- Stabilise soil and prevent erosion
- "Slow the flow" by increasing surface roughness, helping to reduce flooding
- Provide woody material for leaky debris dams

By working with natural processes, we can better protect ourselves from hazards such as flooding while delivering wider benefits such as better wildlife habitats, recreation opportunities and water quality. For example, floodplain meadows can lock up significant amounts of carbon in the soil, and landscape-scale restoration of flower-rich floodplain meadows offers the potential to deliver multiple benefits.

BOX 4.1 The Working with Natural Processes Approach to Reducing Flood Risk

Working with Natural Processes (WWNP) to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk (FCRM) involves implementing measures that help to protect, restore and emulate the natural functions of catchments, floodplains, rivers and the coast. WWNP takes many different forms and can be applied in urban and rural areas, and on rivers, estuaries and coasts.

The WWNP evidence base provides flood risk managers with access to up-to-date information on WWNP measures to understand their potential multiple benefits; any gaps in knowledge; where it has been done before and any lessons learnt; and where in a catchment they might be most effective.

WWNP Evidence Base

BOX 4.2 Case Study: Hills to Levels Project, Somerset

The drained, farmed landscape of the Somerset Levels provides a testing case for working with natural process, one which local partners have risen to address.

Work is underway to 'slow the flow' of water from the hills to the Levels, across a large catchment ($2,871km^2$). The project's measures are working to improve infiltration of rainfall into soils, intercept runoff by diversion and attenuation, slow the flow in-stream and attenuate flood water on re-connected floodplains.

So far this has helped protect properties in the upper catchment that suffer from surface water flooding and 150 properties in and around the Somerset Levels. The project has provided approximately $15,000m^3$ of floodwater storage in water attenuation features alone.

Sustainable Drainage Systems

Surface water flooding poses a significant and increasing risk, which can lead to sewer flooding and environmental pollution.

The GBI Strategy seeks to promote the increased use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), especially in new developments (see **Box 4.3**).

> **BOX 4.3 Sustainable Drainage Systems**
>
> Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) manage surface water run-off from rainfall close to where it falls in a more natural way, reducing pressure on existing piped systems and therefore reducing risk of flooding. SuDS can include permeable surfaces, storage tanks and ponds to reduce the risk of surface water flooding.
>
> In addition to providing flood risk mitigation, well-designed SuDS can increase property value and enhance the GBI of a development.
>
> SuDS can moderate microclimate, benefit ecology, improve water quality and provide amenity spaces with opportunities for recreation, exercise and active travel. SuDS can also help make communities more resilient to climate change. The cost of SuDS construction can also work out much cheaper than traditional drainage methods if planned properly from the very start.
>
> Good practice guidance for major new developments is provided by **Water People Places – a guide for master planning sustainable drainage into developments (2013)**.

We will work with developers and planners to realise the multiple benefits of designing SUDS as both flood mitigation and local GBI for the benefit of wildlife and recreation (see case study in **Box 4.4**).

In its capacity as Lead Local Flood Authority, Wiltshire Council is a statutory consultee on surface water drainage for all new major developments in Wiltshire.

The Council provides advice to applicants on meeting the requirements of **Defra's National Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage**, the evidence required to support an application and what standard conditions may be with respect to surface water drainage.

Wiltshire Council will work together with water and sewerage companies, highways authorities and other risk management authorities to manage flood risk and adoption and maintenance of SuDS.

> **BOX 4.4 Case Study: Sustainable Drainage Systems at Sandpit Lane housing development, Calne**
>
> In 2010, planning permission was granted for up to 350 dwellings to be developed on a site to the east of Calne.
>
> In order to support this major urban extension to the town, a Sustainable Drainage System was required to accommodate drainage from the site and reduce the impact of surface flooding in the town centre downstream where properties are known to be at increasing risk from fluvial flooding as a result of climate change. An attenuation pond was created close to the nearby Abberd Brook in 2012 in order to serve the developments drainage needs, and was designed to include areas of wildflower grassland, wetland margins and an access track.
>
> The system is managed sensitively for biodiversity and one year on it already has well established habitats supporting a range of birds, amphibians and invertebrates, and is used by residents for recreation. In addition to supporting sustainable development and reducing future flood risk for Calne, this feature has helped to reinforce landscape character in the Abberd Brook valley, provided a place for local residents to connect with nature, and created a refuge to help local wildlife thrive and move through the landscape.

We will encourage greater respect for nature in how we use water…

It is vital that we maintain sustainable supplies of water for future generations. We recognise that this will require both reducing demand and increasing supply.

Groundwater supplies and rivers are refilled naturally by rainfall and snow melt. If too much water is extracted too fast, supplies may become depleted or over-abstracted. The affects of drought and heatwaves can also be mitigated by effective GBI.

Groundwater sources can, in some cases, take decades to recharge if they are emptied. Over-abstraction leads to physical changes that, along with other changes we make to watercourses, risk reducing the diverse range of plant and animal life.

Supporting a strong catchment focus that brings together the Environment Agency, abstractors and catchment partnerships to address unsustainable abstraction and to improve access to water is vital.

We will work with water companies to support development of new water resources where needed that can also deliver net environmental benefits.

New supplies may include new large infrastructure schemes, such as reservoirs and water transfers, which are needed to make sure the water industry can provide sufficient water for homes and businesses and reduce abstraction from some sources to protect the environment.

Excessive nutrients and other pollutants from agricultural practices are a key issue for water quality in Wiltshire. There are opportunities to link nutrient reduction measures with wider biodiversity and natural flood management approaches to deliver multi-functional solutions. There is also potential for adopting nature-based solutions for tackling the issue of nutrient neutrality from developments.

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🚜 Theme 2: Sustainable Farming & Land Management

We will support the Government's ambition for a more sustainable farming sector

We will work with our partner organisations to support farmers and land managers across Wiltshire in the adoption of long-term sustainable land management practices (see case study in **Box 4.5**).

We will support the uptake of the new environmental land management system by promoting the benefits of the new approach and continuing to strengthen relationships and coordination between Wiltshire Council, our partner organisations, landowners, the local NFU, and individual farmers.

We will also work with Natural England to provide technical support to our farmers and land managers in securing targeted landscape-scale environmental improvements at a catchment level through the new environmental land management system, guided by Wiltshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (see **Theme 3**).

Healthy and fertile soil is the foundation for farming and forestry. The quality and type of the soil, in part determined by underpinning geology, also influences the distribution of plant species and provides a habitat for a wide range of organisms.

We need to ensure healthier soils by addressing factors in soil degradation such as erosion, compaction and the decline in organic matter.

Agroforestry and regenerative farming practices will be supported to increase biodiversity, enrich soils, improve watersheds, and enhance ecosystem services.

Planting trees and hedgerows as part of an **agroforestry** system has an important role to play as a nature-based solution for supporting wider ecosytem services through sustainable farming and land management. Trees and hedgerows can increase food production potential by rapidly improving soil quality as tree roots ameliorate soil compaction, add nutrients and carbon to the soil more quickly and tree roots also help reduce soil erosion.

In addition to habitat creation, agroforestry also provides fodder, shade and shelter for livestock ensuring healthier and more productive animals.

Regenerative farming encourages farmers to maintain good soil health through adoption of beneficial soil management practices such as making appropriate tillage choices reintroducing grass leys into arable rotations and the use of cover crops, which can help increase crop yields and reduce the risk of environmental damage, and benefit carbon sequestration in coordination with protected landscape management plans.

> ### BOX 4.5 Case Study: a farmer-led approach to environmental enhancement in the Marlborough Downs
>
> The Marlborough Downs Nature Enhancement Partnership is a farmer-led collaborative landscape-scale conservation initiative established in 2015 which Wiltshire Council is a partner. The Partnership's **Marlborough Downs Space for Nature Project** aims to deliver more, on a bigger scale with better management of more joined up habitat to make the Downs a better place for wildlife, local communities and visitors by:
>
> **Improving habitats:** the Partnership is working to ensure all designated **chalk grassland** wildlife sites are managed appropriately, and buffered and extended through habitat restoration where needed to provide stepping stones and corridors for wildlife. It has also created a necklace of traditional downland **dewponds**.
>
> **Improving species recovery:** the Partnership aims to provide nectar-rich grassland habitat for pollinators across the landscape through the **Marlborough Downs Bee Roadzz Project**. It also aims to create habitats for farmland birds and set aside areas for arable plants through the **Marlborough Downs Farmland Bird Project**.
>
> The Partnership undertakes **monitoring** and surveys to evaluate impact of projects on the wildlife, landscape and people of the Marlborough Downs. It also offers opportunities for everyone to learn about the landscape while getting the added benefit of fresh air and exercise through its **Friend of the Marlborough Downs** and **Space for Nature Volunteer** programmes.

🦋 Theme 3: Nature Recovery & Landscape Management

We will develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy to complement and connect our best wildlife sites, providing opportunities for species conservation and reintroduction of species...

As part of changes in the way we manage farmland, woodland and urban green space for multiple benefits, we will develop a well-connected nature recovery network for Wiltshire that offers greater opportunities for wildlife to disperse between increasingly fragmented habitats.

We will work with our partners at a landscape-scale to protect Wiltshire's "biodiversity hotspots", and develop an expanded patchwork of high value habitats, in better condition and in bigger patches that are more closely connected, augmenting our network of protected wildlife sites and linking green spaces in our towns.

In accordance with the Environment Act 2021, we will develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Wiltshire to help build resilience to climate change, and provide opportunities for species and ecosystem recovery, and reintroduction of formerly native species. As well as helping wildlife thrive, this will provide a wide range of additional ecosystem benefits including greater public enjoyment; pollination; carbon capture; water quality improvements and flood management.

We will work with partners to explore opportunities for nature recovery through implementation of Buglife's B-Lines initiative in Wiltshire (see **Box 4.6**). This innovative landscape-scale approach to conservation and restoration of wildflower-rich grassland, meadows and heathlands aims to provide an improved network of habitats for insect pollinators alongside better access to nature for people. Landscape scale 'rewilding' projects offer similar opportunities for nature recovery although their outcomes cannot be so clearly defined and their introduction needs to be undertaken with the consent of the local community.

Wiltshire Council's Highways and Streetscene team are also supporting wildflower growth in road verges by amending management regimes throughout the county.

BOX 4.6 The B-Lines Initiative

Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust - is committed to halting declines in our native insect pollinators, which have suffered significant declines over recent decades as a consequence of habitat loss, pesticide use and other factors.

Native insect pollinators provide an essential 'ecosystem service' and are responsible for pollination of a large proportion of our food crops and our native plants. Further declines could lead to dramatic reductions in crop yields, alongside further deterioration in our native flora. Large areas of wildflower-rich habitat need to be both restored and created to provide essential food and shelter for pollinators.

To increase opportunities for species to move around the countryside as our climate changes, Buglife is promoting the need to identify and develop priority dispersal corridors – The B-Lines.

Buglife B-Lines Initiative Webpages

B-Lines Pollinator Guidance

© Ben Cresswell

Building on, and learning from, the success of the Marlborough Downs Space for Nature Project (see **Box 4.5**), we will work with our partners to identify and explore opportunities for developing catchment or landscape-scale nature recovery areas in other parts of Wiltshire.

Opportunities for piloting landscape-scale "re-wilding" initiatives will also be considered with interested land owners where appropriate.

We will explore opportunities with our partners and communities to promote nature recovery through natural flood management and woodland planting linked to new and existing GBI to extend wildlife corridors into towns.

Using innovative biodiversity opportunity mapping tools and techniques to target areas where action to improve and restore habitats would be most effective, we will work with local communities and businesses to identify opportunities for developing Wiltshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy in ways that offer maximum economic and social gains.

In exploring options for funding delivery of the strategies, we will consider opportunities provided by the new environmental land management system and a wider range of innovative funding mechanisms.

We will also work with partners to monitor and evaluate the wider economic and social benefits of Wiltshire's nature recovery network as it develops.

In addition to providing expanded habitats to support conservation of rare and threatened species populations, we will also work with Natural England, our other partners and local communities to explore opportunities, risks and benefits of reintroducing native species to Wiltshire as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, taking into account their potential to contribute to global and national conservation priorities.

Working with partners, we will continue to raise awareness about the need for biosecurity measures to protect our animals, cultivated crops, native wild plants, trees and woodland and other natural capital in Wiltshire from the threats of pests and diseases and introduction of invasive non-native species.

In line with the Government's Plant Health Biosecurity Strategy, we will encourage stakeholders to implement strong biosecurity and contingency plans for controlling risks from pests and diseases and invasive non-native species in accordance with legislation, national policy and good practice guidance (see **Box 4.7**).

BOX 4.7 Biosecurity

The **Landscape Institute's Plant Health and Biosecurity Toolkit** provides good practice guidance for landscape architects on biosecurity measures for tackling pests and diseases that may affect plant health, and controlling invasive non-native plants that need to be removed or remediated. The toolkit is applicable to all stages of the landscape design process from concept and detailed design through to construction and landscape maintenance.

Breeding bird populations are particularly sensitive to human disturbance, especially in areas such as Salisbury Plain and the New Forest National Park which attract large numbers of recreational visitors from a wide area.

We anticipate that this pressure is likely to increase as Wiltshire's population increases and the tourism industry continues to grow.

Research has shown that providing high quality, accessible green spaces close to where people live can significantly help reduce visits to these more sensitive sites and decrease pressure on sensitive species, while enabling economic growth.

Where internationally designated wildlife sites are identified as being threatened by unsustainable levels of recreational use, we will work with our partners to develop strategies for providing high quality, accessible green space close to where people live (aka Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) to disperse recreational activity away from these sensitive sites, and to monitor impacts of recreational visits.

Embedding ecological enhancements into buildings and structures can also contribute to nature recovery. For example, incorporating measures for encouraging bird nesting and bat roosting, such as bird/bat boxes, ornamental slit holes, swift/bat bricks, stone ledges and wood cladding.

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We will conserve, enhance and celebrate the outstanding natural beauty and character of our landscapes...

The landscape provides the ever-changing backdrop to people's daily lives in Wiltshire and is more than just 'the view' – it is about the relationship between people, place and nature.

Landscape results from the way that different components of the natural and cultural environment interact and are experienced and perceived by people.

As people value landscape for many different reasons, understanding what the landscape is like today, how it evolved and how it is likely to change in the future is important.

Wiltshire's most beautiful landscapes are of national importance as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (the Cotswolds, North Wessex Downs and Cranborne Chase) and as the New Forest National Park. The Stonehenge and Avebury landscapes are also internationally recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We will work with the AONB Partnerships, the National Park Authority, the World Heritage Sites and our other partners to conserve and enhance the special qualities of these valuable GBI assets, including fuller appreciation of the well-being benefits provided by dark skies.

Many of the actions set out in this GBI Strategy will contribute to the objectives of the AONB and National Park management plans for enhancing these nationally protected landscapes, and encouraging people to connect with and celebrate their natural beauty (see case study in **Box 4.8**).

Defra's new Farming in Protected Landscapes programme provides a significant opportunity to fund projects tailored to conserving and enhancing local landscape character, strengthening biodiversity and improving soils delivered in partnership with local farming communities.

BOX 4.8 Case Study: Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Project

Celebrated by artists, archaeologists, scholars and writers, the name 'Cranborne Chase' evokes an ancient landscape with a rich patina of interrelated natural, built and cultural assets. This is a dramatic, distinctive and historic chalk landscape where 'voices in the landscape' can still be heard. Along with a sense of remoteness, tranquillity and a recognised International Dark Sky Reserve, Cranborne Chase offers a deep sense of place.

Located within the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the Cranborne Chase & Chalke Valley Landscape Partnership Project aims to enable a wide range of people to engage in the conservation, celebration and enjoyment of the area's distinctive historic, natural and cultural landscapes.

The Landscape Partnership Project focuses on the traditional heart of the Medieval royal hunting ground, and the river valley to the north known locally as the Chalke Valley. There have always been historical, natural and social links between the valley and the Chase downland, which the project is exploring and reinforcing. A broad range of activities will allow individuals, communities and new audiences to help conserve, enhance, understand and learn about this unique heritage and to become the beating heart of the Cranborne Chase itself.

The Cranborne Chase AONB was awarded a £1.68m grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2019 towards the £2.7m Project.

Cranborne Chase AONB Website

Theme 4: Woodland & Trees

We will contribute to our climate change, biodiversity and health and well-being goals by planting the right trees and woodlands in the right places…

As highlighted in **Box 4.9**, trees, woodlands and hedgerows play an important role in capturing carbon and improving air quality.

> **BOX 4.9   Carbon Capture and Improving Air Quality**
>
> Carbon emissions per person in Wiltshire are 16% higher than England as a whole. However, the long-term trend does indicate that carbon emissions are reducing in Wiltshire in line with regional and national trends. Wiltshire's roads are responsible for half a tonne more CO_2 emissions per person compared to the national average. Use of road vehicles in Wiltshire is predicted to increase by 28% by 2025.
>
> Air quality is reduced in some urban areas due to carbon emissions produced by road transport. Air Quality Management Areas have been declared in Bradford on Avon, Calne, Devizes, Marlborough, Westbury and Salisbury to monitor and alleviate traffic emissions.
>
> Trees, woodlands and hedgerows play an important role in capturing and storing carbon by absorbing CO_2 and acting as carbon sinks. In urban and rural areas, trees and woodlands also help improve air quality by absorbing gaseous pollutants, lowering temperatures, preventing pollutant concentration, and by producing oxygen during photosynthesis.

In addition to capturing carbon and improving air quality, well-placed and well-chosen urban trees can provide a range of other ecosystem services – such as regulating micro-climatic conditions by reducing wind speeds, noise pollution and light levels, providing shade and supporting bats, birds and invertebrates and supporting recreation, wellbeing and providing a pleasant environment and sense of place (see **Box 4.10**).

> **BOX 4.10   Urban Trees**
>
> Well-placed and well-chosen trees on streets and in urban green spaces can provide a range of benefits or ecosystem services such as:
>
> - Reducing noise and excessive heat.
> - Supporting sustainable drainage.
> - Encouraging walking and enhanced physical and mental health.
> - Contributing to local environmental character and distinctiveness.
> - Providing habitats for wildlife.
>
> As a changing climate, in particular hotter summers and more frequent periods of dry weather, and unknown pests and diseases, will place new pressures on GBI in the long-term, selecting trees of the right species and age profile for planting is essential.
>
> The Trees & Design Action Group's **Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure Guide** provides advice on selecting appropriate species for a range of tree planting scenarios in around towns and cities. In addition to guidance on maximising desired ecosystem services from trees, the Guide sets out advice for achieving aesthetic impact through appropriate tree selection.

In line with our ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030, we will work with our partners to develop a target for increasing tree canopy cover in Wiltshire as part of our new Tree & Woodland Strategy.

The Tree & Woodland Strategy will set out a sustainable approach to how Wiltshire can benefit from planting new trees, and expanding woodland through natural regeneration and succession, in line with the following principles:

- **Partnership working** – we will collaborate with partners to develop a balanced approach to large-scale tree planting that reflects the challenges and opportunities presented by Wiltshire's characteristic open landscapes.

- **Right Tree Right Place** – we will adopt and advocate planting the right trees in the right place to protect and enhance our finest landscapes, strengthen ecological connectivity and protect our heritage, whilst reducing risks and building resilience for existing and new trees planted.

- **Effective planting and aftercare** – we will adopt and advocate best practice planting, protection, and long term maintenance to ensure planted trees and naturally regenerated woodland survive and thrive.

- **Leading by example** – we will identify areas of the Council's estate where trees and woodland can be planted with appropriate selected species to increase coverage in rural and urban areas (see **Box 4.11**).

- **Protecting valued trees and woodland** – we will develop a comprehensive approach to the management and protection of ancient woodland and veteran trees.

The Great Western Community Forest offers the greatest opportunity for woodland creation in Wiltshire. We will continue to support Swindon Borough Council in developing the Great Western Community Forest for the benefit of current and future generations, taking into account the Forest Management Plan's aims and objectives to provide accessible community woodland and ecological corridors, while helping contribute to our carbon reduction goals.

BOX 4.11 Increasing Urban Tree Canopy Cover

Trees are an integral component of GBI in our towns offering a range of social, environmental and economic well-being benefits for communities in Wiltshire.

The urban forest comprises trees in towns and cities along linear transport routes and waterways (e.g. canals and rivers), in amenity areas, urban woodlands, parks and informal open spaces, along streets, in domestic gardens and on institutional land.

Urban forests support the growth of local economies, increase residential value and are good for business. Street trees help cool the air naturally, reduce pollution and tackle climate change. Woodlands in urban areas provide green places for relaxation and enjoyment, make people healthy and happy and help bring communities together.

The Forestry Commission recommends a 20% target for increasing tree canopy cover in urban areas as a good aspiration, depending on the current level.

As part of our Local Nature Recovery Strategy, we will work with landowners, farmers and forestry stakeholders, and local communities, to identify and target areas in Wiltshire most suitable for, and likely to benefit from large-scale woodland creation developed and planned at a landscape scale, consistent with catchment-based approaches to natural flood management (see **Theme 1**).

We will also consider how incentives offered by the Government's potential new woodland creation grant scheme, and private sector investment, can be used to encourage tree planting on private and marginal agricultural land for agroforestry, bio-energy production and carbon offset purposes.

♥ Theme 5: Healthy Living

We will help people improve their health and wellbeing by securing more opportunities to access green and blue spaces and engage with nature…

Health and well-being refers to both the physical and mental health of people and is more than simply an absence of ill health and disease; it is a feeling of physical, emotional and psychological wellness.

Good health isn't just about the treatment of illness; it is also about the environments in which we live, work, learn and play, and the food we eat.

The relationship between access to nature and improved public health and wellbeing is well established.

Numerous recent studies have shown significant health and well-being benefits for people involved in both creating and managing GBI assets, and from access to good quality greenspace. For example, Natural England's People and Nature Survey 2020 found that almost nine in 10 adults in England report that being in nature made them very happy. The **review of health and well-being evidence for green infrastructure** published by Natural England in 2020 provides further information

Regular contact with nature and outdoor activity can have substantial benefits for people's physical (see **Box 4.12**) and mental (see **Box 4.13**) health and wellbeing.

BOX 4.12 Physical Health & Wellbeing Benefits of Access to Nature

Access to green space for exercise can help to improve the physical health of communities and address issues such as obesity and cardiovascular disease. Regular exercise and healthy lifestyle choices can significantly reduce the impacts of cardiovascular disease and other serious health problems.

It is well established that regular exercise, including walking and cycling, can reduce the negative effects of health threats such as obesity, coronary heart disease and respiratory disorders.

Studies have found that a relationship exists between proximity of access to GBI and physical health – the further away from open space or a rights of way network that people live, the more likely they are to suffer health problems. Evidence also suggests that the quality of green spaces are also a major influence on the wellbeing of local communities.

BOX 4.13 Mental Health & Wellbeing Benefits of Access to Nature

Access to natural green space can help families and communities spend time together, strengthening social networks and combatting isolation and loneliness. Connecting people to a healthy environment is a vital part of this, and a powerful tool for combatting mental health issues such as chronic stress, depression and anxiety.

Access to green space, outdoor exercise and green activities, such as gardening or habitat conservation, can have positive impacts on people with mental ill health.

Evidence shows that access to good quality green space is essential for good mental health and childhood development. Natural green spaces and access to open, green environments provide opportunities for relaxation, relative tranquillity and meditation.

For children and young people, the effectiveness of green space to promote improved mood, improved attention, reduced stress and anxiety and reduced severity of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are well documented.

Working with our partners in the environmental and health sectors, we will explore opportunities to support the Wiltshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2022 by encouraging more people, from all backgrounds, ages and abilities, to engage with and spend time undertaking physical activity in green and blue spaces in their everyday lives and understand the barriers they face.

Increased countryside access that enables all our communities to participate is a key measure for monitoring health inequalities.

Where existing open space in and around our towns is below the standards being developed by the Wiltshire Open Space Study or the National Green Infrastructure Standards (see **Box 4.14**), we will work with our partners, local communities and developers to identify opportunities to create more, better and well-connected open spaces.

We will continue to develop and improve our rights of way network, and country parks and open spaces, in accordance with the priorities set out in the Wiltshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan.

We will work with partners and local communities to plant more trees in and around our towns close to where people live and work, which will help bring people closer to nature and improve air quality, with consequent positive health impacts.

We will connect mental health providers to environmental and community voluntary sector organisations providing "eco-therapy" opportunities – such as gardening, outdoor exercise and care farming in natural settings.

We will work with our partners to promote the health and well-being benefits of access to GBI by improving partnerships between health, planning, transport, environment, community and leisure sectors across Wiltshire; supporting health awareness campaigns; and working closely with schools and community youth groups.

BOX 4.14 National Green Infrastructure Standards

Nature Nearby (2010) sets out Natural England's current guidance on recommended standards for provision of accessible natural greenspace to ensure people have the opportunity to interact with nature locally and encourage healthier lifestyles:

- **Access to Natural Greenspace Standard** – seeks to improve greenspace access, naturalness and connectivity by encouraging provision of a range of site types and sizes within walking and sustainable transport distance of people's homes.
- **Service Standards** – national standards for delivery of core services/facilities for specific greenspace types (e.g. Country Park Accreditation, selection/declaration of Local Nature Reserves).
- **Quality Standard** – the Green Flag Award scheme provides a national quality standard for management of existing green spaces.

In line with the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, Natural England is developing new National Green Infrastructure Standards to encourage increased investment in the establishment and long-term maintenance of GI over and above current levels across England.

The new Standards will provide a consistent framework and guidance to help local authorities, developers, landowners and communities deliver GI improvements, particularly in areas where need is greatest.

Prior to the launch of the full Framework in 2022, Natural England has published a set of GI Principles and a GI Mapping Database to support local authorities in planning GI strategically at different scales, and targeting investment where it is most needed.

The remaining elements of the Framework (GI Standards, GI Design Guide and GI Case Studies) are under development and will be published in 2022.

Working with our partners in the education sector, we will explore opportunities for helping primary schools create nature-friendly grounds that support learning about the natural world and provide activities that support pupils' health and wellbeing through contact with nature.

We will also connect schools to environmental and community voluntary sector organisations providing opportunities for pupils to visit a farm, a local nature reserve, community woodland or National Park where they can combine learning about nature with feeling healthier and happier.

We will work closely with Community Area Boards to identify opportunities for sustainable transport options that use GBI corridors for active travel routes as an alternative to car use, linking communities to the wider GBI network.

…and we will help people improve their health and wellbeing by providing opportunities for local food-growing…

We will work with our partners to explore opportunities for integrating sustainable local food systems (see **Box 4.15**) into the GBI networks, ensuring access to private gardens or shared community spaces along local streets, parks and gardens, and school grounds, for food-growing.

BOX 4.15 Sustainable Local Food Systems

The UK is far from self-sufficient in food, not least in a context of climate change and its impacts on global food prices and food security.

Sustainable local food systems encourage healthy eating and community food-growing and promoting opportunities for producing, processing and distributing food locally.

It brings together farms in rural areas with urban farms, allotments, community orchards, farmers' markets and food co-operatives.

At all scales, providing opportunities for food-growing have implications for the way a place is planned, designed, delivered and managed in the long term.

Embedding sustainable local food systems into planning can provide a wide range of benefits such as:

- **Health & wellbeing benefits** - increased physical activity; healthy consumption/lifestyles; improved mental health/well-being; greater nutritional value.
- **Inclusive community benefits** - improved community interaction/social cohesion; reduced food poverty.
- **Environmental sustainability benefits** - reduced food miles/carbon footprints; enhanced GBI/ecosystem services; climate change resilience; improved soil quality, which in turn sequesters more carbon.
- **Economic benefits** – learning/education; green economy; attractive places; employment opportunities; less waste.

Green Infrastructure & Food Factsheet

£ Theme 6: Economic Recovery & Valuing Natural Capital

Wiltshire's recovery after the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic is at the forefront of Wiltshire Council's activities and will be a central factor in many Council decisions, plans and day-to-day business.

The potential for GBI as an inherent part of this Green Recovery must be accepted, and existing work can form the basis of the Council's approach.

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) across the country are developing Local Industrial Strategies (LISs) to co-ordinate local economic policy with national funding streams and promote public-private partnerships to deliver economic growth and job creation.

As part of this, LEPs are being encouraged by the Government to assess the role that natural capital (see **Box 4.16**) may play in contributing towards economic growth.

BOX 4.16   What is Natural Capital?

Natural capital is the sum of our ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, soils, minerals, our air and our seas. These are all elements of nature that either directly or indirectly bring value to people and the country at large. They do this in many ways but chiefly by providing us with food, clean air and water, wildlife, energy, wood, recreation and protection from hazards.

Increasingly, natural capital is seen as an essential basis for economic growth and productivity over the long term. When we measure the value of the environment as a natural capital asset and key contributor to the overall economy, we are more likely to protect and enhance it.

The relationship between environmental quality and economic prosperity is now increasingly recognised…

The natural capital concept is likely to be used more in the future as policy trade-offs between the environment and other economic goals will become ever more important. The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) has undertaken a lot of work on better understanding natural capital.

Examples of natural capital opportunities for supporting economic growth and prosperity may include, for example:

- Protecting infrastructure from climate risks, such as flooding, drought and extreme temperatures
- Securing industrial supply chains against climate-induced shortages of raw materials, especially from agriculture
- Providing uninterrupted supplies of water to consumers and industrial water users
- Providing opportunities for environmental net gain through the planning system
- Increasing competitive advantage of a local economy by creating healthy places people want to live, work and visit (and in some cases increasing property values)
- Green jobs linked to the protection and enhancement of natural capital to deliver the above benefits

The Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership recognise Wiltshire's environment as a key economic advantage for attracting new residents and businesses to Wiltshire. The quality of Wiltshire's GBI goes hand in hand with Wiltshire's prospects for economic growth and development.

The Wiltshire Business Perception Survey highlighted that the quality of life, historic and natural environment and high quality workforce are among the top reasons as to why companies located in Wiltshire.

Evidence also suggest that investment in high quality green and blue spaces attracts and retains a motivated and skilled labour force, improves business property values and creates new employment opportunities.

GBI also assists in maintaining the physical and mental health of a workforce. Absenteeism through ill health is suggested to cost businesses millions of pounds each year. GBI has a vital role to play in ensuring that Wiltshire's workforce is fit and healthy by providing easy access to open spaces and rights of way networks for active travel, relaxation and leisure.

VisitWiltshire counts our natural beauty and wealth of cultural and historic assets as one of the primary reasons that national and international tourists visit Wiltshire.

In recent years, Wiltshire's tourism industry generates £1billion per year and supports over 21,000 jobs in Wiltshire, representing around 7% of total employment in Wiltshire. This further demonstrates the value of our natural capital to the local economy.

Improving, enhancing and protecting Wiltshire's GBI is crucial to the continued resilience of Wiltshire's tourist industry and its associated economic benefits (see case study in **Box 4.17**).

The Kennet and Avon Canal connects the city of Bristol to the River Thames at Reading, dissecting Wiltshire east to west between Hungerford and Bradford on Avon. Originally opened in 1810, the canal fell into disrepair and eventually closed in 1955. The canal reopened as a navigable waterway in 2002 following a 30 year restoration programme.

The latest studies suggest that in Wiltshire alone, the value of direct visitor spend in 2009 was over £14.4 million. When indirect spending is included in this estimation, the 3.3 million visitors to the canal in Wiltshire improved the local economy by almost £19 million. This level of tourism generated by the canal supported 444 jobs along the Wiltshire stretch of the canal alone. This ranks well alongside other local authority areas through which the canal is routed, being second only to Bath & NE Somerset in terms of visitor spend and job creation.

In addition to these findings the study report suggests the canal restoration attracted up to £435 million in property investment and development along the canal corridor between 1995 and 2005, creating a further 2,700 jobs along the canal. Beyond tourism and visitor spend, the canal is estimated to have improved local property prices by £47.3 million whilst providing up to £4.7 million in non-monetary value such as heritage, landscape and drainage.

The GBI Strategy aims to support local economic prosperity by enhancing our natural capital…

Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership and this GBI Strategy set out complimentary approaches to future-proofing our economy and safeguarding our environment.

We will work in partnership with SWLEP and VisitWiltshire to maximise the economic competitive advantage provided by our natural environment in promoting Wiltshire as an ideal place to live, work, invest and visit. This will include exploring opportunities for continuing to promote our natural environment to inward investors and potential residents.

4.3   Delivery Principles

The strategy provides not only a shared vision and goals that can help to improve integration and collaboration between partner organisations, but it also provides a set of delivery tools and principles that provide guidance for co-ordinated planning and delivery of GBI in Wiltshire.

We will work together in partnership towards achieving our shared vision, focussing on the priorities, goals and opportunities set out in this Strategy, and guided by the following delivery principles:

Partnership Working

An Integrated Approach

Goal Oriented and Mainstreamed

Evidence-led

Nature-based Solutions

Planning Principles

Principle 1: Partnership Working

Delivering our aspirational vision and goals will require an effective, well-coordinated and multi-faceted collaborative approach, drawing on multi-stakeholder partner networks. This approach involves:

- A joint approach across multiple departments within Wiltshire Council.
- Engagement and support from Wiltshire Council Councillors and town/city and parish Councillors.
- Engagement and inclusion of local communities and volunteers
- Collaboration with neighbouring local authorities and local nature, enterprise and health & well-being partnerships.
- Greater collaboration between local communities and businesses, planning authorities and developers.
- Collaboration and communication with our supporting partner organisations.
- Working together to share information, pool resources and resolve delivery issues.

Principle 2: An Integrated Approach

An integrated approach is key to the implementation of this Strategy. GBI incorporates a variety of linked issues, impacts and benefits. It must therefore be planned and managed in an integrated way. There are a number of existing tools that can be used.

> A key principle of this Strategy is that landscape, biodiversity and catchment-based approaches, together with consideration of well-being and carbon-neutral outcomes, should be used to ensure benefits for people, place and nature.

This GBI Strategy supports a Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) to the integrated management of water resources in Wiltshire. This approach embeds collaborative working at a river catchment scale to deliver multiple environmental, social and economic benefits, while protecting our water environment (see **Box 4.18**).

The CaBA seeks to deliver benefits such as improvements to water quality; enhanced biodiversity; reduced flood risk and increased resilience to climate change; more resource efficient and sustainable businesses; and health and wellbeing benefits for local communities as they engage with and take ownership of their local river environment.

The principles of the CaBA approach are reflected in the emerging Wiltshire Landscape Strategy, which advocates a cross-cutting and integrated approach to protecting and enhancing the character, diversity, multifunctionality and natural beauty of Wiltshire's landscapes. Landscape is "more than just a view", and is strongly shaped by water.

BOX 4.18 The Catchment Based Approach

The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) is an inclusive, civil society-led initiative that works in partnership with Government, Local Authorities, Water Companies, businesses and more, to maximise the natural value of our environment.

CaBA partnerships are actively working in all 100+ river catchments across England and cross-border with Wales. The CaBA partnerships undertake integrated management of land and water, addressing each river catchment as a whole and delivering practical interventions on the ground.

Due to its cross-cutting and integrated nature, CaBA provides a framework to support delivery of many of the goals and targets under the Government's 25-year Environment Plan.

www.catchmentbasedapproach.org

From the source of our rivers to the sea, across our towns, cities, countryside and coasts – a healthy water environment is essential to all of us...

Principle 3: Goal Oriented & Mainstreamed

Although some sectors have adopted an integrated way of planning and managing, for the majority it will require a cultural shift.

To support this cultural shift and ensure it becomes part of mainstream decision-making, planning and project management:

- We will need to work within our organisations and in partnership with others to adapt our day-to-day processes.
- We will develop new processes or management tools that enable us to mainstream this integrated thinking and a 'GBI-led approach' within our organisations.
- Wiltshire Council will work to increase collaborative working on green and blue infrastructure. This will mean increased use of an integrated, place-making approach in planning that has GBI at its heart.
- Wiltshire Council will also bring together representatives of all of the Council's services to embed integrated thinking and working towards shared outcomes, incorporating the multiple functions and benefits of GBI in all of the Council's policy, projects and programmes.
- We will work with partners to continue to develop this Strategy and our shared goals through an ongoing action planning cycle, identifying ways to add value on top of existing initiatives, and eliminating any barriers to success.
- We will work together to develop specific targets in relation to actions, and to identify relevant organisations or individuals that can facilitate delivery of the actions.

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Principle 4: Evidence-led

We acknowledge that science and understanding is changing quickly, and while we need to focus on achieving priorities and working towards the identified goals, we also need to keep abreast of new evidence to inform any necessary changes to the Strategy.

We commit to sharing information in order to support implementation of the GBI Strategy. Where further information is needed to support specific actions, partners will work together to further develop the **Evidence Base**.

Defining and Mapping the GBI Network

A key element of this GBI Strategy has been to define the existing GBI Network in Wiltshire and update mapping data.

We will continue to maintain and update the mapping database, as a reference and a tool to inform the implementation of this strategy, as well as a means to enable analysis and communication. We will also work to make the GIS mapping data available as an interactive, live database.

Measuring our Natural Capital

As part of mainstreaming and integrating natural capital, and GBI, organisations have been looking at Natural Capital Accounting tools to monetise impacts on natural capital as a way to inform decision-making, planning and management of their businesses.

As highlighted in **Box 4.19**, the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) is using the natural capital approach as a tool to inform long-term policy choices, which will help to shape priorities for economic development in the Swindon and Wiltshire area over the coming years.

We will work with SWLEP and other partners to develop a natural capital accounting tools that can help inform decision-makers about the impacts of decisions, developments and projects, such as environmental net gain.

BOX 4.19 Measuring Wiltshire's Natural Capital

SWLEP has collaborated with the University of Bath's Economics Group on a research project to develop a framework for measuring natural capital based on best practice approaches.

The project applied the framework to measuring the baseline value of natural capital – the air, water, soil and ecosystems that support all forms of life – for the Swindon and Wiltshire area.

The baseline is intended to be used by SWLEP to inform the approach to achieving sustainable, inclusive growth.

Principle 5: Nature-Based solutions

Wiltshire's green and blue infrastructure network provides a range of well-being benefits for people, places and nature across Wiltshire…

Nature-based solutions are as defined by the International Commission on Ecosystem Management as "actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits".

The GBI Strategy embraces the concept of nature-based solutions. As well as encouraging specific solutions such as SuDS, green roofs (where viable) and green walls, we will adopt the Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature to ensure that our interventions not only use natural process, but also identify and combat socio-economic challenges.

The following are examples of tools and approaches that can embrace Nature-based Solutions.

Environmental Land Management

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been one of the main drivers of land use and management over the last 45 years, encouraging farming practices that has caused significant environmental damage and poorer soil health.

In addition to producing food, our farms also provide recreational activities and farmland and woodland help filter the air. Agriculture remains a major source of water pollution, and farmland birds have declined by more than half since 1970.

In the past, environmental land management schemes have supported the creation of nesting and food resources for nationally scarce farmland bird and pollinator species, helping populations of stone curlew, marsh fritillary butterfly and the short haired bumblebee to recover for example. They have also enabled improvements in water quality, and protected and restored landscape and heritage assets.

After a transition period following leaving the EU, the UK will leave the CAP and the Government plans to introduce a new system of paying farmers public money for public goods. The new system will be based on a natural capital approach to valuing the ecosystem services provided by the environment.

The Agriculture Act 2020 introduced a new agri-environmental land management system to incentivise farmers and land managers to restore and improve our natural capital and rural landscapes, whilst producing food more sustainably (see **Box 4.20**). These principles are adopted by this Strategy to guide land management practices in Wiltshire.

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BOX 4.20 Agriculture Act 2020

The Agriculture Act establishes a new agricultural system based on the principle of paying public money to farmers, foresters and other land managers for public goods that provide societal benefits – such as better environmental protection, improved public access to the countryside or higher animal welfare standards.

Part 1 of the Agriculture Act includes, among other things, powers for the Government to give financial assistance for:

- Supporting public access to and enjoyment of the countryside, farmland and woodland, and enhancing understanding about the environmental benefits that such land can provide.

- Managing land or water in a way that maintains, restores or enhances cultural or natural heritage.

- Managing land, water or livestock in such a way as to mitigate or adapt to the effects of climate change.

- Managing land or water in such a way as to prevent, reduce or protect from hazards to, or caused by, the environment such as flooding.

- Measures which protect or improve the health of plants, including wild plants, agricultural and horticultural crops, trees and bushes by reducing risks from harmful pests and disease.

- Protecting or improving the quality and health of soil.

Landscape Management

The Wiltshire Landscape Strategy will advocate an integrated character-based approach to protecting and enhancing the character, diversity, multifunctionality and natural beauty of Wiltshire's landscapes.

We will work with our partners to deliver the actions highlighted in the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy (see **Box 4.21**).

We will also promote use of the Wiltshire Landscape Strategy as a decision-making tool for strengthening the character of all Wiltshire's landscapes by ensuring that valued landscape features and qualities are conserved and enhanced by land management and development proposals.

BOX 4.21 Wiltshire Landscape Strategy Actions

- Integrating Landscape into Policy
- Identifying and Assessing Landscapes
- Setting Landscape Objectives
- Protecting Landscapes
- Managing Landscapes
- Planning Landscapes
- Monitoring Landscape Change
- Promoting Education and Training
- Raising Awareness, Understanding and Involvement

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Principle 6: Planning Principles

We will seek to secure proportionate biodiversity and wider environmental net gains for our natural capital from new development by encouraging applicants to take into account the GBI planning principles highlighted in **Box 4.22**.

Development proposals should also consider opportunities for engaging local communities at all stages of the planning and design process to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for the long-term care and maintenance of green spaces.

© Wildlife Terry

BOX 4.22 GBI Planning Principles

In line with this GBI Strategy's goals, development in Wiltshire should seek to:

1. Contribute to the delivery of high quality multi-functional networks of GBI to provide long-term benefits for people, places and nature in Wiltshire.
2. Embed GBI in ways that help reinforce and enhance the local built, natural and historic character of Wiltshire's landscapes and townscapes.
3. Embed GBI in ways that help support nature recovery and reverse the decline in biodiversity in Wiltshire by providing a net biodiversity gain.
4. Embed GBI in ways that help Wiltshire's communities and wildlife be more resilient to a changing climate.
5. Embed GBI in ways that help contribute to healthy living and well-being by providing spaces for recreation, relaxation and growing local food in Wiltshire.
6. Contribute to long-term management and maintenance of related GBI through financial contributions, management schemes and management plans as appropriate.

These overarching GBI planning principles will be used to develop local planning guidelines in Settlement GBI Frameworks.

Turning Aspirations into Positive Actions

Leadership & Partnership Working

Empowering Communities

Funding & Priorities for Action

Monitoring & Reviewing

© PTWO

Section five - The way forward

5.1 Turning Aspirations into Positive Actions

This GBI Strategy outlines a bold vision for developing a functional, connected network of natural areas that will help support the current and future well-being needs of local populations in Wiltshire.

To reap the benefits of the GBI Network, many interventions are best implemented at a landscape-scale so that linkages are optimal, and the network is consolidated.

Every small improvement such as pocket parks, back garden initiatives and planting a single tree can be beneficial. However, the aspirations of the Strategy will only become a reality if we collaborate to identify some significant landscape-scale initiatives.

To achieve our biggest ambitions, our natural areas need to be managed collectively as one of Wiltshire's most important assets. This GBI Strategy provides the strategic or "big picture" framework for coordinating GI delivery action by partnerships working at both regional and local levels.

Working together through a shared commitment to implementation of this GBI Strategy, we can, with strong leadership, turn the aspirational vision into positive actions that can deliver our desired outcomes.

Through this GBI Strategy, we will:

- Work collaboratively in partnership with land managers, owners and service providers, and Community Area Boards, towards the shared vision for GBI.
- Commit to following the common set of principles, priorities and opportunities for strengthening the resilience and connectivity of Wiltshire's GI network.
- Pool resources to support a planned approach to GBI project delivery and investment.
- Identify opportunities to manage our GBI assets more sustainably for the long-term.

Although having individual operational objectives, the partners all share a common aim – to manage natural resources to improve the well-being of Wiltshire's communities. The GBI Strategy supports this aim by helping partners work towards aligning their future ways of working with the GBI approach.

© Alexander London

5.2   Leadership & Partnership Working

As GBI is a cross-cutting concept, the Strategy will need to be delivered by stakeholders and partners working across a broad range of agendas eg: economic growth, development and regeneration; water resources and soil management; carbon neutral economy; sustainable transport; public health and wellbeing, recreation and tourism; agriculture; biodiversity; and heritage conservation.

Having strong multi-stakeholder partnerships in place to champion and support delivery of the Strategy is key to maximising the benefits of GBI for people, places and nature in Wiltshire.

As highlighted in the **Evidence Base**, there are a wide and varied network of stakeholders with a potential role to play in helping deliver GBI across Wiltshire. This list is not exhaustive; the network of stakeholders and partners also includes local volunteers and community groups, businesses and other public sector/charitable organisations.

These networks provide firm foundations on which to develop a shared understanding of priorities and opportunities for improving Wiltshire's GBI.

Some of the key multi-stakeholder partnerships involved in developing this GBI Strategy, and that will be key in realising our vision and goals, are highlighted below.

Wiltshire Council will play a key leadership role...

A shared understanding of the vision for GBI in Wiltshire across departments will provide a strong platform for helping local communities achieve their own goals.

This Strategy informs and develops the way that GBI is considered throughout the Council, and therefore directly informs relevant departmental strategies.

Wiltshire Council plays a central role in the coordination of partnership working and facilitates community liaison throughout Wiltshire. As a lead partner in the delivery of many strategic GBI projects and initiatives, the Council will act as a principal partner in championing delivery of this GBI Strategy.

At the strategic level, the Council will continue to work collaboratively with the partnerships illustrated on **Diagram 5.1** towards achieving the shared vision and goals for GBI in Wiltshire, such as the three AONB Partnerships.

These partnerships and other stakeholder organisations can provide information and advice to land owners and managers, local community groups and developers on priorities and opportunities for strengthening Wiltshire's GBI network.

DIAGRAM 5.1 GBI Delivery Partnerships in Wiltshire

WILTSHIRE-WIDE PARTNERSHIPS

Local Nature Partnership

Local Enterprise Partnership

Health & Well-Being Board

Community First Wiltshire

Wiltshire Assembly of Youth

Countryside Access Forum

PROTECTED LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIPS

Cotswolds AONB

North Wessex Downs AONB

Cranborne Chase AONB

New Forest National Park

Stonehenge & Avebury WHS

Wiltshire GBI Partnership

CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Upper Thames

Bristol Avon

Kennet

Hampshire Avon

Test & Itchen

Stour

A new Wiltshire Climate and Environment Forum will be established to co-ordinate delivery of the GBI Strategy…

A new Wiltshire Climate and Environment Forum will pick up much of the work of the former Wiltshire & Swindon Local Nature Partnership.

This will provide an opportunity to deliver the GBI aspirations through co-ordinating cross-boundary delivery at a regional-scale in liaison with neighbouring Local Nature Partnerships (see **Box 5.1**).

BOX 5.1 Neighbouring Local Nature Partnerships

- West of England Local Nature Partnership
- Somerset Local Nature Partnership
- Dorset Local Nature Partnership
- Hampshire & Isle of White Local Nature Partnership
- Berkshire Local Nature Partnership
- Wild Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership
- Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership

The new Partnership would be dedicated to supporting, championing and coordinating strategic and local GBI delivery and Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

It would create a central place where experience and expertise could be coordinated and shared between partners, enabling best practice to be improved and common risks to be identified across the Partnership.

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© Peter Taylor

5.3 Empowering Communities

We will empower communities to take ownership and responsibility for managing local GBI assets...

The local nature, health and well-being and enterprise partnerships in Wiltshire will work collaboratively with local communities and businesses towards achieving the shared vision.

Wiltshire Community Areas Boards have a key role in identifying local priorities and opportunities for the delivery of GBI improvements in their areas.

We will empower local communities to take ownership of local GBI assets by providing opportunities for local communities and town/parish councils to take ownership of GBI assets.

Wiltshire Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy enables the transfer the management and/or ownership of Wiltshire Council owned assets to community groups or town/parish councils. This includes GBI assets such as public parks, gardens, play areas, allotments, open land and forested areas. Successfully transferred assets are owned, managed and maintained by the community group or local town/parish council for the benefit and enjoyment of the whole community.

Through raising awareness of this policy and highlighting the opportunities to community groups, Wiltshire's communities can be in control of their own community GBI and can plan for the improvement, enhancement and protection of their own local networks and assets using the Community Environmental Toolkit and neighbourhood plans (see case studies in **Box 5.2** and **Box 5.3**).

BOX 5.2 Case Study: The Wiltshire Community Land Trust

A Community Land Trust is a legally incorporated, volunteer led organisation that owns and manages assets for the benefit of a defined community.

They offer great opportunities for local ownership of GBI and provide local control over the shaping of a community's future, improving the quality of life for all members of the community.

Wiltshire Community Land Trust has been set up to help community groups take on the ownership and management of assets, such as land for recreation and growing food, wildlife reserves and a range of community facilities and local services.

The Trust fosters bottom-up development, strengthening communities by supporting local people to contribute to meeting their own needs and aspirations through the vehicle of Community Land Trusts.

Through general information provision, targeted advice, setting up of appropriate partnerships, and one-to-one support, Wiltshire Community Land Trust is well placed to take community groups through the whole process of deciding whether a local Community Land Trust is right for them, and if so, helping to set one up.

BOX 5.3 Case Study: Friends of Biss Meadows Country Park, Trowbridge

Biss Meadows is an area of public space to the southeast of Trowbridge town centre. The area includes a section of the River Biss, open grasslands, wildflower meadows and a number of paths for public access.

The Friends of Biss Meadows Country Park is a community group formed in 2008 to improve, enhance and protect the site for the enjoyment of all the community.

The group run a number of 'working parties' throughout the year and alongside this general maintenance, the group manage a number of ambitious projects to improve the GBI asset.

Following a successful application to the Big Lottery Fund in 2011, the group were awarded £50,000 to undertake major improvements to the pond area of the site.

The improvements include new seating, path-work and educational facilities for the use of youth organisations and schools. The group are now seeking funding for the creation of a nature trail through the site.

© Alan Cooper

Wiltshire Council is working with partner organisations to increase volunteering throughout Wiltshire (see case study in **Box 5.4**) and to publicise the benefits that volunteering can bring to the individual, to the Council and to communities.

The Wiltshire Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan identifies the need to develop and promote volunteering in Wiltshire in partnership with the Volunteer Centre Wiltshire who serve as a Wiltshire-wide coordinator for voluntary services.

BOX 5.4 Case Study: Volunteering and the Wiltshire Rights of Way & Countryside Service

The Wiltshire Rights of Way Service has a long and successful record of working with town and parish councils, local community groups and volunteers who help to look after and maintain Wiltshire's 6,000km public rights of way network. Volunteer groups typically get involved in clearing paths of vegetation, installing stiles, gates and bridges, inspecting and recording the condition of the network and improving waymarking.

A number of parish and town councils have volunteer groups which undertake practical tasks using materials supplied by Wiltshire Council. There are also groups of volunteers who will travel to wherever help is needed. They find it a great opportunity to explore lesser known areas of Wiltshire and it is a social event. It is estimated that the value of work carried out annually on footpaths and bridleways by working parties of members of the Ramblers is in the region of £100,000.

Volunteers are also involved in the protection and maintenance of Wiltshire's countryside sites and country parks. Here, the work undertaken by volunteers includes tree planting; managing areas for wild flowers; managing woodland; creating hibernacula for reptiles and wild mammals; pond works and the erection of bird boxes.

In many cases across Wiltshire, GBI assets have come under the protection and care of volunteers and community partnership groups (see case study in **Box 5.5**). The potential of these localised groups to gain maximum value for communities from local GBI is significant.

Through local membership, which can often be extensive, 'friends of' groups can serve to substantially improve, enhance and protect local GBI for the benefit of an entire community.

There is a role to play for Wiltshire Council and its partners in providing the necessary support to these community groups. Early engagement between community groups and council officers for advice and support is vital to ensure the momentum and drive of the community is harnessed.

Creating structured guidance for community groups and developing a network for community groups to liaise with each other are some of the ways in which this GBI Strategy will help community groups achieve their goals.

© Wiltshire Council

BOX 5.5 Case Study: The Salisbury Green Space Partnership

The Salisbury Green Space Partnership (SGSP) was launched in early 2012. The partnership is a community led initiative comprising of partner organisations and individuals that represent a wide range of green space interests in and around the city of Salisbury.

The SGSP Committee members are active advocates for the maintenance and protection of Salisbury's green spaces for recreational use and for the enjoyment for Salisbury residents both now and in the future.

The partnership have established themselves in Salisbury and Wiltshire as a key consultation group in discussions that concern GBI as part of Salisbury's future growth plans, ensuring that the aspirations of the local community are represented to developers, the local authority and local businesses.

The SGSP is committed to working with partner organisations to identify, enhance and protect GBI in Salisbury. This includes:

- Awareness raising of GBI issues in the Salisbury Community Area and surrounding Community Areas
- Supporting local community groups initiate GBI projects
- Auditing and researching GBI provision in and around Salisbury
- Identifying improvements to local rights of way networks.

The SGSP has worked closely with Wiltshire Council on a number of GBI projects and is currently assisting in the data collection for a Wiltshire-wide open spaces audit.
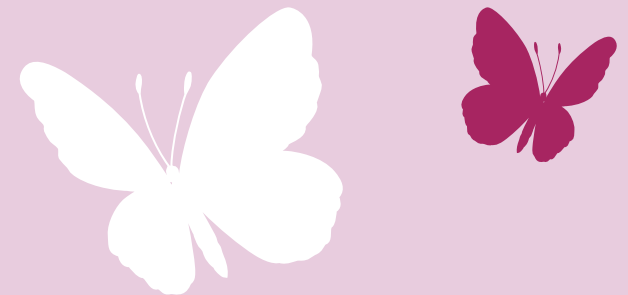
5.4   Funding & Priorities for Action

We will explore opportunities to access a wide range of potential sources of funding...

The broad range of benefits, assets and stakeholders which GBI brings together is represented in the diversity of funding opportunities available to support GBI delivery.

A list of potential sources of funding for GBI projects and initiatives at both a strategic scale and local community scale in Wiltshire is set out in the **Evidence Base**.

...to support delivery

Priorities for action will need to be developed by the partners to support delivery of GBI Strategy in a phased way over the next 10 years or so.

The Council will develop a prioritised action plan to deliver:

- **Strategic GBI initiatives** delivered with partners working at the landscape-scale
- **Local GBI projects** delivered through engagement with local communities in and around Wiltshire's settlements

Priorities for exploring approaches to achieving the GBI Strategy's aims in the **short-term (next 3 years)** could include:

- Strengthening the GBI **Evidence Base**
- Integrating the GBI approach into policy/developing guidance
- Raising awareness and involvement in GBI delivery
- Exemplifying new GBI approaches through pilot projects
- Highlighting potential funding streams and partnering on bids where appropriate

Priorities for realising opportunities to scale-up delivery of GBI improvements in the **medium-term (3-10 years)** could include:

- Supporting GBI community ownership/management
- Strengthening resilience of urban GBI

In the **longer-term (over 10 years and beyond**), we will focus on actions for transforming how we work together, and with private and third sector landowners and local communities, to secure sustainable management of Wiltshire's GBI network for future generations.

The existing strategic landscape-scale GBI projects and initiatives set out in the **Evidence Base** contribute to delivery of the identified priorities for improving Wiltshire's Strategic GBI Network.

These projects and initiatives provide the basis for future GBI investment in Wiltshire. They build on the strengths of our partnerships, and are key strategic priorities for improving Wiltshire's GBI for the benefit of our communities, visitors, wildlife, economy and environment.

Priorities for improving the Local GBI Networks in and around our towns will be identified by the Settlement GBI Frameworks and defined as part of the neighbourhood planning process.

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5.5   Monitoring & Reviewing

We will monitor delivery of the GBI Strategy...

In line with national planning policy, the GBI Strategy will be regularly reviewed to ensure that information on habitats, species and other GBI assets is kept up-to-date, so that development management decisions are informed by appropriate information about potential effects of development on GBI.

Wiltshire Council in its role as the local planning authority will use best available data to review a set of priority species (eg. swifts), priority habitats or other key GBI assets to indicate whether there has been a net gain or loss of biodiversity, and use the trends identified to determine future priorities for planning and decision making.

The monitoring of success and delivery of mitigation requirements secured through planning conditions and obligations will be evaluated.

The Council will develop a plan and indicators for monitoring implementation of the GBI Strategy.

...and respond flexibly to changing priorities and opportunities as necessary

This GBI Strategy success will rely on its ability to evolve over time. Whilst the strategic framework for delivery of GBI is in place, the needs of Wiltshire are likely to change over the delivery period up to 2030 and as such, the priorities in this Strategy are also likely to change.

In this context, the GBI Strategy will be reviewed every 5 years so that progress can be checked, the **Evidence Base** updated as necessary and new priorities developed that reflect the Council's strategic direction.

© Gillie Rhodes

Glossary

Allotments: An area of land leased from a local authority or private landlord for growing fruit and vegetables. The land may also be used to grow ornamental plants and keep hens and bees etc.

Amenity: Positive element or elements that contribute to the overall character or enjoyment of an area. For example, open land, trees, historic buildings and the inter-relationship between them, or less tangible factors such as tranquillity.

Benefits: Positive impacts for people and wildlife derived from green infrastructure and natural capital

Biodiversity: The variation among living organisms in all environments, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part. Includes diversity within and between species, and ecosystems.

Biodiversity net gain: Development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before. It is also an approach where developers work with local governments, wildlife groups, land owners and other stakeholders in order to support priorities for nature conservation.

Blue infrastructure: Riverine and coastal environments, and canals and other strategic water features within a green infrastructure network

Carbon sequestration: The uptake and storage of carbon, for instance by absorption of carbon dioxide by trees and plants which then release oxygen

Climate change: The large-scale, long-term shift in weather patterns and average temperatures across the world due to the release of greenhouse gases (most notably carbon dioxide) into the air since the mid-1800s by humans – causing temperatures to rise and resulting in permanent changes to the climate, affecting people through flooding and damage to ecosystems.

Climate change adaptation: Adjustments made to natural or human systems in response to the actual or anticipated impacts of climate change, to mitigate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities

Climate change mitigation: Action to reduce the impact of human activity on the climate system, primarily through reducing the sources of, or enhance the sinks for, greenhouse gases

Community orchard: A collection of fruit trees planted among grass for the use of local residents, which provide places in which people can meet and plant/cultivate local food.

Conservation: The protection, improvement and use of natural resources in line with principles that assure the highest economic or social benefits for people and the environment

Designated biodiversity sites: International sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, and Ramsar sites), national sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and locally designated sites including Local Wildlife Sites

Ecological stepping stones: Pockets of habitat that, while not necessarily connected, facilitate the movement of species across otherwise fragmented and often intensively farmed arable landscapes

Ecosystem: A dynamic community of living organisms – animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms – and their physical environment that interact as a functional unit.

Ecosystem services: The functions of the natural environment that directly or indirectly provide benefits for people. Ecosystem services include:

- **Provisioning services:** The products obtained from ecosystems, for example food, fibre and fresh water

- **Regulating services:** The benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes, for example, the regulation of climate, water, air quality, human diseases and erosion control

- **Cultural services:** The non-material benefits people obtain from ecosystems for instance through spiritual enrichment, cognitive development, recreation, and aesthetics

- **Supporting services:** Ecosystem services that are necessary for the production and maintenance of all other ecosystem services. For example soil formation and retention, nutrient cycling, water cycling, and provisioning of habitat. These services often reflect the function and condition of natural capital stock

Environmental net gain: Improving all aspects of environmental quality through a scheme or project. Achieving environmental net gain means achieving biodiversity net gain first, and going further to achieve net increases in the capacity of affected natural capital to deliver ecosystem services

Green corridor: A strip of green land that connects green areas or hubs and allows the movement and dispersal of wildlife, usually through urban landscapes. Green corridors can also be used to link housing areas to, for example, cycle networks, places of employment, town centres and community facilities, thus promoting walking and cycling.

Green infrastructure: A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity (National Planning Policy Framework, 2021)

Green (or living) wall: A vertical wall (partially) covered in greenery, often planted in soil at the base, but sometimes using wall-mounted boxes or special panels. Green walls offer several benefits such as contributing to heat retention and cooling, storm water retention and capturing pollutants.

Green roof: A vegetative roof system that hosts plants in a growing medium installed over a waterproof membrane. Green roofs can be designed as wildlife habitats and to optimise energy conservation (through insulation) and/or for aesthetic value, and can be a source of water.

Green space: Patch of vegetated land within the urban fabric ranging from pockets of amenity grassland to large parks.

Green space creation: The creation, from space that was previously not green at all, of public open space comprising areas of grass, trees and other vegetation, set apart for recreational or aesthetic purposes in an otherwise urban environment.

Green space enhancement: Improvement to existing green space to make it more attractive, safer and/or of increased biodiversity value. Better management and stewardship can often allow green spaces to flourish so that they can be enjoyed by more people.

Landscape: An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of their natural and/or human factors (e.g. geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement).

Landscape-scale conservation: The pursuit of multiple benefits from enhancing nature across a defined area that make links to wider economic and social priorities (e.g. water quality, access to nature)

Mental health benefits: Connecting people to a healthy environment is a powerful tool for combatting mental health issues such as chronic stress, depression and anxiety. Access to green space, outdoor exercise and green activities, such as gardening or habitat conservation, can have positive impacts on people with mental ill health.

Multi-functionality - The ability to provide multiple functions by integrating different activities and land uses on individual sites and across a whole green infrastructure network.

Natural capital: The stock of natural ecosystems that yields a flow of valuable ecosystem goods or services, directly or indirectly, to people, including ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, minerals, the air and oceans, as well as natural processes and functions. Natural capital includes many different components of the natural environment, as well as the processes/functions that link these and sustain life.

Natural capital asset: A natural resource that provides a flow of ecosystem services and benefits over time

Natural flood management: Managing flood and coastal erosion risk by protecting, restoring and mimicking the natural 'regulating' function of catchments, rivers, floodplains and coasts.

Nature-based solutions: Actions that are inspired or supported by natural processes and which simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits. Such solutions bring natural features and processes to cities, landscapes and seascapes.

Nature recovery network: An expanding, increasingly connected, network of wildlife-rich habitats supporting species recovery, alongside wider benefits such as carbon capture, water quality improvements, natural flood risk management and recreation. Includes the existing network of designated sites and priority habitats, as well as landscape or catchment scale recovery areas where there is coordinated action for species and habitats.

Open space: All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity

Park: A publicly accessible area of natural, semi-natural or planted space intended for human enjoyment and recreation and often for the protection of wildlife or natural habitats. Parks often host facilities for play and rest.

Physical health benefits: Access to green space for regular exercise can significantly reduce the impacts of cardiovascular disease and other serious health problems. Regular exercise, including walking, can reduce the negative effects of health threats such as obesity, coronary heart disease and respiratory disorders.

Priority habitats and species: Species and Habitats of Principal Importance included in the England Biodiversity List published by the Secretary of State under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Rewilding: A form of ecological management which aims to support nature recovery by restoring natural processes that allow the natural succession of habitats and species to occur. In some cases, it may be considered necessary to reintroduce missing keystone species to re-establish natural processes.

Right Tree Right Place – ensuring the right tree is established in the right place, using the right method, for the right reasons, and with the right aftercare. This means increasing tree cover whilst protecting and enhancing what is special and valued in the landscape and keeping the environmental benefits already being delivered. New trees in the wrong locations could result in unintended negative consequences for biodiversity, landscape character and heritage assets, and also reduce resilience to climate change.

Sustainability: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Sustainable drainage system (SuDS): An approach to managing surface water run-off from rainfall close to where it falls that replicates natural drainage by slowing and holding back run-off, reducing pressure on existing piped systems and reducing risk of flooding. Where designed as vegetated/green systems, SuDS can help to moderate microclimate, benefit ecology, improve water quality and provide amenity spaces with opportunities for recreation.

Sustainable transport: Environmentally sustainable modes of travel, including walking and cycling, low and ultra-low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport.

Swales: Linear grass covered depressions which lead surface water overland from the drained surface to a storage or discharge system, typically using road verges.

Urban tree planting: The process of planting young trees in towns and cities. As urban sites may not be the natural habitat for trees, tree choice and location are vital if trees are to grow and flourish. Planting trees in urban areas can yield many benefits in addition to their aesthetic value, such as reductions in air pollution and noise levels.

Wellbeing: The state of being happy and healthy. Being in or close to nature can reduce anger, fear, and stress and increases pleasant feelings. Exposure to nature not only make us feel better emotionally, it can contribute to our physical wellbeing, reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and the production of stress hormones.

Wetland creation: The creation of a distinct wetland ecosystem inundated by water, either permanently or seasonally, where aquatic vegetation thrives. Wetlands can be used for water purification, water storage, sequestration of carbon and other nutrients, the stabilisation of shorelines, and in support of unique plants and animals.

Wildlife corridor: linear features that enable migration and dispersal or otherwise act to link habitats in ways that reduce the isolation of wildlife populations.

Woodland creation: The planting of new trees to form woodland or low-density forest, providing open habitats with plenty of sunlight for inhabitants and some limited shade at ground level. It can help in urban cooling, in providing shade and shelter, in minimising run-off from fields, and in reducing the impact of flooding.

Working towards a vision for more, higher quality and better connected multi-functional green and blue infrastructure in Wiltshire...

Wiltshire Council

Strategy prepared on behalf of
Wiltshire Council by
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Appendix 2:

Survey Consultation Feedback and Evaluation

Introduction

From 1 September to 17 October 2021, Wiltshire Council jointly consulted on its draft Climate Strategy and draft Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire - Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan 2022-30. The purpose of the consultation was to gain the views of the public and stakeholders to inform the development of the strategies.

Methods used included three webinars, and four face to face events in libraries. This was accompanied by extensive communications through social media as well as traditional press releases. Direct notifications of the consultation were sent to Parish, Town, and City Councils (Local Councils), other public sector partners, business forums, the Local Resilience Partnership, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Wiltshire Climate Alliance asking them to promote this opportunity to their membership and partners. Copies of the GBI Strategy as well as an executive summary were displayed in all public libraries and mobile libraries along with the Climate Strategy.

An online survey was set up to allow for public feedback on the Strategy, but additional comments could be sent in via email.

This report, together with the supporting Annex 1, summarises the activities and results of the online survey consultation and feedback sent via email, together with the council's response.

1. Overview

A total of 211 survey responses were received. Of these, 180 were from the online survey and 31 were additional written responses sent via email. Most of those responding were individuals, with 34% of those stating that they were a member of a local environmental organisation. 60 responses were from organisations of which 31 emails were received separately from stakeholder organisations, some of whom also completed the survey. Where possible, more generic comments sent by e-mail have been included in the data presented in this report. More specific comments received, and the council's response to them, can be found annexed to this report.

Overall, the comments submitted can be placed under three broad headings

- **Timescales for action** - the need for action, targets and urgency
- **Clarity of message** - graphics and text sizes
- **Inclusivity** - technical phrases used and a lack of explanation as to their meaning.

Whilst the 2011 census records BME communities making up 6% of the population of Wiltshire (excluding Swindon) 3% who responded to the demographic questions identified as BME. 9% of the population of Wiltshire have some form of disability or long-term illness whilst 12% of respondents who responded to the demographic questions stated they had a disability or long-term illness. There was a slight underrepresentation of those who identified as male under the gender demographic at 35.8%.

Proportionally, younger and working age people were underrepresented and those of 55+ years overrepresented. 61% of respondents were aged 55 and over whilst this age group makes up 36% of the population of Wiltshire. Only 4% of respondents were aged between 18-34 years compared to 17% of the population of Wiltshire being in this age bracket. It has proved very difficult to engage this age group in the consultation of the GBI strategy despite extensive social media coverage which reached over 75,000 individuals, although not all perhaps based in Wiltshire.

The format of the survey was kept simple and in line with the Climate Strategy survey to aid completion of the two surveys simultaneously. 88.8% of respondents found the GBI strategy either understandable or very clear and easy to understand. 96.6% of respondents having read the strategy felt the GBI Strategy was either important or very important.

When asked to rank the three main strategy goals all three were ranked highly although 'halting loss and improving biodiversity' was seen as more important than 'adaption and resilience to climate change' and 'contribution to health and wellbeing' respectively.

When respondents were asked to rank delivery themes the result was as follows:

1st - Nature Recovery and Landscape Management

2nd - Sustainable Farming and Land Management

3rd - Woodland and Trees

4th - Flood and Water Management

5th - Healthy Living

6th - Economic Recovery and Valuing Natural Capital

When the survey asked if respondents would be interested in partnership working in the future 77% said they would either like to be fully involved or kept actively engaged in some way. It is great to see that so many respondents wish to continue engaging on the GBI Strategy and its related work into the future. 56% of respondents were members of environmental groups of some sort which again shows active engagement in the subject with those involved.

Many questions were able to be answered during the live webinar sessions with any additional questions being noted down and subsequently answered on the Climate strategy Q an A page here.

2. Analysis of GBI Strategy consultation responses

Whilst the main responses have been outlined in the overview above this analysis provides a more detailed look at the individual online survey questions.

2.1 How Clear was the Document?

Many of the comments regarding the GBI Strategy were regarding its readability. Only 31.8% found the document clear and easy to understand whilst a majority 56.9% found it understandable. Within this latter group there were many comments regarding use of technical language and repetition in the text. Even the much shorter executive summary was felt not to simplify the concepts enough.

Following these comments as well as dealing with any graphic issues such as font size and clarity in the document, a glossary of terms in the back of the strategy now sets out what many of the technical phrases and acronyms that appear throughout the document mean.

It is also proposed to produce an 'easy read' version of the finalised document following adoption, to assist those with learning difficulties and other disability impairments who may not cope with the long-read version. This was trialled with the Climate Strategy and found to be very successful in engaging a demographic who often feel excluded from consultations on public policy.

Some of the comments also referred to a lack of concrete targets and that the text seemed very 'wordy' without showing steps to be taken for clear action. Whilst attempts were made in the GBI strategy document in the introduction to explain that the more detail plans would be coming through the Wiltshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and GBI Settlement Frameworks, this was missed by many reading the document. As part of the amendments made to the document the introduction and other sections have been re-written to ensure the function of the GBI Strategy and how it provides an overview for more detailed policy coming forward shortly can be better understood.

It is also proposed to include more hyperlinks both across the document to make navigation through the document easier but also to outside sources to ensure references can be more easily found.

Having read the Strategy or the Executive Summary how clear was the document?

- 20
- 57
- 102

■ I found it difficult to understand
■ I found it understandable
■ I found it very clear and easy to understand
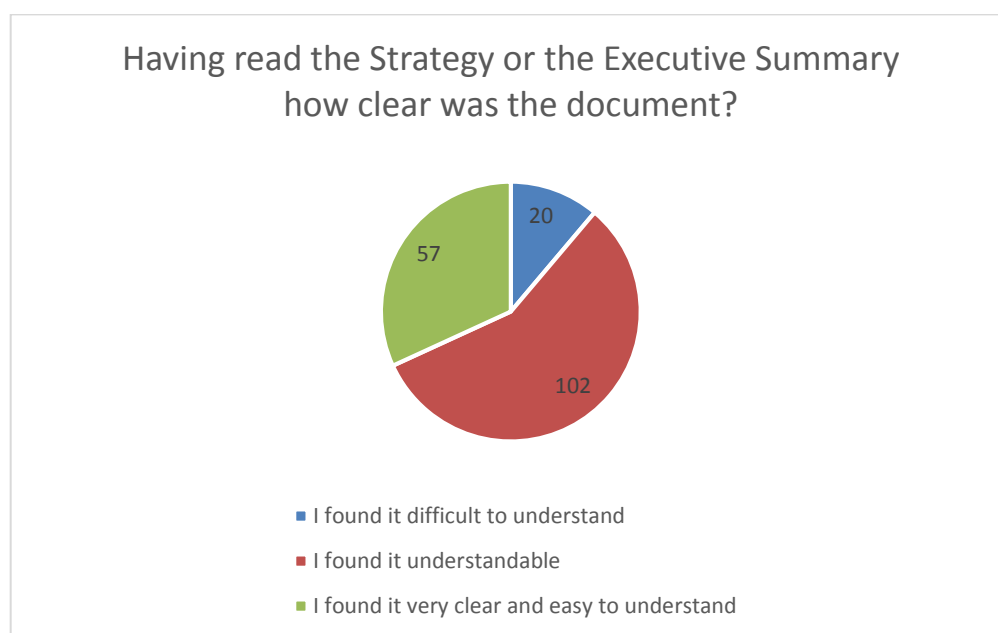
2.2 How important do you think the GBI Strategy is?

Whilst there was some criticism of the format of the GBI Strategy and the lack of targets, the importance of the Strategy overall and its goals and themes were overwhelming endorsed. As has been noted already many of the respondents are already actively engaged in this space in either a personal or professional capacity and are therefore pleased to see Wiltshire Council engaging actively in this topic and willing it to move as fast as possible in developing and adopting policy that benefits the environment.

Having read the Strategy or the Executive Summary how important do you think the GBI Strategy is?

4 2

13

161
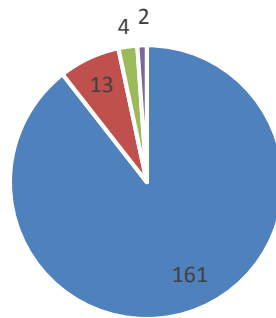
■ It is very important ■ It is important ■ It is not important ■ prefer not to say

2.3 Rank the Three main Strategy Goals in importance

Whilst it was not surprising that 'Halting loss and improving biodiversity' was the highest ranked of the three GBI Strategy goals due to the focus of many respondents on the natural environment the fact that 'adaption and resilience to climate change' came very close in importance shows how closely corelated in the minds of respondents to two subjects are. It would seem to support the decision to run the public consultations together as they are so interlinked in the minds of the wider community.

That 'Health and well-being' is not seen as so important with green and blue infrastructure despite numerous empirical studies showing the benefits of nature to human health may point to the need to further expand public knowledge on this important part of the GBI strategy and green and blue infrastructure in general. This will be considered as part of the GBI settlement work.

Rank the three main Strategy Goals in importance on a scale from 1 - 10

Adaption and resilience to climate change

Contributing to health and well-being

Halting loss and improving biodiversity
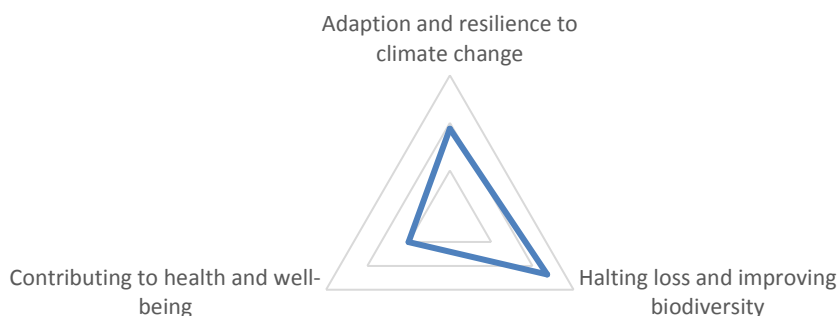
2.4 Rank the Delivery Themes in importance

Some respondents noted that they did not want to rank the responses as they felt all of them were important, however when compiling the questionnaire, it was felt helpful to try and understand the relative importance of these themes for those responding so that our efforts can be suitably focused in the future.

It is likely that successful GBI schemes will cover most if not all these themes when being delivered, but when undertaking public consultation, the results from this survey show that highlighting nature recovery and sustainable farming practices as primary themes over benefits to healthy living and economic recovery are likely to gain more public support than schemes that place economic recovery and valuing natural capital over the benefits say to woodlands and trees.

There may also be some residual confusion over the terminology and perhaps even some resistance to 'monetise' environmental 'goods' by survey respondents which mean that linking accountancy terms to biodiversity benefits might be felt to be incongruous by those more interested in the survival of plants and animals rather than economics. Often economic progress is linked to environmental harm. A solid and positive case for economic progress being linked to environmental good may need to be made going forward.

Rank the Delivery themes in importance

Nature Recovery and Landscape...	1
Sustainable Farming and Land...	2
Woodland and Trees	3
Flood and Water Management	4
Healthy Living	5
Economic recovery and Valuing...	6
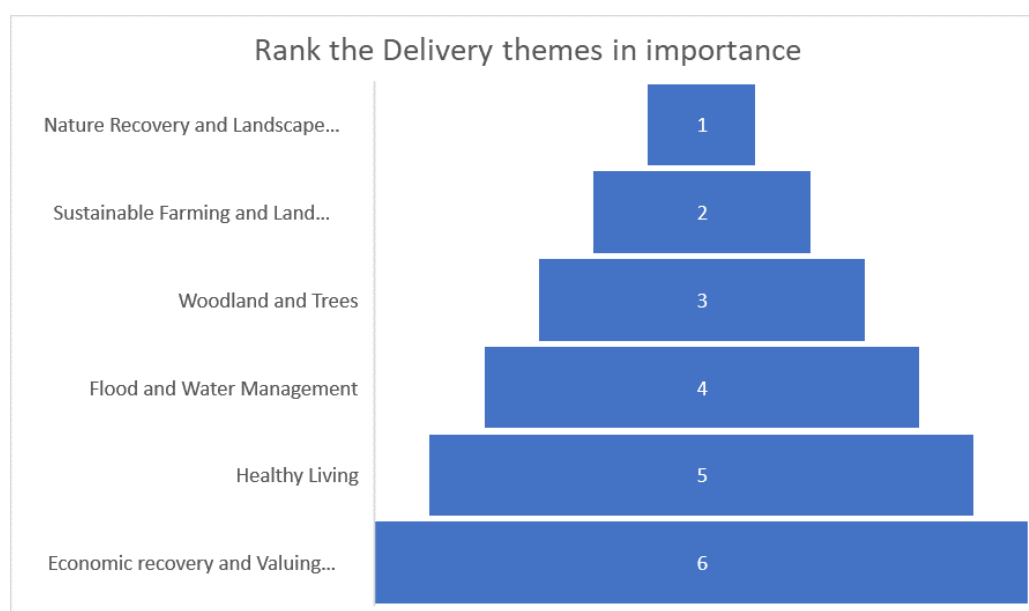
2.5 Written comment topics

The comment topics could be ranked under three main headings.

- **Timescales for action** - the need for action, targets and urgency
- **Clarity of message** - graphics and text sizes
- **Inclusivity** - technical phrases used and a lack of explanation as to their meaning.

As can be seen from the graph below most written responses were regarding the need for action, targets and urgency by some margin. There were some additional themes which appeared in the comments, but these were more to do with wider planning considerations rather than specific GBI themes and goals such as comments on recent planning decisions.

Written Comment topics

Topic	Number of responses
The need for action, targets, and urgeny	50
Concerns over graphics and font sizes	9
Amount of technical phrases	15

number of responses
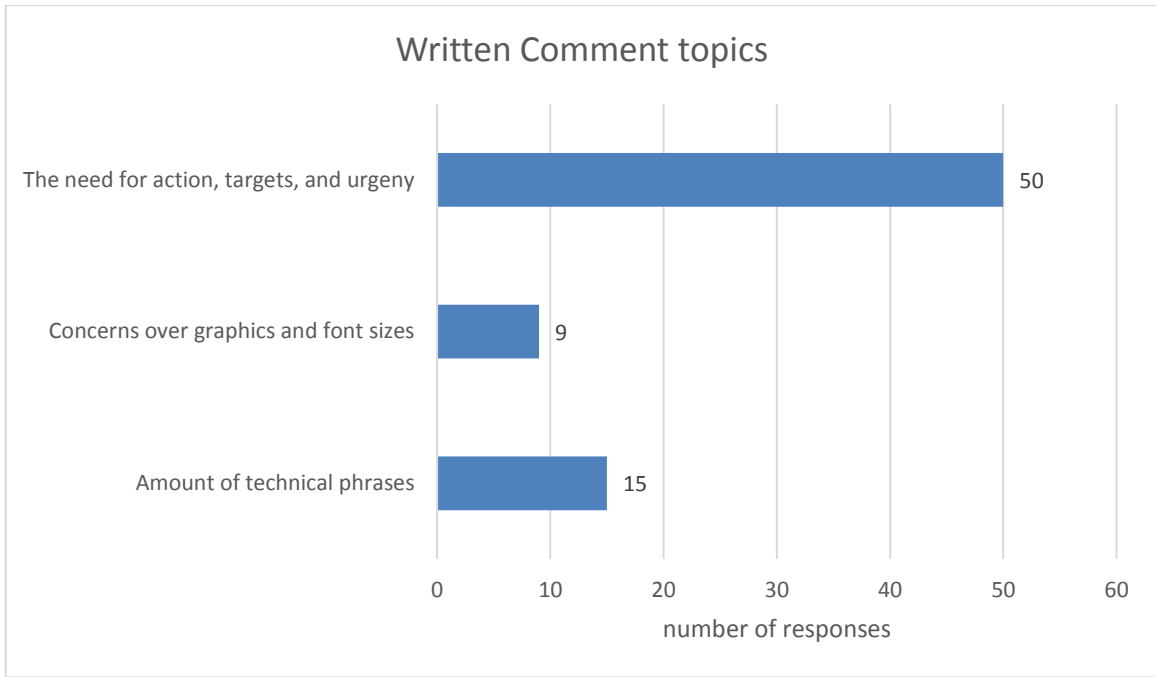
3. Reach of Consultation

A demographics survey was included within the online questionnaire to understand the spread of results and how these matched up to the demographics of Wiltshire. The following provides a rundown of the results.

3.1 Geographic spread of respondents

As part of the online survey respondents were asked to provide a postcode so that an understanding of the geographical spread of those responding could be obtained. Most of the respondents provided a postcode and these results were fed into a Google Maps based online postcode plotter with the results shown below:
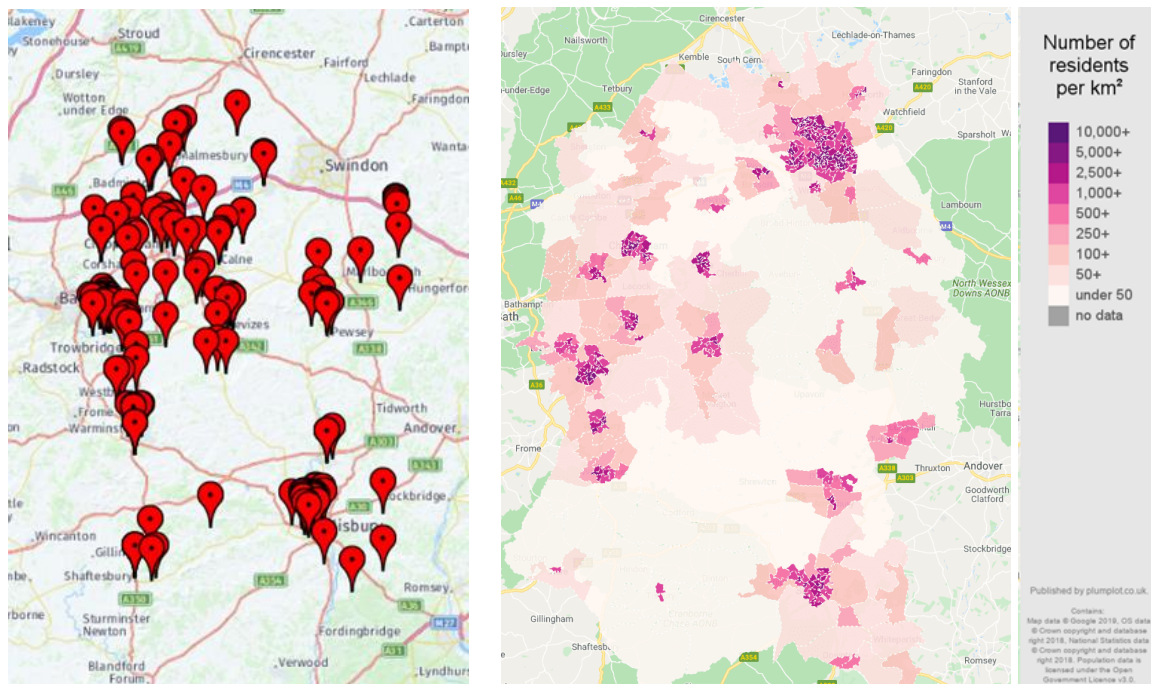
Whilst there were four outlier results in Gloucestershire, Devon, and Buckinghamshire as can be seen by the map the majority of respondents were from inside Wiltshire and corresponded well with a recent population 'heat' map of the County shown on the right.

3.2 Age

As can be noted here the age profile of respondents was very much overrepresented in the older age groups with poor representation in the younger age groups.

How old are you?

Age group	Survey	Wiltshire
Prefer not to say	8	
65 and over	32	22
55 - 64 years	29	14
45 - 54 years	19	14
35 - 44 years	8	12
25 - 34 years	4	11
18 - 24 years	0	6

(% on x-axis, 0 to 35)

■ Wiltshire ■ Survey
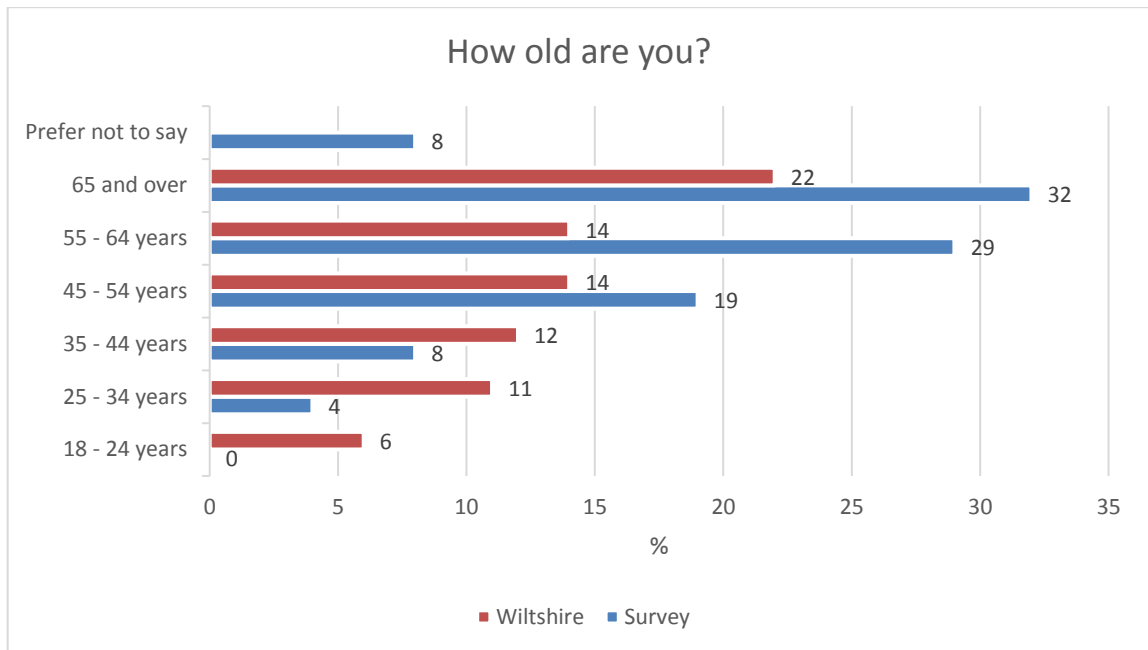
3.3 Gender

Men were generally under-represented and women slightly overrepresented based on the data received. The survey did not allow for other gender identities to be considered.

Respondent Gender

	Survey	Wiltshire
Prefer not to say	7	
Female	57	51
Male	36	49

(% on x-axis, 0 to 60)

■ Wiltshire ■ Survey
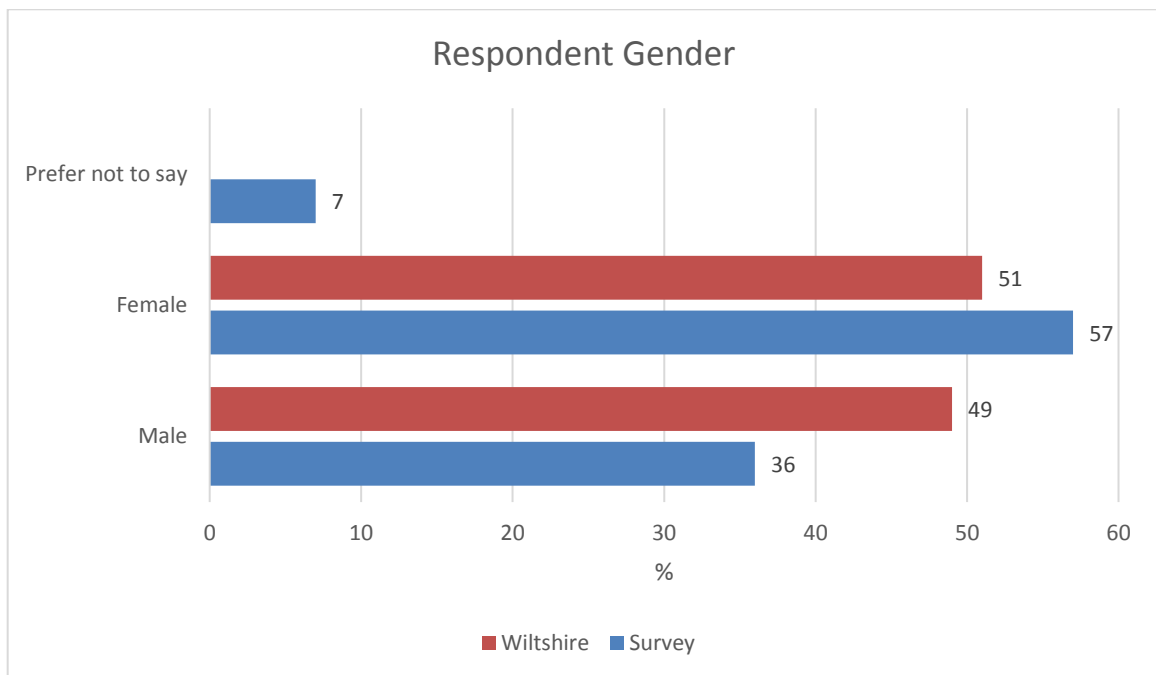
3.4 Disability or long-term illness

Despite some concerns over readability the GBI strategy still managed to reach a greater proportion of disabled people than would be expected from the Wiltsire population.

Page 366

Disability or Longstanding Illness

Prefer not to say
- Survey: 8

Yes
- Wiltshire: 9
- Survey: 12

No
- Wiltshire: 91
- Survey: 80

Legend: ■ Wiltshire ■ Survey

X-axis: %
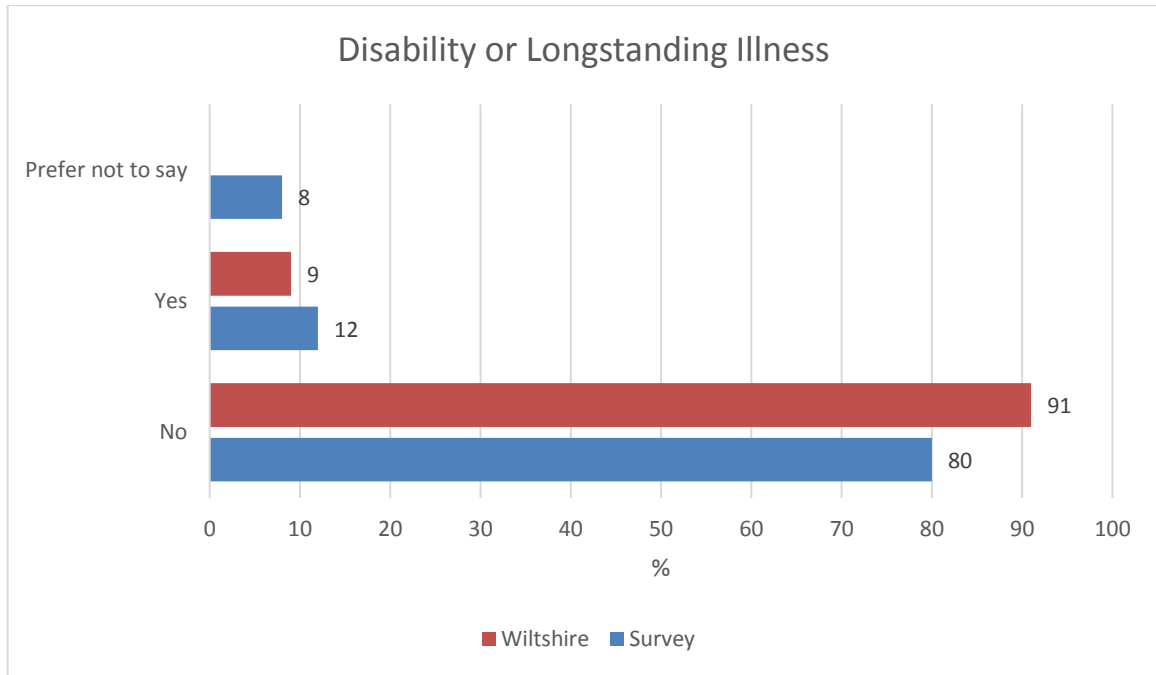
3.5 Ethnicity

There was underrepresentation in BME groups from the survey although due to the limited nature of the data requested in the survey this may have affected the results as respondents may not have been sure if they corresponded with the choices provided and this may have led to the higher percentage of 'prefer not to say.'

Ethnicity

Prefer not to say
- Survey: 11

BME
- Wiltshire: 6
- Survey: 3

White
- Wiltshire: 93
- Survey: 86

Legend: ■ Wiltshire ■ Survey

X-axis: %
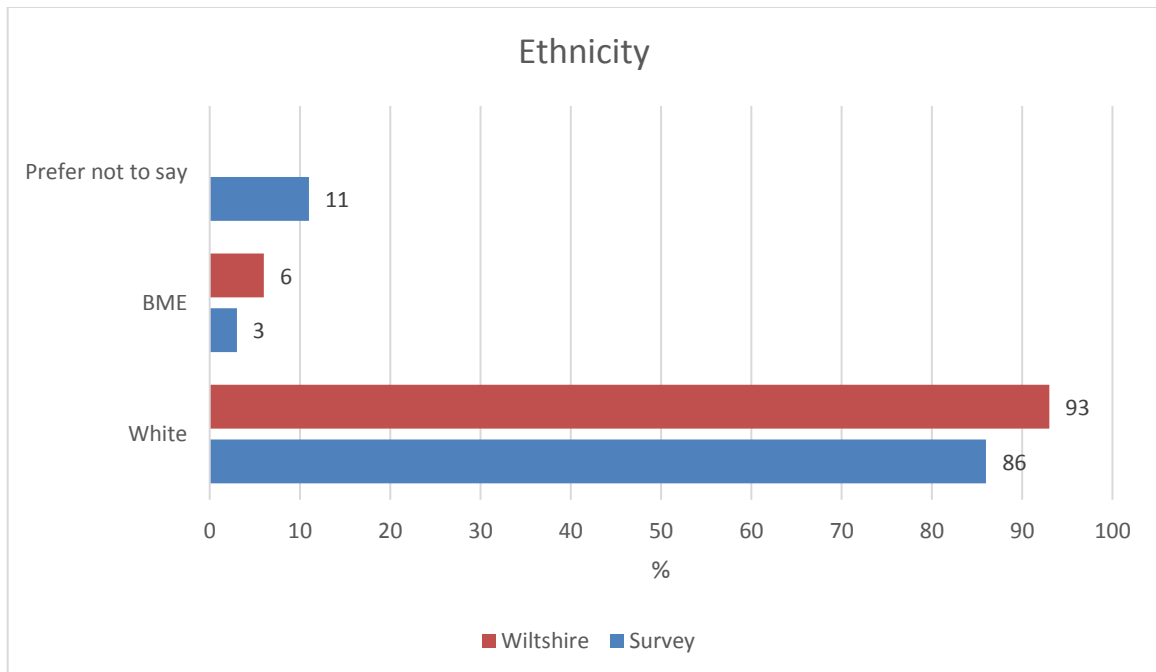
3.6 Income

It is difficult to accurately judge the income band data as so many respondents (36%) preferred not to give these details. However generally upper- and middle-income bands seemed to be more represented than lower income bands. Unfortunately, it has proved difficult to find comparison data for Wiltshire as a whole.

Income bands

Income band	%
Prefer not to say	36
Above £70,000	12
£50,001 - £70,000	9
£30,001 - £50,000	23
£10,001 - £30,000	16
Below £10,000	4
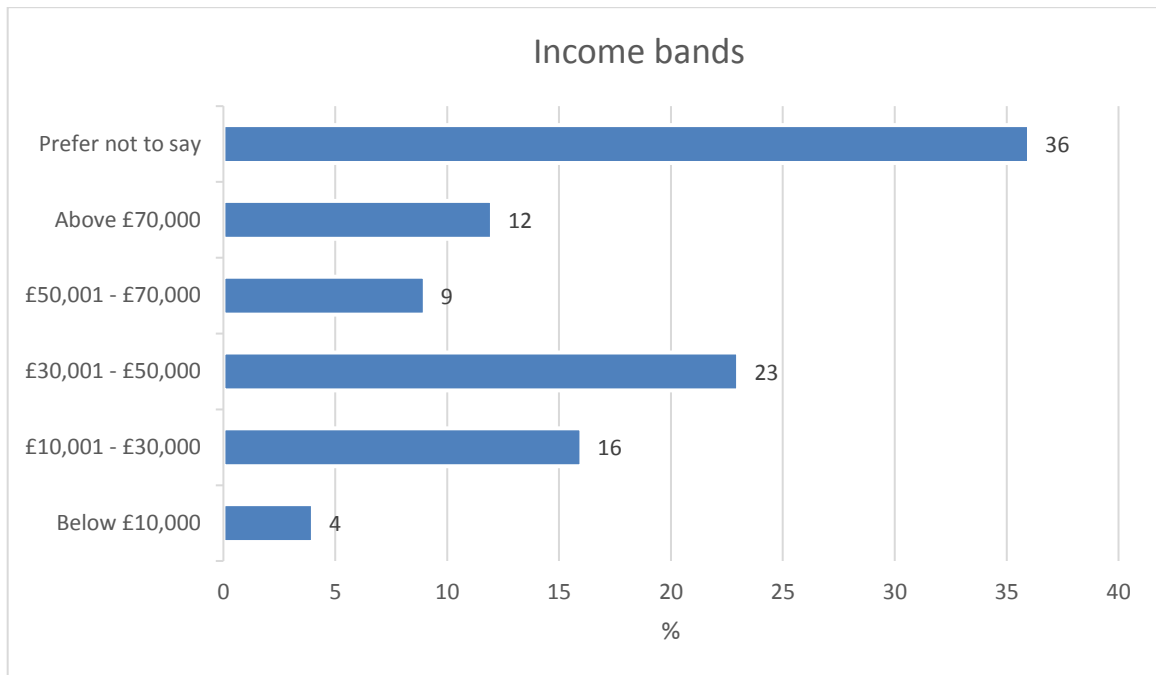
4. Organisations that responded to or were mentioned in the GBI Strategy Survey

Whilst many responses were received from organisations (29) on the online survey many did not write down the names of the organisation in the online survey box and so the list below is not a complete record. This list also includes the names of organisations that provided written email responses to the GBI Strategy survey.

Avon Needs trees
Bradford on Avon Town Council
Carbon Neutral Aldbourne
Chippenham Devizes and North Wiltshire Green Party
Chippenham Town Council
Climate Friendly Bradford
Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon Active Travel Group
Climate Friendly Bradford-on-Avon Biodiversity Group
Corsham Town Council
Corsham Town Council's Environmental Task Group
Corsley Parish Council
Cranborne Chase AONB
Dilton Marsh Parish Council
Drews Pond Wood Project
Eden Renewables
Forestry Commission
Future Chippenham
Malmesbury Town Council
Melksham Without Parish Council
MOD
NFU Wiltshire
Positive Nature

Private Consultant
River Avon Bioregion Group and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
RSPB
Salisbury & Wilton Swift Group
Salisbury Civic Society Development Committee
Sedgehill and Semley Parish Council
St Paul Malmesbury Without Parish Council
Sustainable Sherston
Sustainable Warminster
Vistry Group
Wessex Water
West Wilts Ramblers Group
Wild Colerne
Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum
Wiltshire Climate Alliance
Wiltshire Council
Winsley Parish Council
Woodland Trust

The following is a list of organisations that individual respondents belonged to but were not responding on behalf of:

Aldbourne Carbon Neutral
Aldbourne Wildlife
Butterfly Conservation
Calne Without Parish Council,
Carbon Neutral Aldbourne
COGS
CPRE
CPRE Wiltshire
Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust Stakeholders Group
Cycling UK (Wiltshire)
Eco Bromham
Friends of Becky Addy Wood
Friends of Harnham Meadow
Friends of the Earth
Green Party
Kennet and Avon River Trust
Malmesbury Climate Action Network
Melksham Energy Group
Melksham goes wild
More than one
Pauls Dene Verges group
Pewsey Roots and Shoots
Plantlife
Quidhampton Parish Council climate change workgroup (and Nature project)
Royal Wootton Bassett Environmental Group
Salisbury Area Greenspace Partnership
Salisbury Community Energy

Salisbury Green Party ...
Salisbury Transition City
Sustainable Calne,
Sustainable Devizes
The Badger Trust
The National Trust
Tisbury & District Natural History Group
Tisbury Natural History Society
Transcoco (Transition Community Corsham)
Transition city
Trowbridge Chamber of Commerce
Trowbridge Civic Society
Trowbridge Town Council Environmental Working group
Westwood Biodiversity Group
Wild Colerne
Wilton Wildlife Group
Wiltshire Tree Wardens
Wiltshire Butterfly Conservation
Wiltshire Green Party
Winterslow Environment Volunteers group
WOS
XR
XR BoA
XR Chippenham
XR Salisbury
Zero Chippenham

5.0 Conclusion

The feedback from the consultation was generally supportive and the revised strategy has been amended to reflex comments received. Annex 1 provides more details of comments received by email and the council's response.

The GBI Strategy is not a statutory document and as such there were no statutory requirements for the consultation. However, Consultation was undertaken in respect of this strategy and the consultation that was undertaken is considered sound as it was undertaken when proposals were still at a formative stage and provided sufficient information and time for consultees to provide appropriate comment. The feedback is felt to be representative, if not completely aligned, with Wiltshire's demographics.

The consultation feedback have led to changes to the final proposed strategy and provides an appropriate summary for the decision maker to have due regard (see Annex 1).

ANNEX 1

(See separate pdf. Document)

COMMENTS & RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION DRAFT WILTSHIRE GREEN & BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY (SEPTEMBER 2021)

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Forestry Commission (South West Area Team)	We welcome the Council's concern over the biodiversity and climate crises that as a nation we face, and the desire to reach carbon neutrality and to mitigate the impacts of climate change for the residents of the county be they human, animal or plant. I have identified many areas where additional tree planting could help the strategies achieve these outcomes.	Noted.
	Overall, the documents advocate tree planting in the urban realm which we welcome. The plans are much less supportive of planting in rural areas. For example: Theme 4: Woodland and Trees reviews urban tree and is silent on rural woodland, box 4.9 states "in urban areas tree… help improve air quality… preventing pollutant concentration, and by producing oxygen…" Trees deliver these benefits in any location and this sentence seems to imply that only urban trees will deliver these benefits.	Reference to rural tree planting has been strengthened in Section 4.2 - Theme 4: Woodland & Trees (Box 4.9 Carbon Capture and Improving Air Quality)
	Whilst woodland creation in the rural setting, where trees are used to create new woodland to expand and connect existing habitats in the wider environment, is briefly mentioned, the plan is not as strong in identifying the role that this can have in helping the county achieve its carbon targets and using trees as a nature-based solution to mitigate the impacts of climate change. As an example Theme 1: Flooding and Water Management is virtually silent on the role that trees play despite this being one of the most helpful of the many nature based solutions trees provide. There is a significant missed opportunity here and I hope that the benefits of new woodland can be better communicated and considered more fully.	The role of trees in helping to reduce flooding and help manage water quantity, meet carbon zero targets and improve connectivity across the landscape has been strengthened in Section 3.3 (Box 3.7 Priorities for Action); Section 4.2 - Theme 1 Flooding & Water Management; and Theme 4 - Woodland & Trees
	Fundamental to ensuring high quality appropriate woodland creation in the county will be to have a set of guiding principles, and most counties are working towards a Tree and Woodland Strategy to agree and communicate these. I am pleased to note the reference to a Strategy on page 54 and would offer to help support the creation of this important document ensuring that all woodland stakeholders are able to contribute, including among others: representatives from the forest industry, woodland conservation bodies, protected landscapes, recreation groups as well as those speaking on behalf of the public.	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response

Page 372	A Tree Strategy can also determine the "Right Tree Right Place principles" (RTRP) which are referenced within the consultation document but are undefined.
	
	I have specific points that I would raise:
	
	Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy
	• Page 12. The list does not include the emerging Tree and Woodland Strategy.
	
	• Page 30. Reference to RTRP in box 3.7 only shows that trees provide urban shade. A full list of the benefits of trees could be added to help communicate
	
	• Page 33. Mention is made of 'inappropriate… land management' but the term remains undefined and unhelpful. A framework for decision making would help determine what is appropriate; we would strongly advocate that a natural capital approach be used to better understand the 'costs' of existing and 'benefits' of potential alternative land-uses. This approach captures the huge range of benefits that woodland provides to society and makes larger scale creation more palatable.
	
	• Page 45. This section has a single mention of tree planting at the end of a list where other actions are explained with the resultant benefits undervalues the role that trees play. This should be expanded to show that:
	  - trees catch rainfall to prevent water even reaching the soil and adding to flooding, this can amount to 40% of annual rainfall
	  - Trees increase infiltration of water deep into the soil reducing surface water flows and recharging the ground water, this also helps prevent future drought
	  - Tree roots stabilise soil and prevent erosion
	  - Trees are the most effective landcover to 'slow the flow' by increasing surface roughness helping to decouple surface flows and effectively reduce flooding
	  - Trees are needed to provide material to form the leaky woody dams cited elsewhere and, should beaver reach the Wiltshire rivers, will help create the habitat these animals need to thrive and deliver the water management benefits.
		"Right Tree Right Place" principle definition has been clarified in Theme 4 - Woodland & Trees
		
		• Noted – text amended to clarify these are a list of existing strategies
		• Box 3.7 updated.
		
		• Noted – to be considered for inclusion in the Settlement GBI Frameworks
		
		• Reference to tree planting benefits has been strengthened in Section 4.2 - Theme 1 Flooding & Water Management

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 373	- Trees do this as the most cost-effective flood management tool we have yet identified and do this whilst also sequestering carbon, creating habitat and a renewable resource • Page 48. The addition of encouraging farmers to plant trees as part of an agroforestry system will be the single most effective solution to achieving the aims of this Theme. Trees will rapidly improve soil quality as tree roots ameliorate soil compaction, add nutrients and carbon to the soil more quickly and roots will help reduce soil erosion. The trees will also provide fodder, shade and shelter for livestock ensuring they stay healthier and more productive. It is disappointing not to see this reflected in this Theme. • Page 52. We agree that it is crucial to protect the beautiful landscapes of the County it seems that some acknowledgement of the impacts that climate change will have on these would be appropriate. Current expectation is that these landscapes will suffer significant negative change if we do not quickly achieve net zero carbon, so some element of mitigation of these impacts should be included here and the case for positive change outlined. Keeping the landscape unchanged does not seem to be an option available to us at this time. • Page 54. Support for the Great West Community Forest could be made more explicit. The Community Forest has recently been given a significant increase in funding and this comes with the greatest opportunity for woodland creation anywhere in the county. For the Community Forest to only appear this late in the document makes it appear as an afterthought. • Theme 4 – I believe this section needs to be expanded to reflect on the current threats to the existing woodlands such as Ash Dieback, Oak Decline and other potential pests and diseases. The loss of 'ordinary' trees will have large negative consequences and impact on the character of the landscape, some element of the plan to focus on the replacement and enhancement of existing woodland would be prudent	• Reference to benefits of trees has been strengthened in Section 4.2 - Theme 2 Sustainable Farming & Land Management • Noted - protected landscapes such as AONBs have their own management plans through which achieving the objective of net zero carbon should be considered. • Reference to the Great West Community Forest has been strengthened in Section 4.2 - Theme 4: Woodland & Trees • Noted – threats to trees and woodlands from pest and diseases reflected in Section 4.2 - Theme 3: Nature Recovery & Landscape Management

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	• Principle 2: An Integrated Approach. I welcome the more joined up thinking identified here but would suggest it should not be limited to a Catchment Based Approach which is a geographical approach focussed on the single issue of water. The integration of a Natural Capital Based Approach would be more useful on a county scale where all partners could work to integrate carbon, wildlife, sustainable resource management, recreation, etc and optimise and maximise the outcomes across the entire landscape resulting in much greater integration.	• Noted - this will be addressed in other documents such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
Salisbury and Wilton Swift Group	Goal 2 is 'Halting loss of & improving biodiversity', but the Strategy's focus is green spaces/corridors, the importance of tree planting and rivers etc. There is huge opportunity being missed by having no reference to the 'Built Environment' and the need for both preserving and enhancing biodiversity in this ever-growing man-made environment. There are references to the Built Environment in many of the Government's recent publications: NPPF, Natural Environment Guidance, paragraph 023, Reference ID: 8-023-20190721 How can biodiversity net gain be achieved? Provides further guidance stating "...relatively small features can often achieve important benefits for wildlife, such as incorporating 'swift bricks' and bat boxes in developments and providing safe routes for hedgehogs between different areas of habitat."; Government press release (21/07/19) James Brokenshire, the Communities Secretary at the time of the NPPG Natural Environment publication stated: "For the first time the government has set out its expectations on how developers can protect specific species, including using 'hedgehog highways' and hollow swift bricks – which are installed into the walls of new build homes, allowing the birds to nest safely. This follows public interest for protecting these much-loved animals, with one petition receiving support from over half a million people." Thus the Government's support for such measures was stated explicitly; "Living With Beauty" (30/01/20) the Government's Building Better Building Beautiful Commission report recommends: "Bricks for bees and birds in new build homes" (Policy Proposition 33, page 110); National Model Design Code Part 2 Guidance Notes N.3 Biodiversity states: "Biodiversity can be enhanced through facilitating habits and routes for wildlife, for example, incorporating trees, wildflowers, ponds, bat and bird boxes, bee and bird bricks and hedgehog highways."	Noted - reference to the GBI benefits of the built environment are included throughout the document Noted – opportunities for swift bricks and other such ecological enhancement measures in housing and structures are included in the Community Environmental Toolkit, will be considered as part of the emerging Design Guide and will considered for inclusion in the Settlement GBI Frameworks

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 375	The Built Environment is too easy to over-look. A document as important as the GBIS must refer to the Built Environment with examples of simple, cheap and effective ecological enhancement measures that can be taken to increase biodiversity. Such measures being good for our health & wellbeing, good for wildlife, good for biodiversity and a positive step towards reducing the impact of climate change. Bird, bat and bee bricks, bird and bat boxes, hedgehog highways, reptile refugia, hibernacula etc are examples of ecological measures that should be included where appropriate in all new development as well as being encouraged in existing built-up areas.	Reference to examples of ecological enhancement measures within the built environment (including for swifts) have been included in Section 4.2 - Theme 3: Nature Recovery & Landscape Management.
	Some species such as the swift have been recognised by the Environment Agency in their State of the Urban Environment report (23/07/21) which states: "People are increasingly living in urban areas, globally and in the UK. Around 80% of people in England now live in urban areas"……. "Some species are considered 'urban specialists'. For example, swifts, which nest in cavities in the roofs of older buildings. Urban specialist birds are a good biodiversity indicator for urban areas, because good quality, long-term data is available, and much is known about their ecology and some of the pressures affecting them. Urban specialist birds have declined in abundance in the UK since 1994 (figure 2). Factors contributing to some of these species' declines include building demolition, renovation and roof repair." https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-of-the-environment/the-state-of-the-environment-the-urban-environment.	Noted
	During the public webinar there was a slide headed 'Section 5 The Way Forward' which highlighted the importance of monitoring species and habitats in order to measure improvements. The swift is a particularly good example to quote in the G&BIS as it is listed as a Priority Species on the Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan.	Reference to swifts example included in Section 5.5 Monitoring & Reviewing
	We are also concerned that the Executive Summary (pg 10) and the full Strategy (pg 15) both show Wiltshire's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) as playing a key supporting role. However the BAP was last updated in 2008!! Wiltshire's current website www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1102/Biodiversity-and-development, has a heading 'Enhancement', under this heading it states: "Habitat enhancement (as required by the National Planning Policy Framework) should be specifically designed, to help meet targets set out in Wiltshire's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), for the latest Biodiversity Delivery Plan for Wiltshire please visit the Link2Nature web page." However Link2Nature is no longer functioning and nothing has been added to the	Goal 2 has been strengthened to emphasise the need to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy to help build resilience to climate change and provide opportunities for species and ecosystem recovery (in line with the Environment Act).

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 376	website since 2014! According to a County Ecologist the BAP is no longer funded by the Government but will be replaced by the Environment Plan which has yet to be rolled out. Without adding a note/reference in the GBIS to the fact that the BAP is to be replaced by the upcoming Environment Bill, the GBIS will be out of date before it is published.	
	Many Local Authorities have Supplementary Planning Documents/Guidance which have detailed planning guidance (see link for example, paragraph 9.28 https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4CpCORtOQdTRTNYSENnUXdoNTQ/view?resourcekey=0-v9aB6M6WZqJZ4On-qdccCA). Wiltshire does not have such a document, and although we have been told it does recognise the need for one, there is no firm timeframe for one to be produced. Therefore until Wiltshire has such a document it is vitally important that a higher level of detail is captured in the more strategic documents than would normally be necessary.	Noted
	Page 14 of the Executive Summary lists 'key actions', one of which is 'Supporting nature recovery and landscape management', we believe 'including the Built Environment' should be added. The full Strategy document, page 28, states: 'loss of gardens and increases in urban uses often reduce biodiversity'. But there is no mention of using the opportunities the buildings themselves provide; whether they are dwellings or industrial units, ecological enhancements can and should be incorporated. Page 8 of the Executive Summary lists 'assets' but there is no mention of the fact that the Built Environment can also be an 'asset' to a variety of wildlife both in a rural and urban setting. Page 11 refers to 'Biodiversity Sites' and 'Priority Habitats' but all under 'Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure Sites'. Whilst we appreciate it might not be appropriate to include the Built Environment in every section, it does need to be included somewhere as it is a continually expanding environment which is currently receiving unprecedented government scrutiny and robust policy guidance. Our Wiltshire G&BI Strategy needs to be future-proof and fit for purpose for many years to come. The Local Plan consultation 'Addressing climate change and biodiversity net gain' concentrated almost solely on climate change and did not effectively address and capture the positive moves in biodiversity since the last plan let alone ensure that biodiversity is protected until the next plan which is due 2036.	Reference to examples of ecological enhancement measures within the built environment (including for swifts) have been included in Section 4.2 - Theme 3: Nature Recovery & Landscape Management.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Avon Needs Trees	I'm writing from Avon Needs Trees. We are charity planting new permanent forests currently in Wiltshire but also as part of a wider catchment area. It would be great to have a conversation to look at any scope to work together	Noted
Woodland Trust	Thank you for the opportunity to attend your webinar session on the strategies. They were very informative. As the UK's leading woodland conservation charity, the Woodland Trust welcomes the Council's concern over the biodiversity and climate crises that we face, the ambition to reach carbon neutrality and to mitigate the impacts of climate change and would like to explore options for woodland protection, creation and restoration in Wiltshire with you, which would further the ambition of your environmental strategies. Specifically, I would like to draw your attention to the following points within the GBI strategy with you for further discussion.	Noted
	Overall I agree with points raised by the Forestry Commission, in their feedback that whilst the document makes a good case for tree planting in urban areas, there is a lack of clarity of what could be achieved in more rural areas and for trees outside woodland.	Reference to rural tree planting has been strengthened in Section 4.2 - Theme 4: Woodland & Trees (Box 4.9 Carbon Capture and Improving Air Quality)
	The Woodland Trust advocates a Right Tree, Right Place approach which would be relevant when applied to the different landscapes of the north and south of the county. Native broad-leafed woodland has a strong role to play in carbon capture and the Woodland Trust has schemes available for offsetting carbon through woodland creation. I attach an introductory guide. I look forward to the development of the Tree and Woodland Strategy mentioned on page 54 and look forward to working with you on achieving your tree cover targets.	Noted
	My first observation is that the list of documents on page 12 does not include the emerging Tree and Woodland Strategy.	Noted – text amended to clarify that these are a list of existing strategies and make reference to Diagram 2.2.
	We would welcome a strategy that includes the benefits of hedgerows for nature recovery as well as trees outside woods.	Reference to hedgerows has been strengthened in Section 4.2 - Theme 4: Woodland & Trees

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 378	Further comments: Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Page 27: A statement is made regarding the local plan to help achieve the challenge. It would be good for the GBI strategy to expand on this to explain what you would like to see the Local Plan include to do this. Will the plan include allocations which make provisions for nature-based solutions and for woodland protection and creation, as well as allocations for development? Land used for woodland creation requires recognition and protection from development, as we are seeing cases where after a decade, these sites are developed. Young woodland is not valued highly for diversity at that point and therefore the land is not ringfenced. We foresee that woodland creation for Carbon will go some way to remedying this, as this attaches direct revenue to the land and should afford protection for a substantial amount of time. However, this should not detract from the need to create woodland for the benefits of biodiversity as an objective in itself.	Noted - Biodiversity Net Gain requirements will be mandated as part of the Environment Act and the Local Plan will reflect this in policy changes. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will consider the benefits of habitat protection and enhancement for biodiversity (including for woodland habitat).
	Page 31: I would like to see woodland included in the first paragraph's description of the Vision for GBI in Wiltshire. It has a complimentary role in the county to the downland landscapes.	Noted – woodland and trees are a key delivery theme of the GBI Strategy
	Page 33: It is good to see the mention made of irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodlands. This paragraph could be strengthened by a reference to the NPPF provisions for such habitats. The strategy should define ways in which these habitats will be protected from development including, mapping and data, such as the Ancient Tree and Woods inventories, to understand where they are, buffer zones to reduce the impact of development and ring fencing these habitats in the local plan.	Reference to the NPPF mitigation hierarchy has been strengthened in Section 3.2 – Our Vision for GBI in Wiltshire (Box 3.5 Safeguarding the Integrity of the GBI Network)
	Page 35: I am pleased to see how you have integrated the themes of the Lawton Report into More GBI, Higher Quality GBI and Better Connected GBI in the strategy	Noted
	Page 38: Trees have a role to play in many of the nature-based examples you have bulleted which is a further reason for increasing tree cover in the county and I would be keen to understand more about your ambitions for planting 180,000 hectares by the end of 2042. The Woodland Trust has schemes in place for supporting local authorities with their tree planting and it would be good to open a	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 379	conversation with yourselves about how we can unlock this. The Woodland Trust's Outreach Officer, ▮▮▮▮▮ has worked with ▮▮▮▮▮ with planting design and tree delivery with the Chippenham Net Zero project and we are supporting tree supply this coming season. It would be excellent to explore this further to help you to achieve these ambitions.	
	Page 40: I welcome your note on enhancing biosecurity measures. The Woodland Trust advocates for all trees to be UK sourced and grown (UKISG). It would be excellent to see Wiltshire Council adopt this standard for tree procurement. All trees sourced through the Woodland Trust would meet this important benchmark.	Noted – to be considered as part of the Tree & Woodland Strategy
	Page 43 and Theme 3, page 49: We would welcome the opportunity to work with you in delivering landscape scale conservation to achieve a high-quality, well-connected, and multi-functional GBI network through a local nature partnership group.	Noted
	Page 45: More could be made of the valuable role that trees can play in slowing the flow and increasing the resilience of rivers to flooding events. It would be good to describe here some examples of riverbank restoration for example, increasing biodiversity through the removal of invasive species and promotion of riparian woodland.	Reference to tree planting benefits has been strengthened in Section 4.2 - Theme 1 Flooding & Water Management
	Page 52: I would echo the feedback from the Forestry Commission in their response, that to be more resilient to climate change, many of the landscapes you have described will need to adapt if they are not going to suffer significant adverse impacts. Some elements of mitigation should be included here and the case for positive nature based solutions outlined. It is highly likely that the landscape of the future will be different to that now, and so an unchanged landscape does not seem to be an available option at this time.	Noted - protected landscapes such as AONBs have their own management plans through which achieving the objective of net zero carbon should be considered.
	Page 53: I welcome the inclusion of Theme 4 and would welcome the opportunity to talk through this theme and how the Woodland Trust can support this ambition with your officers and members. It would be good to see a reference made to the backing offered nationally in paragraph 131 of the NPPF which notes the importance of urban trees for the benefits you have outlined: 'Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined'.	Noted – this is reflected in Box 4.10 Urban Trees

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Page 380	Page 54: Swindon Council has a significant ambition to increase the size of the town through its local plan. We would urge Wiltshire Council to work with them to ensure that the aims and objectives of the Community Forest continue to be met and biodiversity corridors into Wiltshire are not threatened by such development.	Reference to the Great West Community Forest has been strengthened in Section 4.2 - Theme 4: Woodland & Trees
	Page 55: This theme could be strengthened with some clear examples of how the GBI will deliver more health and wellbeing benefits to the people of Wiltshire, rather than setting the scene as it largely does in its current form. Studies have shown significant benefits to those involved both in creation of habitats and planting and then the clear community benefits from access to that green infrastructure once created.	Reference to evidence of health and well-being benefits of GBI has been strengthened in Section 4.2 - Theme 5: Healthy Living and examples can be found in the Evidence Base document.
	Page 58, and page 67: I would urge caution around biodiversity net gain and the opportunities it offers. Research is showing in the UK that the offer made for 10% increase in biodiversity through the planning system can have unforeseen, inadvertent effects on biodiversity and when measured by other means, biodiversity has often suffered on the whole. I would therefore encourage a statement ensuring that the planning arrangements in Wiltshire will make effective provision for nature by protecting the biodiversity hotspots of the county and making these bigger, better and more connected through a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. I welcome your messages around nature recovery	Noted - Biodiversity Net Gain requirements will be mandated as part of the Environment Act and the Local Plan will reflect this in policy changes. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will consider the benefits of habitat protection and enhancement for biodiversity (including for woodland habitat).
	Page 62: I concur with comments made by the Forestry Commission here and that linkages should be strengthened here to the Local Nature Partnership, Local Nature Recovery strategy and not only to Catchment Based Approaches.	Noted - this will be addressed in other documents such as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
	Page 64: The Woodland Trust can support you in your evidence led approach with a series of publications with policy positions, and research reports. I would urge that you read our State of Woods and Trees Report 2021 report, published earlier in the year which can be used to guide your understanding of the plight of woods and trees.	Noted – to be considered as part of the Tree & Woodland Strategy
	Page 71: The Woodland Trust has been working with Wiltshire Council and we would like to explore opportunities to do this further. Therefore, we would like to be considered as a partner.	Noted – Woodland Trust logo added to Diagram 5.1

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	Climate Strategy 2022-2027 I would like to comment on 2 key aspects of the climate strategy. Firstly, I agree with the Forestry Commission's comments that the paragraph including the phrase "An area the size of Wilshire completely covered with trees could absorb on 1/3 of our county's emissions' is not helpful to include. This paragraph does not seem to recognise the ambition of the GBI strategy for the Right Tree in the Right Place, nor is it an accurate representation of how to reduce carbon emissions. Trees should only be planted to offset carbon when all other measures to reduce emissions have been taken. I believe that the public could be very confused by this statement, and it does not assist with their understanding of this complex issue. This statement could be improved with the wording that it takes four trees, one hundred years to take up four tons of carbon and so we need to reduce our carbon emissions significantly. Secondly, I would like to reiterate that more reference could be made in this document to the Tree and Woodland Strategy. However, this should not all be about planting. I would urge the council to Protect the woodlands it has and make no exceptions to the NPPF's paragraph 180 (C), on irreplaceable habitats in its planning decisions and would welcome more detailed ambitions and targets around woodland creation and increasing canopy cover in Wiltshire.	Noted – to be considered as part of the Tree & Woodland Strategy and see also responses to Climate Strategy consultation
	We would welcome the opportunity to work with you on woodland protection and creation and look forward to seeing how your strategy moves forward into clear positive action in Wiltshire for the benefit of Nature, People and mitigating climate change.	Noted
RSPB	Overall, we are supportive of the vision and goals. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy and proposed Wiltshire Climate and Environmental Forum are integral to delivery and monitoring, we would welcome an opportunity to input into these through key partnerships.	Noted
	We feel opportunities have been missed in relation to biodiversity within the built environment. The Executive Summary document (p8) describes local/urban scale GBI. Buildings assets focuses on GI primarily in relation to water attenuation. Reference should be made here, and elsewhere in the document, when referring to GBI to include the built environment such as provision for cavity nesting species e.g. swifts and bats within buildings.	Reference to examples of ecological enhancement measures within the built environment (including for birds and bats) have been included in Section 4.2 - Theme 3: Nature Recovery & Landscape Management.

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	Principle 6 – Planning Principles (p67) within the strategy documents outlines the Councils plans to "seek to secure biodiversity and wider environmental net gains for our natural capital from new development by encouraging applicants for major development proposals to take into account the GBI principles" as highlighted. We would suggest that this principle applies to all scales of development which should seek to integrate biodiversity as standard, swift boxes for example can be incorporated relatively easily and inexpensively when considered early in the build design.	Reference to major development proposals removed in Section 4.2 - Theme 6: Planning Principles.
	There should be detail and clarity around the Councils expectations from developers at the outset, a Supplementary Planning Document outlining build/development design would be invaluable to ensure GBI is fully incorporated in the early phases.	Noted – opportunities for ecological enhancement measures in housing and structures are included in the Community Environmental Toolkit, and are to be considered as part of the emerging Design Guide and the Settlement GBI Frameworks.
Positive Nature	This is to register my interest in being involved in future action partnerships and steering groups relating to your green and blue infrastructure strategy for Wiltshire. I'm organising a panel talk on sustainable food and farming next March set against the backdrop of the climate change, biodiversity and health crises in particular stimulating debate around future land use, agroecology, health and local food with an interesting line up of speakers. I'm also involved in nature conservation and other sustainability issues. I'm the founder of Positive Nature, a modest not-for-profit organisation celebrating the wonder of the natural world and promoting sustainable living and wellbeing ████████████ I organise talks and other activities and also work in partnership with other organisations on projects of mutual interest. Recent projects include a best practice resource for accommodation providers in wilderness areas in India and Nepal for TOFTigers based around their sustainability standard recognised by the UN-backed Global Sustainable Tourism Council. It's positive to read the Council's climate and green and blue infrastructure strategies. I would welcome an opportunity to discuss the talk on food and farming with you and your colleagues.	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Private individual	In the green/blue infrastructure [strategy] there is too much emphasis on economic growth. However any examination of the problem indicates that economics needs to evolve beyond the strategies first put in place in economics 101 nearly 100 years ago. Abandon the emphasis on economic growth and look to more forward thinking strategies such as Doughnut Economics as implemented in Amsterdam, Barcelona, and my own business. The circular economy is part of the solution, and the focus on the sustainable development goals is excellent. Doughnut economics brings all of these elements together under one umbrella	Noted – the natural capital approach to assessing and valuing the economic importance of the ecosystem services provided by GBI is highlighted in Section 4.2 - Theme 6: Economic Recovery & Valuing Natural Capital
Cranbourne Chase AONB	1. The Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership welcomes Wiltshire Council's Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. The make up of this AONB partnership and the status of this AONB are set out in Annexes A and B respectively.	Noted
	2. You may already be aware that AONB Management Plans, not just for this AONB but also for the North Wessex Downs and Cotswolds, are key strategy documents that have been adopted by Wiltshire Council. They constitute Wiltshire Council's policies for the management of these AONBs. Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership therefore recommends that the AONBs should be more readily visible throughout the strategy.	References to AONBs, and AONB Management Plans, strengthened throughout the document where appropriate.
	3. AONBs are, in reality, mega green and blue resources. Local nature recovery strategies need to mesh with the established AONB management plans. However, the AONBs are not identified on diagram 1.2, GBI Networks, and this seems to be a significant omission. Clearly the AONBs are the largest identifiable landscape scale elements of green blue infrastructure in the county.	Noted - the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will be developed in partnership with the AONBs and other key stakeholders, environmental groups and the community. AONBs added to Diagram 1.2.
	4. Whilst I see that the New Forest National Park is identified on map 1.1 which sets out the location and context of the county, the AONBs, which are nationally equally important landscapes as those of the National Parks, are not shown. This AONB Partnership recommends they should be shown on map 1.1.	AONBs added to Map 1.1.
	5. Whilst section 2.2 helpfully puts forward an outline of Wiltshire's landscape context the strategic GBI sites in section 2.3 are identified as either 'natural assets' of three types of wildlife site or one historic environment designation. There is no mention of landscapes in relation to sites. Similarly, the strategic GBI corridors are	Reference to evidence base for further details added

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 384	identified separately and their relationships with the national landscapes are not identified. International Dark Sky Reserve 2019	
	6. Whilst it is helpful to identify the AONBs as sub regional strategic GBI there seems to be a bit of confusion in relation to the cross cutting nature of GBI. The AONBs and National Parks already cover many of these issues at a strategic level. Where GBI usefully gets into greater detail is in relation to amenity green spaces, allotments and school grounds and sports fields. Many of these have less rich biodiversity than the AONBs and clearly they present opportunities to enhance these aspects.	Noted – GBI opportunities at a local scale are to be considered in the Settlement GBI Frameworks.
	7. It may be the way the document is laid out online but it appears that map 2.1, the Strategic GBI Network, does not have a key to identify the various elements.	Elements on Map 2.1 keyed out in the text.
	8. The maps 2.2 through to 2.13 helpfully identify some of the overlapping aspects of the elements included within the scope of GBI. However, section 2.4, defining strategic GBI Priorities and Opportunities, does not cross reference to AONB Management Plans or identify the AONBs as areas where partnerships already exist for the encouragement and facilitation of GBI actions.	Reference to evidence base for further details added
	9. Section 3 helpfully identifies three overarching themes, namely climate change, biodiversity, and health and well-being. These are addressed in our AONB Management Plan so, again, there could be greater cross referencing.	Noted
	10. It appears that the local GBI settlement frameworks identified in map 2.16 mean that the Salisbury and Warminster frameworks could impact on this AONB but there appears to be little by way of further guidance on what the frameworks could or should include.	References to the purpose of the Settlement GBI Frameworks strengthened throughout the document where appropriate.
	11. Government has been clear that it has had intentions of moving forward the implementation of its strategic 25 Year Environment Plan and that the special landscapes of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks would get special attention. The Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme announced in the summer applies directly to the AONBs and National Parks to take forward projects that are tailored to the local landscape character and further the themes of improving soils and ensuring the countryside is teeming with wildlife. The conservation and enhancement of landscapes is, of course, inherent within this	Reference to the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme included in Section 4.2 - Theme 3: Nature Recovery & Landscape Management

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 385	project, focusing as it does on the nation's finest designated landscapes. This AONB Partnership does, therefore, recommend that the Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy identifies this externally funded initiative which utilises the relationships the national landscapes have built up with their local farming communities and also engages with Local Assessment Panels to evaluate the projects, the scope of which seems to be entirely within the ambit of the Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy.	
	12. Whilst acknowledging that setting out the background and context for the GBI Strategy is important, the document seems to take quite a time to progress to setting out a vision. That vision clearly echoes Sir John Lawton's report from a decade ago seeking more, high quality, and better connected. Whilst the Vision, diagram 3.1, builds on the three themes of biodiversity, climate change, and health and well-being, many of the elements seem to relate somewhat aspirationally just to bigger, better and more. Nevertheless, the AONB fully supports the three goals of 1) adaptation and resilience to climate change, 2) halting loss and improving biodiversity, 3) contributing to health and well-being. The five Priorities for Action in box 3.7 are more precise in relation to the rather generalised earlier statements. With the exception of creating more and better green spaces in towns, the other four priorities all fall within the compass of AONB Management Plans. As I have just mentioned, the encouraging of environmentally sensitive farming is being specifically actioned in the AONBs and National Parks at the moment.	Noted
	13. Of the six delivery themes, section 4.2, flooding and water management appears to be the least engaged with AONB Management Plans, however this AONB does have a current active project on the River Ebble, A Crystal Clear Ebble, and that could serve as an exemplar scheme.	Noted – to be considered in the Settlement GBI Frameworks.
	14. I have already referred to the sustainable farming schemes in this AONB and this AONB has pioneered farm clusters for the farming communities to initiate their own ways of achieving nature recovery and sustainable farming. See Farming in Cranborne Chase. This AONB has, for many years, had a very active conservation advisor.	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	15. The dual aim of valuing natural capital and economic recovery is finely balanced as economic returns and business projects are not necessarily those that are most sensitive to the natural environment. The AONB sector contributes to those aims through the planning consultation processes at both policy and planning application levels. Seeking environmental net gain and the capture and utilisation of renewable energy are but two ways of seeking to achieve effective development that minimises adverse impacts on the environment and encourages environmental enhancements. Many of this AONB's activities are based around healthy living and encouraging outdoor activities even though we have less high profile projects than some of our fellow AONBs.	Noted
	16. We have a significant history of working with our woodlands and trees, recognising that not all of our landscapes are typified by trees and woodlands. We are concerned that additional tree planting should not impact adversely on landscape character and historic sites. We have, therefore, recently produced Right Tree Right Place Guidance to assist with delivering more trees in the right place in the landscape so that iconic views and characteristic open landscapes are not prejudiced.	Noted
	17. The case studies that are in the delivery themes are helpful, and they bring to life what could appear to be a fairly standardised approach.	Noted
	18. The Delivery Principles set out in section 4.3 echo those in our adopted AONB Management Plan. It is noted that on page 66 reference is made to a Wiltshire Landscape Strategy and hopefully the authors of that will engage with the AONBs; they already have overarching landscape management documents and policies in their adopted AONB Management Plans. Whilst the proposal a Wiltshire Climate and Environment Forum is welcomed it does seem that this is a Local Nature Partnership under another name. The general thrust of the Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy seems to embrace much wider environmental issues and the Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership strongly advises that such a forum should have a substantial landscape component covering not just the protected landscapes but also the relevant professions.	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	19. The Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership welcomes the Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy and observes that the document as currently presented has a number of useful and enlightening case studies, but it does take quite a lot of space to get over the messages. It seems that the need for green blue elements within existing and proposed settlements requires considerable attention to detail whereas the broader strategic aims across the rural parts of the county can be dealt with in more flexible and aspirational ways. In the latter situation the AONBs and National Park cover a substantial part of the County and with partnership working much can be achieved. A focus on Green Blue features and facilities near to the settlements and places where people live should, perhaps, be the catalyst for additional coordinated action.	Noted – to be considered in the Settlement GBI Frameworks.
	20. This AONB is the 14th International Dark Sky Reserve in the world and we are, therefore, very conscious of the need to prevent light pollution, avoid the adverse impacts of light pollution on human health and wildlife, and facilitate the appreciation of the night skies. This does seem to be a topic that is relevant to the Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy and therefore this AONB recommends that it is included. The AONB would, of course, be happy to help with that aspect.	Reference to the appreciation of the wellbeing benefits provided by dark skies included in Section 4.2 - Theme 3: Nature Recovery & Landscape Management (in addition to existing reference to the International Dark Sky Reserve in Box 4.8).
	I hope these comments are helpful to you, and, as you will have gathered, the AONB Partnership would be happy to join in taking the concept of Green Blue Infrastructure forward.	
Wiltshire Climate Alliance	Wiltshire Climate Alliance is an umbrella organisation for groups and individuals to campaign for a Carbon Neutral Wiltshire. Its vision is a net zero carbon Wiltshire by 2030, including all sectors of society, government, and the economy. We are motivated by the global climate emergency, which was recognised by Wiltshire Council in a February 2019 resolution. Our members generally are also concerned with the global and local ecological or biodiversity emergency, seeing links with global heating and climate change as well as pollution. Many of us also see aspects of public health and social exclusion as having emergency status. WCA are very excited that Wiltshire County Council is developing this high-level strategy in anticipation of the Environment Bill becoming law and in recognition of the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature across the county. The understanding in Section 3, Our Shared Vision on the links between climate change and nature is important and welcome.	Noted

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Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	We specifically like the important statement that the strategy is "a rigid document that sets down a clear path to ensure that opportunities are not lost," (p.3) and welcome the three goals.	Noted
	However, there is consensus in our Steering Group that mitigation of climate change should be mentioned first as it is the most urgent, and that this should be a separate additional goal, a "Goal 0" perhaps, to highlight its significance. WCA's current petition, with nearly 500 signatures and counting, states, "*We the undersigned petition the council to Immediately make carbon reduction the top priority in every council policy, plan and decision, and agree, by end 2021, comprehensive carbon reduction actions with annual targets, to deliver a carbon-neutral county by 2030.*" As the council's Climate emergency webpage points out, carbon reduction is the context for "Developing a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and enabling communities to promote biodiversity in their areas via a new Community Environmental Toolkit."	Goal 1 has been strengthened to emphasise support for reducing carbon emissions and achieving net zero targets through sustaining a health natural environment and nature-based solutions.
	Wiltshire needs to use every tool it can to reduce carbon and one of those is sequestration. Natural carbon sequestration is a vital 'net zero' counter-balance to shortfalls in reduction of emissions. As sequestration is about the land, flora and wetland acting for the planet to reduce carbon, it is appropriate that it sits within GBI. While mentioned, almost in passing, in several areas of the strategy, it is not addressed as a specific action. And as it is so cross cutting of all of the GBI areas it deserves its own place. This will enable it to be on the agenda in any GBI focus area. The 'Goal zero' text should mention the 2030 carbon neutral Wiltshire goal from the relevant February 2019 Council Resolution. Appendix X suggests draft wording for this Goal.	References to carbon storage/sequestration strengthened throughout the document where appropriate.
	The key messages from section 1, Setting the Scene mirrors Wiltshire Intelligence view https://www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk/key-issues/environment/ and are summarised on p.28 "in recent decades biodiversity in the area has been decreasing." In Section 3, Our Shared Vision the recognition of the poor natural state of much of the country's farmed environment, the cumulative and multiple effects of the seemingly innocuous loss of individual front gardens, and the over abstraction of rivers and water, is important.	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 389	The vision on page 4 of a multi-functional network of "high quality, biodiverse and accessible green and blue infrastructure", of "multi-functional ecosystem services", and of these supporting community, health and other social, economic and environmental aims is most welcome.	Noted
	The GBI does not set out the scale of ambition or measurable targets for different actions based on clear assessments of their role and potential if backed with proper allocation of resources, skills and follow through. We do understand that this is because it is intended as an overview high-level strategy but would like to set down that the tests will be quality of actions, proper implementation and follow through management and stewardship. The quality of action matters because the wrong actions even if taken in good faith can be as harmful as inaction:	Noted – the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities.
	• Proper implementation matters because the decline of nature and ecosystems is not new and has been allowed to happen by successive administrations despite clear evidence and warnings; • The failure to properly implement action remains the main reason why nature, from Sites of Special Scientific Interest to urban streets, is in poor and potentially deteriorating condition; and, • Follow through and ongoing care matters because failure to do so results in good ideas and money being wasted, and will mean that opportunities to build skills and competence in decision making and the practical know-how needed to manage and maintain natural features from open country to town centre (as shown on page 11) are likely to be missed.	
	Finally, in general there are several mentions of future generations, but the format and manner in which this consultation has been carried out demonstrates that there is a broader issue that adults do not -or do not know how to - work with/ consult with young people. This suggests that stronger links need to be formed with schools who should be identified, supported and invested in as delivery partners.	Noted - further engagement with young people will be picked up in implementation plans and through a community engagement strategy.
	Thoughts for discussion:	
	1. Mapping: The strategic GBI areas on the maps appear not to be all of Wiltshire. Are there non-strategic GBI sites? Are we missing out farmers who could be key to maximising sequestration?	Non-strategic GBI assets are to be considered as part of the Settlement GBI Frameworks.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	2. Local Plans harmonising with GBI: The GBI's stated aim in Box 3.5 on page 33 to avoid "inappropriate development or land management" is welcome as is the recognition that ancient woodlands are irreplaceable and that existing nature and features should be retained within new development. However, that will require developers and their planners, architects, designers, landscape architects and contractors to change how they view and layout sites, conduct ecological surveys and put in place credible and lasting management plans based on nature and carried out by people trained in nature. How are the GBI team going to work with other WC departments to ensure this happens?	Noted – to be considered in the new Local Plan.
	3. Forum: Will the new Wiltshire Climate and Environment Forum only operate in relation to Settlement Framework plans or will it be Wiltshire wide and connected to other Community Environment Plans? Do you think it needs to be inclusive and take community and specifically farmer engagement into account?	The Forum would support stakeholder engagement in shaping GBI delivery priorities at both the strategic and local scales.
	4. Resources: What staff resource do WC have allocated to the roll out of the GBI strategy and related implementation plans and actions?	Under review by the Council.
	5. Funding: Does there need to be a long term (cross party) agreement in council that the plans set will be carried through administrations, with frequent checks on progress and direction? What staffing resource to you have for funding, chasing grants and soft loans, managing budgets, providing community funding support etc.?	Under review by the Council.
	6. Monitoring and Reporting: How will Wiltshire Cabinet oversee and monitor progress of the 3 GBI goals?	Section 5.5 Monitoring & Review updated to confirm the Council will develop a plan and indicators for monitoring implementation of the GBI Strategy.
	7. Cross Border: Climate and GBI have no borders. Do you know how your colleagues in the same departments in other councils (albeit named differently) are approaching this work? Are you working closely with them and sharing best practice?	The GBI Strategy has been shaped through engagement with neighbouring authorities and the Council will continue to engage with them through implementation of the Strategy as appropriate.
	8. Baselines: When will the public have access to all the baseline assessment of the condition of Wiltshire habitats, features and natural assets (Section 2 Shaping the Vision) as known? (as noted on the answers https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/green-economy-climate-strategy-consultation-qa) Obviously these will support communities / parishes / towns to plan, both to inform actions and decisions and to measure against for progress.	Yes – see Principle 4 Evidence-led

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	9. When can the public have better access to the maps please and are we able to zoom into our respective communities / parishes in order to begin drafting CETs? 10. Settlement Frameworks: Please can you share your vision in relation to Settlement Frameworks? Will members of the town and parish councils and members of the public be invited to contribute to these? How do you envisage them being further developed through Neighbourhood plans and Community Environmental Plans (page 35)? 11. Please can you share your vision in relation to Community Environment Toolkits including: • Which communities / parishes have already completed one? • Are there any communities / parishes who have worked with neighbouring parishes to collate 2-3 CETs at one time? • Are there any plans to run workshops to support communities / parish / town councils on how they work and how to complete? • Do WC have any capacity to provide any geographical information support – specifically the production of an interactive PDF map that could include layers for the relevant areas of interest such as habitats / species / farmers / landowners already in agri-environment schemes or specifically working in green / blue spaces. Responses to Themes Theme 1: Flooding & Water Management - The strategy contains a number of excellent aims but does not suggest how those aims will be positively driven through and managed. Our concerns are that without concrete planning, delivery and resources these will simply remain aims. It proposes that the strategy "will be used as a starting point for planning developments…". This suggests that it will have weight in planning decisions. Will this be the case and if so, who will be the moderator in the review of any development or mitigation proposals?	Roll out of interactive GIS mapping under review by the Council. References to the purpose of the Settlement GBI Frameworks strengthened throughout the document where appropriate. Roll out of Community Environmental Plans (developed by Town/Parish Councils and local stakeholders using the Community Environmental Toolkit) under review by the Council. In support of this theme, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 392	Box 4.1 states that Flood Risk Management, which is essential if the county is to address climate impacts, "involves implementing measures…". This assumes that forward planning has delivered an action plan that can be implemented. How will this plan be developed and to what timescale?	In support of this theme, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities.
	Is there a "Working with Natural Processes" (WWNP) evidence base for Wiltshire and how will it be used "to protect, restore and enhance natural flood mitigation measures"?	This a national evidence base applicable to Wiltshire.
	The promotion of natural flood management solutions to reducing flood risk is, again, a laudable aim which we totally agree with, but the strategy does not say how this will be mandated.	In support of this theme, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities.
	Examples of use within Wiltshire are not given and the Somerset levels was a project driven out of desperate necessity rather than long term thinking. It actually demonstrates the need for detailed forward planning on a county wide basis, with execution of those plans for mitigation to a sensible timescale to avoid this in Wiltshire.	Noted
	SuDs is not mandated on developments and is certainly not adopted on all developments. Will this now be mandatory in planning as part of the GBI Strategy?	To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate.
	How will WC "work together with" the various authorities to enforce high water flow attenuation from existing and new developments?	Working with partners such as the Environment Agency and catchment partnerships via the Catchment-based Approach.
	Who will manage and maintain installed SuDs systems?	As a high level strategy document management and maintenance is not be dealt with in detail.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	Management of water abstraction and the potential for over abstraction is a critical element of supporting the citizens of Wiltshire and is rightly highlighted along with the use of GBI management to support and maintain supply. You state that WC will "take action to support a strong catchment focus…". This statement also suggests enforcement to protect. How will WC manage this?	Working with partners such as the Environment Agency and catchment partnerships via the Catchment-based Approach. The Environment Agency is responsible for catchment abstraction enforcement matters.
	You also suggest that new infrastructure schemes will be needed to support. Is there a long term plan being developed for this now and if so, how will the GBI team and local communities be involved?	Working with partners such as the Environment Agency and catchment partnerships via the Catchment-based Approach.
	There is no mention in the documents about watercourse maintenance and management, a major part of blue infrastructure. This is a critical issue in a number of areas of the county and failure to maintain increases flood risk. How will this be addressed by the GBI team?	As a high level strategy document management and maintenance is not be dealt with in detail.
	Theme 2: Sustainable Farming & Land Management	
	WCA welcomes the emphasis on sustainable farming and the improvement of soil health and landscape wide projects. However, given the mapping provided it is unclear whether the 'landscape' referred to is the entirety of our landscapes, that is a broad brush across the entire county or is being targeted on the coloured areas of the maps. This begs the question of how much of the county is covered by the strategy - everywhere or a percentage represented by the colour on the maps? If there are very important sites, for example SSSIs then are any buffer zones envisaged?	In support of this theme, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas.
	It is not clear whether the maps provided for Green and Blue are 'live' that is open to expansion or contraction or intended to be fixed which may be an invitation to development on areas not specifically covered. How can groups or individuals add to the mapping in the future? Is the aim to have a joined up swathe across the county? Please can you clarify your vision and goals in this theme?	

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 394	Farming We cannot find any indication of how the Council sees its role in practical terms in promoting and supporting sustainable food production so that local supply chains can be accessed by the public. Local farmers will be facing unprecedented change in their subsidy arrangements and it is vital that there is a specific team/figurehead at the council to promote local produce so that small local market gardeners, horticulturalists and farmers have support as well as larger landowners who can be in clusters of substantial land holdings. While we appreciate the limitations on the council's resources, showcasing what we produce (as well as the landscape that produces it) is a viable role. For example, a 'Wiltshire Produce' logo/label could be developed. The Sustainable Food Trust suggests that we ask: *Where has the food come from?' and 'How was it grown?'* We suggest the Council with its access to residents and involvement in local markets could play a role in answering these questions to the benefit of our farmers and Wiltshire residents who want to source local food. The Council needs to be mindful that if the strategy is to be productive, younger farmers need to have opportunities. The Council is in a position to promote opportunities for new farmers as a landowner itself. There is also no mention of issues vital to farmers (and animal welfare conscious consumers) such as the accessibility of local abattoirs. Will planning priority be given to infrastructure that supports sustainable farming? The document also omits mention of items which are controversial such as wind turbines and solar farms. New farming methods may involve the construction of large structures to house, for example hydroponic production units. Realistically some farmers will not be engaged by the new financial programmes seeing them as constricting and bureaucratic. This does not seem to have been envisaged. Very intensive farming systems (particularly as to livestock) may be in conflict with the Council's goals if such farms are within sensitive landscape areas. Has the Council any plans for dealing with this?	In support of this theme, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 395	Gardens and streets It is widely recognised that in many areas, gardens have greater diversity than surrounding farmland. The Council is well placed to encourage all residents to become 'green' land managers in whatever home they have or green space they use. While the strategy talks of engaging communities the Council also has the ability to contact and engage individuals. Not everyone wants to be in an activist group or join something. Many want to access local food and do the right thing in their own backyard or road verge. Trees WCA suggests management must include urgent action on urban trees in view of expected heat events and that each town and community must conduct an audit where people can access shade and drinking water in a heat event. Opportunities for infilling trees in street lines to provide shade are a priority in town land management. This should be in addition to larger tree planting proposals and promotion of other land uses that are 'carbon sinks' such as meadows and grassland. Development It is clear that the mapping of the infrastructure does not imply restrictions on development in the blue/green areas. It is unclear whether the GB strategy will in practice have a substantial influence on decisions on development. It will be extremely counterproductive and undermining of trust if local people see much loved green areas swallowed by development even though they have been identified by the mapping. There is no mention of any mapping of brown field sites or encouragement of the reuse/repurposing of agricultural buildings instead of demolition.	In support of this theme, Community Environmental Plans (developed by Town/Parish Councils and local stakeholders using the Community Environmental Toolkit) will set out actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects to support local priorities. In support of this theme, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities. To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 396	Ministry of Defence The MOD and similar defence related establishments have large landholdings in the county. These have special biodiversity value and the plan should include a commitment to maintain that, for example, in the event of land sales that threaten these special areas.	Noted
	Enforcement There is no mention of how the Council can promote necessary and rapid enforcement of environmental standards to protect the Green and Blue infrastructure. Acute incidents of pollution can be reported but involved residents are best placed to monitor their local patches over time. Any plan must include provision for action to maintain and protect the areas and for local residents to be involved in monitoring any deterioration or damage to the infrastructure.	Noted. The Environment Agency is responsible for environmental pollution enforcement matters.
	Theme 3: Nature Recovery & Land Management Things we welcome • Acknowledgment of a biodiversity crisis • Recognition of the importance of ecosystem connectivity • Ambition to support landscape scale rewinding projects, including the re-introduction of native species • Interest in using natural capital accounting tools to shape priorities for economic development • Recognition p33 that ancient woodland is irreplaceable • Support for change to verge management Concerns • We struggle to find actual actions to arise from this strategy other than general statements of working with partners on what they are already doing. Vague and lacks a sense of leadership and plan for delivery. Lots of emphasis on partnerships and use of words like "encourage" "promote" "consider opportunities" with nothing mandated.	Noted The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	• No indication of a plan to address the conflict of resistance to change from the public/landowners/businesses whose activities and or complaints to Wilts Council cut across GBI strategy intentions. E.g. complaints about uncut verges being untidy	Under review by the Council.
	• It lacks policy for making the GBI strategy the priority in decision making e.g. Page 67 merely states "We will seek to ensure biodiversity and wide environmental net gains for our natural capital from new development by encouraging applicants for major development proposals to take account of the GBI planning principles listed in Box 4.22. Development proposals should also consider opportunities for engaging local communities .... "	To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate.
	• How will net biodiversity gain decisions be handled. Who decides the worth of what is being lost and what is needed to "replace?" Will ancient woodland indeed be off limits as recognized as irreplaceable.	To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate.
	• Developer Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) contributions are described "as an important potential source of funding for green and blue infrastructure in the future to deliver on site biodiversity improvements as well as off-site enhancements". Over reliance on funding from this route could undermine the aims of the strategy and become a loophole facilitating development at the expense of GBI principals	To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate.
	• Details of the Settlement Frameworks and Planning Principals will be crucial to the delivery of the stated objectives in this GBI strategy but Consultation on the overall GBI strategy ends 17th October, before these are available.	The Settlement GBI Frameworks will inform Community Environmental Plans developed by Town/Parish Councils and local stakeholders.
	• Change to verge management, whilst welcomed does not comply with Plantlife Guidelines. Continued use of pesticides	Noted
	Ideas we can support	Noted
	• Implementation of Buglife b-lines • P73 "Empowering Communities to take ownership and responsibility for managing local GBO assets." Involving volunteers and creating the culture	

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	change to support e.g. verge management for pollinators is best done locally. But transfer of assets needs transfer of funding to work • Provision of high quality accessible green space close to where people live. • Involvement of communities in the early stages of development planning • Close working with the Council to achieve the aims of the strategy Theme 4: Woodland & Trees WCA welcome the 4th delivery theme of the GBI and looks forward to the Tree and Woodland Strategy, which will establish targets and advice on planting the right tree in the right place (p24 WC CE Strategy). We would very much like to know the timescales for delivery on this strategy as our concern is that we have no time to lose. We also hope that the strategy includes counteractive measures to the number of trees Wiltshire is likely to lose to Ash DieBack (Hymenoschyphus fraxineus) and that the number of trees felled continues to be recorded so we can compare Wiltshire against other council areas. Evidence from Friends of the Earth/Take Climate Action shows that Wiltshire has 10.3% of existing woodland. (https://takeclimateaction.uk/woodland-opportunity-mapping-england) There is 7.1% future opportunity for planting more trees, giving Wiltshire a combined amount of 17.4%, which is 23014 hectares of land that is suitable for new woodlands. The highest per cent in similar local authorities is 26%. The Forestry Commission and other organisations recommend a minimum of 20%, even for densely populated urban areas as noted on page 54. Bristol City Council is one council that has committed to doubling its tree cover. WCA believe WC can double tree cover too and should aim to do so whilst ensuring existing trees and woodlands are properly protected in order to store carbon, improve soil health, support nature, aid flood protection and deliver health and well being benefits. Hedgerows are also expected to become even more important as highways for wildlife as they move in response to environmental change and are a vital source for mammals, birds and inspect species and therefore need to be included in this section. They also reduce the likelihood of flooding downstream, suck nutrients and pollutants out of water and reduce soil erosion.	Noted – to be considered as part of the Tree & Woodland Strategy Noted – to be considered as part of the Tree & Woodland Strategy Reference to hedgerows has been strengthened in Section 4.2 - Theme 4: Woodland & Trees

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 399	A report from the Woodlands Trust on the State of the UK's Woods and Trees 2021 https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/state-of-uk-woods-and-trees/ states that Woodland cover is gradually increasing but woodland wildlife is decreasing; Woods and trees are vital for a healthy, happy society; Woods and trees are subject to a barrage of coinciding threats and Not nearly enough is being done. The report recommends the following priority actions: 1. Expand wood and tree cover. 2. Enhancing and protect existing woods and trees. 3. Improving the evidence by completing regular baseline inventories, undertaking regular assessments and filling data gaps, such as levels of soil carbon in ancient woodland, assessing the impact of landscape-scale flood risk reduction, or mapping invasive species to direct much needed investment at significant scale. 4. Invest in the future. WCA would like to work in partnership with WC on mapping and protecting existing trees and woodland areas, identifying areas suitable for new woodlands, including hedgerows (!) and urban tree planting and assisting in assessing and monitoring woodland, tree and wildlife sites. We have a wide network of volunteer members who are already involved in local environment groups and organisations and /or who sit on local parish or town councils. These members are poised to support WC with delivery of the GBI, Wiltshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (once completed) and on a more local level with Settlement Frameworks & Planning Guidelines, Neighbourhood Plans and Community Environment Toolkits. We look to WC for leadership in regards to exploring opportunities and partnership working so we can have clear direction, goals and ways of working and can be of service in the decade we have left to confront the climate emergency. Theme 5: Healthy Living	Noted – to be considered as part of the Tree & Woodland Strategy Noted – to be considered as part of the Tree & Woodland Strategy

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 400	It is to be welcomed that the document has embedded health and well-being with every aspect of the policy. It cites as part of the vision the importance of green and blue corridors and networks as central to providing people with access to nature, beautiful places and opportunities for healthy lifestyles. It is good to see that access to these spaces is acknowledged as crucial for everyone – and that for those living in towns this must be provided within the towns as well as giving access to the surrounding countryside.	Noted
	Throughout the document we feel the "what" is needed is very good but my main concern is about how many of the objectives can be achieved. There are also gaps in acknowledging some of the key issues that would affect health and well-being objectives being achieved.	In support of this theme, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities.
	Green spaces within towns: While acknowledging that these are managed by a range of parties saying they will work with other parties does not address the significant issues with this. Policy needs to cite some specifics in this e.g. it should be a requirement that an assessment of all shared and community green spaces is carried out in order to ensure they provide a link in terms of ecology and different types of activities.	To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate.
	In towns there are some areas with inadequate green spaces. Sadly, there is an assumption that brownfield sites should always be first building places – even if this makes housing density too great. This assumption isn't questioned. Tree planting is promoted as being important within towns for well-being. Guidelines should make it mandatory for blocks of flats to have adequate access to safe and well maintained green space. Also as a part of any development including blocks of flats etc. tree planting for the future should be mandatory – if no suitable site immediately available then nearby sites could be used. No mention of this being implemented immediately is made.	To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate.
	In villages guidelines make it hard to build affordable housing at a slightly higher density. Surely with better access to green spaces around the area these are better places for small areas of higher density housing.	To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 401	The section Box 3.3 (Page 29) states the national policy framework. We wonder, would planning applications actually be turned down to achieve these objectives? In discussing design of new buildings (Page 29) the document states there is a history of good design. This is not reflected in a lot of housing in Calne where streets are entirely paved and given over to cars with no planting at all in front of many dwellings. Not only does this limit biodiversity within those spaces, the lack of green can be depressing and also nothing to absorb car fumes and CO2. Strategy talks about Active Travel but accepts increase of vehicle use up by 28% b 2025. (page 53) Surely current actions need to prevent this happening. Only action is to suggest planting more trees – this is often impossible within town centres. This is unhealthy for both those travelling through and particularly for those living alongside the major roads.	To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate.
	Nothing about rights of way being up graded to be more accessible for all. Very few places where people with limited mobility can walk/wheel into the countryside safely for more than a short distance. Older people with limited stability and disabled people don't want to be confined parks as their only green spaces.	To be considered by the Wiltshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan.
	Box 4.14 on Green Infrastructure standards on page 56 refers to the Natural England's standards. It should be noted that NE's GI and Access to Green Space standards (ANGSt) have been in place since 2010 and many places currently do not meet the standards. They are also merely voluntary and do not have to be followed although if Wiltshire and other local authorities make these part of their Local Plans they will carry weight. Is this something WC are considering?	To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate.
	In order to access much of the countryside in Wiltshire people need to use the network of lanes that criss-cross the county. If we want to discourage people from using cars those lanes need to be safer for cyclists and pedestrians. There is a complete lack of willingness to take action to change the priority of use along these lanes. No mention anywhere of this as an issue or the fact that specific measures like a strict speed limit will be needed and a public information campaign about the change in priorities that are coming in the highway code.	To be considered by the Wiltshire Local Transport Plan.
	Theme 6: Economic Recovery & Valuing Natural Capital	

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 402	While the broad themes of placing a monetary value on retaining and enhancing natural environment are welcomed, there is a concern over the route to economic recovery as a whole. The GBI almost exclusively refers to the role of the LEP for this portion of the strategy. The section reads as though the intention is to grow the LEP to support Wiltshire Council's GBI goals, and vice versa. While both of these organisations may be large employers in Wiltshire it's not clear in this document that there is any strategy for engaging with the private sector, other than the LEP "promoting our natural environment to inward investors and potential residents". Nevertheless, to enable the SWLEP to better support local economic prosperity, more emphasis could be given to its positioning to offer appropriate mentorship. This would include increasing the number of people within the SWLEP itself who have run their own businesses. By definition, such mentors are better placed to appreciate economic constraints and opportunities, sympathise with challenges and barriers to a sustainable supply chain and work through commercially viable solutions with entrepreneurs. Under Principle 1: Partnership Working almost all partnerships listed are either government funded or voluntary roles. Enterprise and developers (presumably private) are listed as collaborators in two places, but in order to realise significant economic recovery and the delivery of a financially attractive area of investment in GBI we would urge a substantially more profound and integrated approach towards engagement with the private sector. Clearly reducing the scope of the SWLEP and Wiltshire Council's involvement in economic recovery represents a conflict of interest for the SWLEP and Wiltshire Council, but would be in line with national trends to reduce government as identified in the SWLEP's report https://swlep.co.uk/docs/default-source/strategy/economic-priorities/economic-assessment-2018/chapter-3-business-and-enterprise-may-2018.pdf	Noted Noted - reference to greater collaboration with businesses strengthened in the text. Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Wessex Water	We welcome the scope and emphasis placed on Blue Infrastructure within the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. Despite the inclusion of BI throughout the document however this has not translated into a key priority for action. We would welcome a focus on ensuring that more developments implement sustainable drainage arrangements.	Embedding GBI into development and place-making to include nature-based solutions such as implementing sustainable drainage systems, green roofs and living walls added as a new priority for action in Box 3.7.
	Urban street trees are mentioned throughout the document and in the priorities. Whilst we support the inclusion of street trees in development, these must be planned and located to as to avoid any future impact to buried utility services, including water supply and sewerage pipes.	Noted
	The strategy does not mention the issue of nutrients (and other pollutants) from agricultural practices and their impact on the water environment. We believe this represents a missed opportunity to link nutrient reduction practices with wider biodiversity/Natural Flood Management opportunities to deliver multifunctional solutions. The potential for nature based solutions to tackle the issue of nutrient neutrality from developments is not acknowledged.	Reference to nutrients and reduction practices has been strengthened in Section 4.2 - Theme 1 Flooding & Water Management.
Vistry Group	We congratulate the Council on the progress that it is making with regard to these issues as part of the acknowledged Climate Emergency. I have submitted a response to surveys on both documents but note that the format of the feedback is such that you do not provide copies of the comments provided. I wanted to reiterate Vistry Group's interest in these topics as a major developer with both live construction sites, committed allocated sites and additional strategic land interests in Wiltshire. We look forward to continued engagement with the Council in respect of these topics. I have previously submitted representations in respect of the Addressing Climate Change and Biodiversity Net Gain through the Local Plan consultation (March 2021). We welcome the acknowledgement in the current consultation documents of the relationship between the emerging strategies and the Local Plan Review. We agree that the Local Plan Review is the appropriate process through which new policies/standards should be considered and their feasibility/deliverability tested. We support the Council's aspiration for the Local Plan review to be an opportunity to plan for the introduction of zero carbon standards. We consider that new policy requirements should be in step with, and not in advance of, the Government's Future Homes Standard and Future Buildings Standard - to ensure that the development industry has the materials, technology and skills to deliver much-needed private and affordable homes to the requisite	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	standards. Vistry Group is working collaboratively with a variety of stakeholders across the housebuilding-industry (The Future Homes Task Force) to ensure that a roadmap towards net zero development can be implemented. This is proposed as follows: 1. Zero Carbon 'Ready' by 2025: This will be the Future Homes Standard of 75-80% reduction in carbon emission (from 2013 Part L baseline); 2. Net Zero Carbon Homes (in-use) by 2030: The designed carbon emission rate is 'zero' for regulated energy with grid decarbonisation for unregulated energy; and 3. Net Zero Carbon Homes (Construction) from 2040: Carbon emissions associated with building homes are zero, including the emissions from the building's products and construction operations. We suggest that this is a realistic and deliverable approach, and one which should be reflected in the emerging Local Plan Review. Whilst we recognise that local authorities across the country may wish to demonstrate leadership in addressing the climate emergency by introducing higher standards more quickly, the practical implications of this must be considered alongside an area's housing requirement and in particular the need for delivery of affordable homes. We note references in the current consultation documents to Wiltshire being carbon neutral by 2030, and the definition of this should be clearly defined in order to provide all stakeholders with certainty around targets. A further observation on the current consultation documents relates to the scale of some of the mapping provided. At county-wide level it makes it difficult to clearly identify the status of land uses or designations at a local scale. If the Councils is to use these plans as part of their evidence base or to make decisions about land uses, it would be helpful if they could be reviewed at a more localised scale. Finally, as a supplementary comment to the online feedback provided in respect of the GBI Strategy, it should be noted that whilst the emerging Local Plan period looks to 2036, decisions in respect of GBI should avoid a 'short term' mentality which could adversely affect, or sterilise, the longer term delivery of sustainable development sites, particularly those on the edge of major settlements.	Noted More localised GBI assets mapping will be provided as part of the Settlement GBI Frameworks. Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Corsham Town Council	The Strategy presents a long document which is more difficult to read and understand than the Climate Strategy, making it less accessible to the general public. A condensed version may be more appropriate as it would engage a wider audience.	A summary version of the Consultation Draft was produced.
	The explanation of what green and blue infrastructure is and why it is important is well presented. There is also a good explanation of what ecosystem services are and the importance of the natural environment to humans. This helps re-enforce the need for protection and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure in Wiltshire. Three clear goals and five key priorities for action are set out in the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, which makes this Strategy seem much more achievable than the Climate Strategy.	Noted
Sustainable Warminster	Sustainable Warminster comments on the Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire: 1. The links in the Strategy document not work. 2. The GBI evidence base did not seem to be available until the last two weeks of the consultation. 3. P. 4 'The GBI…. Will deliver tangible benefits for people and nature'. Would 'measurable benefits' be better? 4. Has there been a baseline assessment of the state of biodiversity in the County from which progress can be measured from now on? 5. P.14 Diagram 2.1 'Halt biodiversity loss'. Could this be 'ensure 10% biodiversity net gain'? No mention of Wiltshire Core Policy 50 and 51. (Biodiversity and Landscape) 6. P.15 County Wildlife sites are not included. Is there a management plan for them? 7. P.64 Evidence base and natural capital. Very often developers do not access the WSBRC or NBN biological records when assessing the environmental impact of development and as the Council's planners do not insist on it, the environmental impact assessments submitted by developers is often inaccurate and not always written by ecologists of sufficient experience. 8. In the GBI Evidence base document p.7 Box 1.4 states: "In line with the mitigation hierarchy, priority must be given to enhancing biodiversity on site or nearby if necessary. If this is not possible, developers will be able to pay a standardised offsetting fee, which will be used to create biodiverse places elsewhere	1. Hyperlinks in the document now work 2. Noted 3. N/A - consultation introduction removed 4. To be included in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy 5. N/A 6. Site-specific management plans for wildlife sites are referred to under Section 1.3 7. Noted 8. Box 1.4 in the Evidence Base to be updated to reflect Environment Act 2021 and emerging Defra/Natural England guidance

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	in the local plan area." Should it be made clearer that offsetting is the last resort in the mitigation hierarchy? How will such off setting be monitored for its effectiveness?	
	9. GBI Evidence – there is no mention of how the GBI will relate to safeguarding habitat for protected species of wildlife. Surely a GBI strategy should include a strategy to require separate protected species assessments and biological survey following CIEEM guidelines in order to match up habitat and species protection?	9. To be considered as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
	10. GBI evidence Map 2.1 does not seem to have incorporated the Special Landscape Area which extends into the southern edge of Warminster town and which is a West Wiltshire Council saved policy C3.	10. Special Landscape Areas are not mapped as a strategic GBI assets in line with GBI definition
	11. GBI evidence Map 2.6 River Avon (Wylye) Special Area of Conservation is not marked.	11. All SACs in Wiltshire are shown on Map 2.6
	12. GBI evidence Map 2.12 The River Wylye is not labelled.	12. The River Wylye has been labelled on Map 2.12
Ministry of Defence	The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as a statutory consultee in the UK planning system to ensure designated zones around key operational defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, and technical sites are not adversely affected by development outside the MOD estate. For clarity, this response relates to MOD Safeguarding concerns only and should be read in conjunction with any other submissions that might be provided by other MOD sites or departments.	Noted
	Paragraph 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 requires that planning policies and decisions should take into account defence requirements by 'ensuring that operational sites are not affected adversely by the impact of other development proposed in the area.' To this end MOD may be involved in the planning system both as a statutory and non-statutory consultee. Statutory consultation occurs as a result of the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Safeguarded aerodromes, technical sites and military explosives storage areas) Direction 2002 (DfT/ODPM Circular 01/2003) and the location data and criteria set out on safeguarding maps issued by Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) in accordance with the provisions of that Direction. Copies of these plans, in both GIS shapefile and .pdf format, can be provided on request through the email address above. The county of Wiltshire contains a number of MOD sites, along with all or part of Safeguarding zones designated to protect airfields, explosives storage sites, and technical sites which may be affected by new development.	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
 Page 407	Having reviewed the supporting documentation in respect of Wiltshire County Council and their Climate Strategy and Natural Environment Plan there are two areas of interest for the MOD. Firstly, within the statutory consultation areas associated with aerodromes are zones that are designed to remove or mitigate birdstrike risk. The creation of environments attractive to those large and flocking bird species that pose a hazard to aviation safety can have a significant effect. This can include landscaping schemes associated with large developments as well as the creation of new waterbodies. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) additionally provide an opportunity for habitats within and around a development. The incorporation of open water, both permanent and temporary, and associated reedbeds, wetlands ponds and ditches provide a range of habitats for wildlife, potentially increasing the creation of attractant environments for large and flocking bird species hazardous to aviation. Secondly, where development falls outside designated safeguarding zones the MOD may also have an interest, particularly where the development is of a type likely to have an impact on operational capability. Examples of this type of development are the installation of renewable energy generation systems and their associated infrastructure. The MOD has, in principle, no issue or objection to renewable energy development though some methods of renewable energy generation, for example wind turbine generators or solar photo voltaic panels can, by virtue of their physical dimensions and properties, impact upon military aviation activities, cause obstruction to protected critical airspace encompassing military aerodromes, and impede the operation of safeguarded defence technical installations. In addition, where turbines are erected in line of sight to defence radars and other types of defence technical installations, the rotating motion of their blades can degrade and cause interference to the effective operation of these types of installations with associated impacts upon aviation safety and operational capability. Planning Practice Guidance published on the Gov.uk website acknowledges the potential effect of wind turbine generators and directs developers and Local Planning Authorities to consult the MOD where a proposed turbine has a tip height of or exceeding 11m or has a rotor diameter of 2m or more.	To be considered as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Settlement GBI Frameworks. Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	In summary, the MOD request that developers are made aware, through policy provisions, that development that might result in the creation of attractant environments for large and flocking bird species hazardous to aviation will be subject to scrutiny, and that those schemes where risk cannot be removed or mitigated will be refused. Additionally, in order to provide a more broad representation of MOD interests, and to ensure developers are made aware of the implications of developing within an area containing MOD safeguarded zones, policy provision is provided that applications for development that would not compromise, restrict or otherwise degrade the operational capability of safeguarded MOD sites and assets will be supported.	Noted
National Farming Union	I have completed my response to the Green & Blue Infrastructure strategy and as directed in Q7, am dropping you a line to let you know that I would like to be involved in future discussions or partnerships etc. related to this and the Councils work– please do add me to your list.	Noted
	I was pleased to see the NFU referenced in Section 4 of the Strategy and agree that partnership working with the farming community will be essential – to ensure that both food production and environment production are managed in harmony across the county. As you know from the example of the incredibly successful farmer-led Marlborough Downs project, this can be achieved for maximum benefit all round. I would like to invite you and a few colleagues form the Councils climate team to have a chat with us about how we can support each other in these aims – informally to begin with if that's ok?	Noted
Future Chippenham (Wiltshire Council)	Future Chippenham is broadly supportive of the Blue and Green Infrastructure strategy.	Noted
	The Future Chippenham Programme is seeking to deliver an infrastructure-led sustainable and well connected urban extension to the south of Chippenham to deliver new homes for the community of Chippenham. Within the context of a masterplanned development, the Programme will seek to protect and enhance blue and green infrastructure in line with prevailing local and national policy. Future Chippenham is promoting its plans through the Local Plan process and will be the subject of a masterplan and planning applications to be consulted on with the community and other relevant stakeholders.	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 409	We note that in particular the key priorities for action within the strategy are: 1. Creating more and better green spaces in our towns to help prevent flooding and attract people to live, work and invest in the area. 2. Planting the right trees in the right places to provide vital shade during heatwaves, encourage wildlife and improve air quality. 3. Supporting walking and cycling to reduce congestion, improve our health and wellbeing, and connect us to nature. 4. Encouraging environmentally sensitive farming in ways that enhance soil quality and encourage wildlife, produce food and provide employment. 5. Supporting a green economic recovery from the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. 6. Supporting nature recovery and landscape management. It is noted that the detail of where and when will be set out in other more fluid short-term documents that will focus on implementation and local delivery including through a settlement framework and planning guidelines document that will give guidance for GBI around the main settlements and through a Local Nature Recovery Strategy to define where GBI protection and investment should be prioritized. The Future Chippenham programme supports the above objectives and notes the production of the shorter term documents and would welcome the opportunity to input into these additional documents to ensure that the Future Chippenham proposals can contribute and align with the relevant strategies put forward.	Noted
Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon	We welcome the Green Blue Infrastructure document. We see it as a chance to improve Wiltshire's natural biodiverse assets. Wiltshire is a rural county and as such should aim to reach good if not outstanding ecological status. This document is a response to the ecological emergency that is happening worldwide. It is only by each area playing its part that our wildlife can be restored. A recent 'red list' report from Birdlife International states that there has been a 25% decline in swifts over the last 3 generations, a sharp decline in rooks since 2015 and a worrying decline in snipe. All of which can at the moment be seen in Wiltshire. And, what of plants and other species? Do the authors of this document know? I have not seen any reference in the evidence base.	Noted To be considered as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 410	Wildlife corridors could be an initial priority starting point, allowing what wildlife there is to move and establish in other areas. These should be hedges and watercourses, hedges fit for dormice and watercourses free from pollutants. Hedges would help to improve soil structure and reduce soil erosion. Plantlife are promoting grasslands for wildlife and for carbon capture. Wiltshire is blessed with chalk grassland an important and rare habitat worldwide, which has a rich biodiversity of plants and pollinators. Farmers should be encouraged to improve their soil, so much agricultural land seems unable to cope with wetter weather conditions and adaptation seems key.	To be considered as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
	Access to nature for human wellbeing is good in Wiltshire, but it needs to be access that includes nature, trees and wildflower areas and protection from pesticide spray.	To be considered as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
	In April 2021 the Tree Warden scheme was closed. There have been 12 years of ongoing cuts to biodiversity posts and grants to promote biodiversity interest. New posts need to be created to take improvements and increase in biodiversity forward. It cannot be left to volunteers. Experts are the people to push this forward.	Noted
	Wiltshire owned farms are an ideal place to promote soil regeneration. The chair of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), farms and lives in Wiltshire. They are promoting soil regeneration as is the Soil Association. Carbon stores are formed through photosynthesis and microbe activity in the soil. Conditions need to be in place for this to happen!	To be considered as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
	Climate Friendly Bradford-on-Avon Biodiversity Group are interested in being part of taking the Green Blue Infrastructure forward	Noted
Corsley Parish Council	The Corsley Parish Council recognise the climate emergency and support Wiltshire's efforts to combat it. We recognise that Wiltshire emissions chiefly come from Transport, Homes and agriculture.	Noted
	As a community we are not on mains gas or sewage and therefore emissions from homes will be higher than average. We support with retrofitting to low energy solutions, such as heat pumps and solar would be welcomed. We would also like to see more monitoring of water courses to ensure there is no pollution. This should	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	include support for listed buildings where there is a strong desire to reduce emissions and believe that this will be blocked by the Council.	
	We would welcome the council issuing a statement that confirms a presumption of approval for improving the environmental performance of listed buildings rather than leaving them with the poor performance of the past. With regard to planning we feel that these should only be approved if they meet highest standards and are considered carbon neutral. This would mean that planning submissions would include environmental performance on the application.	Noted
	With regard to transport; as a spread out village with multiple hamlets and a main road (A362) running through the middle we support a zero carbon transport target. We have a single bus service running from Warminster to Frome and would welcome better connectivity. The reduction of heavy vehicles and speed through the village will significantly reduce emissions and we would ask that Wiltshire deliver both to improve emissions. We are fully in support of travel without using carbon vehicles. Specifically, we would like to see the upgrading of bridle paths and tracks that allow safe travel for bikes, horses and walkers between Corsley and Warminster and other Wiltshire villages as well as Frome. We believe that improving this infrastructure will significantly reduce car journeys. We would also like to see charging points across the village to support electric vehicles such as at the pubs or village triangle.	To be considered as part to the Settlement GBI Frameworks as appropriate.
	With regard to the natural environment:	
	• The better use of green space to absorb carbon should be a priority including improving soil, bringing woodland into management and planting of additional trees to address losses in ash and other species as well as the benefits in water management etc. Within Corsley we are actively bringing hedgerows back into management for example. Widespread planting of disease resistant elm should also be encouraged.	To be considered as part to the Settlement GBI Framework as appropriate.
	• We recognise the NFU's commitment to net zero and are encouraging our farming community to have farms audited to improve their environmental performance as soon as possible.	Noted

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Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	• We would also like to see improved guidance for horse owners as this is taking up increasing amounts of land.	Noted
	• Finally, with regard to waste, we see significant differences in the amount of waste generated per household, there should be more training for communities on how to reduce waste and recycle more to support a move to a circular economy.	Noted
Salisbury Civic Society	I am writing on behalf of the Salisbury Civic Society Development Committee (SCSDC). ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮, a fellow member of the Committee, provided your email address. The SCSDC fully supports and endorses the comments made by ▮▮▮▮▮▮ in her return for the Salisbury Area Greenspace Partnership (SAGP). Additionally, the SCSDC offer the following comments: • The SCSDC welcomes the introduction of both these complex, well developed strategies which are coherent and well presented • Both documents emphasise the need to engage with people and businesses to make the strategies work. However, there are no sections in either document that set out a strategy for this activity. • Both documents are light on what success will look like and how success will be measured. The SCSSDC wishes to encourage the Wiltshire Council to be bold and to try to implement the various action plans with haste.	Noted – the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities.
Private Consultant	The multiple benefits provided by Floodplain meadows, and their role as an effective nature based solution to floods, drought and diffuse pollution, is evidenced in this publication on the natural capital value of floodplain habitats https://valuing-nature.net/sites/default/files/documents/Synthesis_reports/VNP09-NatCapSynthesisReport-Floodplains-A4-16pp-144dpi.pdf And there is much more information on their role in carbon storage, their cultural and historical values on this website https://www.floodplainmeadows.org.uk/	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 413	Also, re green/blue infrastructure strategy consultation, there wasn't enough space in the response form to include all the comments I wanted to make. Is there any way to send my views in a more complete form?	Noted
	For example, the document refers several times to planted trees and woodlands, when it is widely accepted that natural regeneration is a much more sustainable and cost effective way to establish woodland.	Reference to expanding woodland through natural regeneration and succession added to Theme 4 Woodland & Trees.
	There needs to be recognition in the document that ancient grasslands, especially floodplain meadows, have the potential to lock up more significant amounts of carbon in their deep soils far more securely than trees and woodlands, and the restoration of flower-rich floodplain meadows should be seen as a priority for a significant landscape scale initiative that will bring about multiple benefits.	Reference to potential of floodplain meadows to lock up carbon added to Theme 1 Flooding & Water Management.
	Re Principle 6 - biodiversity net gain should be a requirement for ALL significant development proposals, not just all "major" proposals.	Reference to major development proposals removed in Section 4.2 - Theme 6: Planning Principles.
	And whilst it is all very well empowering communities to take ownership/ responsibility for GBI, it MUST be recognised they will need support, expert advice AND access to financial resources to do so. And a fundamental requirement of the LNRS will be support from the Council for the County Biological Record Centre.	Noted
	I also disagree with the statement about County Highways and road verges.....they have merely suspended verge cutting over the past couple of years, which is NOT beneficial to plant communities......they are just encouraging the growth of coarse grasses, docks, nettles and thistles.	This is not the case for the protected road verge scheme where significant increases of species diversity has been recorded.
Chippenham green Party (Chippenham Devizes and North Wiltshire Green Party)	We've submitted responses to Wiltshire Council's Climate Strategy and Green & Blue Infrastructure surveys, and we would be interested in helping Wiltshire Council to formulate policy for Wiltshire on these topics in whatever way we can.	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Melksham Without	Wildflower Management (page with Box 4.6). "Wiltshire Council's Highways and Streetscene team are also supporting wildflower growth in road verges by amending management regimes throughout the county". The parish council would question the management regimes in place, and would like to see more proactive management of the public open spaces and roadside verges being undertaken. What seems to have happened to date is just less cuts.	For the protected road verge scheme significant increases of species diversity has been recorded.
	There are some examples, such as the large public open space behind Wellington Drive in Bowerhill in the parish that is ex farmland that never had wildflowers and so they are unlikely to return as not there is the first place. There are large strips of land in the parish that have not been cut as regularly this year but would need some wildflower seeding to jump start the process, and then a managed cut after the seeds have dispersed. In other areas, there was a much-admired roundabout on the A350 full of ox eye daisies that were then cut whilst in flower and so no seed produced for future years. A managed approach is required.	To be considered as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Settlement GBI Framework as appropriate.
	Box 4.10 Urban Trees - The Parish Council recognises the need for more trees but would not support trees being planted in footways/pavements, given the tendency for roots to cause uneven surfaces. There are several tree lined footways in the parish, particularly Bowerhill, where the pavements are virtually unusable, given their uneven nature.	To be considered as part of the Trees & Woodland Strategy.
	Box 4.13 Mental Health & Wellbeing Benefits of Access to Nature - The Parish Council recognises the importance accessibility to green spaces is to health and wellbeing and encourage developers of large housing developments to include circular walks in their schemes, in order to enhance the lives of residents. From anecdotal evidence from new developments, and those that are existing, residents want to go for a "circular" walk, with some benches (and bins) along the way; whether they are running, strolling with a pushchair, or walking a dog.	To be considered as part of the Settlement GBI Framework as appropriate.
	Box 4.1 The Working with Natural Processes Approach to reducing Flood Risk - The Parish Council recognises the importance of natural flood management and can evidence good practice in the parish undertaken by Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) on a scheme on the South Brook catchment area, which includes tributaries through Whitley, Shaw, Shurnhold and Beanacre, to slow the flow of surface water during peak rainfall events. https://bristolavonriverstrust.org/nature-based-	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 415	solutions-in-south-brook-2 The Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan has included a policy on Flood Risk and Natural Flood Management (Policy 3) https://8e84f94a-3875-44b6-81c4427b900c1ee9.filesusr.com/ugd/fcc864_d62a247950cc423abaa28eedd803eba4.pdf	
	Box 4.17 Case Study: the economic benefits of the Kennet and Avon Canal Restoration - Parish Council representatives attended the recent Melksham Town Council Priority for People workshop (8th October) where there was a presentation by Steve Wilson of the Highways Major Project team about the proposed Melksham A350 Bypass and that in terms of additional works to be included in the Business Case presentation, that a costed proposal for improving the cycle and pedestrian connectivity of Melksham to Lacock was not being included. This scheme involved adaptations of the existing A350 that would be bypassed. The parish council clerk informed of the proposed scheme by the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust to install a pedestrian/cycle way to Lacock from Melksham, effectively putting in the tow path before the canal is restored on this route, and members at the event also suggested that this scheme be researched for possible inclusion in the bypass business case due to the economic benefits of the connection of the town to this tourist hot spot. The project is known as "Destination Lacock"and would be great to see it being incorporated as part of the Bypass Business Case, to see some tangible benefits from the Strategy documents actually taking place on the ground. http://melkshamnews.com/2020/10/14/melksham-canal-plans-to-finally-move-forward/	Noted
West Wiltshire Ramblers Group	I completed my entry for the GBI survey yesterday, but would like to add further comments in view of my experience over the last ten years, as a member of the Ramblers, as Footpaths Secretary of the West Wilts Ramblers Group (WWR) for seven years till Nov 2018 and subsequently as a still involved member of WWR. During this time I always worked closely with the Council's Countryside & Rights of Way Department and it became very clear that they were seriously under resourced in every way to carry out their duties. This still seems to be the case. Two years ago, I wrote on this subject to ███████████, then the responsible Cabinet member, the letter I quote below. The situation seems only to have got worse, with further budget cuts required continuously year by year.	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	A properly implemented GBI policy, particularly Goal 3, P13, and Key Priority, P14, of the Executive Summary will need a Countryside & Rights of Way Dept that is fully functional. It is really important, in my opinion, that Wiltshire Council realises this and take steps to correct the situation.	Noted
	This what I wrote on Wed 15th Jan 2020: *Quote* *To: Councillor ███████, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Waste* *Cc: ███████████, MP for Chippenham* *Cc: ███████, Chair, West Wilts Ramblers Group* *Cc: ███████, Footpaths Secretary, West Wilts Ramblers Group* *Cc: ███████, Ramblers Wiltshire Area Footpaths Secretary* *Cc: ███████████, Head of Service, Rights of Way & Countryside, Wiltshire Council* *Cc: ███████, Team Leader, Rights of Way & Countryside, Wiltshire Council* *Cc: ███████, Countryside Access Officer Central Wiltshire* *Dear ███████* *As a Ramblers activist for the last nine years, and as a member of West Wilts Ramblers Group's Tuesday morning working party for even longer, I know the enormous value of our Wiltshire public rights of way network. I have got to know members of the Rights of Way & Countryside Department very well and to appreciate how hard they work to carry out their statutory duties, and to maintain and improve the network.* *During the recent election campaign a lot of support was pledged to improving the health of the nation, and to reduce levels of carbon emission. Indeed Wiltshire Council has already pledged to do their part. However, this does not appear consistent with the current state of finances at the Council. Austerity has not gone away, and the Rights of Way & Countryside Dept are having to make further savings this financial year and also in 2020/21. If the Council is really to do its part, this Department needs to be up-graded. It currently works largely by re-acting to events. It needs to become one that is out in front, taking initiatives. This will take a lot more money.*	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 417	*At West Wilts Ramblers we would argue that the Rights of Way & Countryside Dept need the resources to* *-Research and propose new and/or upgraded cycle and footpath routes, so that Councillors can feel they are leading from the front in implementing policy.* *-Persuade and overcome nimbyism in implementing new and upgraded RoW for cycle and footpath routes.* *-Supervise legalities of upgrading RoWs.* *-To input positively and in depth into plans for new housing and industrial estates so that walkers and cyclists needs are taken into account.* *-To positively assist in finding and registering historic paths.* *-To rationalise where appropriate the current RoW network.* *The work load for all the above will of course be high, much higher than is currently possible. We do understand that current staffing levels are quite insufficient to do all that is suggested.* *The first and most important problem appears to be, that in spite of 'Austerity' being over, the Council is having to make something like £7 million pounds worth of cuts in the current financial year and is being required to make a further cuts of £15 million next year.* *Wiltshire Council needs to find this money, to have the infrastructure, to meet Health and Climate Emergency measures to which the Country and the Council is committed.* *Please advise how all this is to be done. What approaches are being made to Government? Are the rates to be increased? Is the Govt contribution to Wiltshire Council's costs going to be increased? Promises have been made during the election that need to be honoured, but they do not appear to be based on the reality of the current financial situation at the Council.* *For your assistance, I attach a copy of the Ramblers Manifesto that was circulated before the election. It sets out in detail where the Ramblers Association considers action is necessary.*	

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Drews Pond Wood Project	Space for detailed, meaningful contribution is lacking on the survey. Personal circumstances mean that I was unable to join any virtual or actual consultation sessions so I would like to make the following points.	Noted
	It is essential that PROTECTION is given due weight in this strategy. The strategy needs to reflect International Habitats Directive, NPPF, Core Strategy Objective 5, Policy 50 and 52, that all put protection as the first action. Mitigation and compensation are only to be considered if there is no alternative. This document assumes that protection is happening and jumps straight to enhancement, giving the false impression that it is acceptable to damage biodiversity so long as there is an attempt at mitigation. It needs to be made clear that protection must be the first consideration to ensure that 'net gain' doesn't become a license to damage.	Reference to the NPPF mitigation hierarchy has been strengthened in Box 3.5 Safeguarding the Integrity of the GBI Network
	Natural England's comments to the Local Plan consultation regarding GBI also raised that PROTECTION should come before mitigation. The comments that this statutory body made about Green Blue infrastructure don't appear to have been taken on board in the production of this GBI strategy. In their response to Policy Theme 2- Enhancing Green/Blue infrastructure and biodiversity NE state: • 'The plans approach to biodiversity net gain should be compliant with the mitigation hierarchy, as outlined in paragraph 175 of the NPPF ensuring that loss of priority habitat is where possible avoided. The policy should also ensure that biodiversity net gain is not applied to irreplaceable habitats and should make clear that any mitigation/compensation requirements for European sites should be dealt with separately from biodiversity net gain provision' • 'Policies and decisions should first consider options to avoid adverse impacts on biodiversity from occurring....Biodiversity net gain should be additional to any habitat creation required to mitigate or compensate for impacts'.	Reference to the NPPF mitigation hierarchy has been strengthened in Box 3.5 Safeguarding the Integrity of the GBI Network
	THE STRATEGY DOCUMENT REQUIRES ADDITIONS TO COVER PROTECTION IN GOALS, PRIORITIES AND THEMES:	
	Goal 2 PROTECTING biodiversity needs to be the first priority to reflect international, national and county policy. Bullet point 3 should come before bullet point 1 and 2. This bullet point needs to make reference to protecting habitat as well as species. Putting this point first and strengthening it would make it clear that protection of species and habitat is the first consideration. Assuming that enough is	N/A – this not a prioritised list and all bullet points are equally important. Note this is a high level strategy document rather than a set of detailed planning guidelines.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 419	currently done to protect designated sites/priority habitat and species does not reflect what actually happens in reality and jumping straight to dealing with creating/restoring gives the wrong impression. A habitat/species cannot be restored or enhanced if it has been destroyed by development. As part of Goal 2 it is essential to urgently gain better information through ecological survey, to be able to identify 'priority habitats' and 'threatened species' that may be important to the protected site network even if they are outside it's physical boundaries. Ecology is complex, and does not stick to fenced off nature reserves. The functional link that Trowbridge has to the Bath & Bradford on Avon bat SAC is an example of this. In recent years Devizes has also been found to have a functional link to this Bat SAC. More information is urgently needed to inform planning decisions on land close to towns where there is development pressure. We risk loss of habitat supporting species that will have an impact on internationally important sites before we even know the true extent of what is present or how functional links are working.	
	Goal 3 This goal does not account for the fact that some important wildlife sites near settlements will be unacceptably damaged if access to green infrastructure close to towns is indiscriminately encouraged. Not all important wildlife sites are remote from populations and care must be taken not to impact on the biodiversity of sensitive wildlife sites near settlements. Trowbridge and Devizes woodlands that have a functional link to SAC are examples of this problem. Access to high quality green space should not be encouraged at the expense of wildlife and the concept of capacity must be acknowledged. The pursuit of recreation must be balanced against the need to conserve biodiversity/tranquility. As the group that manages Drews Pond Wood Local Nature Reserve it has been our experience that the sites ability to provide beautiful, serene, natural surroundings, close to urban areas is under increasing demand and threat – especially since Covid 19. The local community stands to lose the very thing that they seek due to recreational pressure. The LNR needs to be valued as a precious, finite resource and conserved for future generations. The LNR has been overwhelmed by housing developments in the vicinity in recent years. Housing continues to be proposed, adding to pressure of use despite the discovery of a functional link to the Bath & Bradford on Avon SAC that has highlighted this sites importance for conservation. Conservation value must not be ignored in favour of providing recreation.	To be considered as part of the Settlement GBI Framework as appropriate.
	Priorities for Action (Box 3.7) Protection of natural assets and biodiversity needs to be the first priority and should not be assumed.	N/A – this is a high level strategy document rather than a set of detailed planning guidelines.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	Add new Theme 1 - The first theme needs to be to PROTECT biodiversity. It is an oversight not to include protection in the themes. Add new Theme that deals with Sustainable Planning. There is a theme that covers sustainable agriculture and land management, but nothing to cover development planning which has a huge impact on biodiversity. Protecting biodiversity from development must be included in this additional theme rather than merely dealing with mitigation.	N/A – reference to the need to protect Wiltshire's biodiversity has been added to Theme 3 Nature Recovery & Landscape Management. Note – this is a high level strategy document rather than a set of detailed planning guidelines.
	Theme 2 - Include protection of High Grade Agricultural Land. This occurs around settlements and is threatened by development. It is important to retain this finite, irreplaceable resource to secure the ability for local food production. Contrary to policy the presence of High Grade Agricultural Land is ignored and is lost to development. I have witnessed this on various occasions. The strategy needs to highlight the importance of protecting and retaining healthier soil that already exists in the form of the 'best and most versatile' land.	To be considered as part of Settlement GBI Frameworks as appropriate.
	Theme 3 – (See comments for Goal 3 above). Developing strategies to provide high quality accessible green space close to where people live to disperse recreation away from sensitive sites does not account for the fact that important and sensitive habitat is not always in remote locations, but can be next to settlements. It is important to distinguish between green infrastructure that can cope with increased use and more sensitive wildlife sites where additional pressure from recreation would be unacceptably damaging.	To be considered as part of Settlement GBI Frameworks as appropriate.
	Theme 5 - Include Local Green Space Designation The production of guidance for Local Green Space designation would allow identification and protection of green infrastructure that is important to local communities NPPF 99, 100 & 101. WC should follow the lead of other LA's that have prepared documents setting out a methodology for designating areas of land as LGS This designation provides opportunities for consideration of the best approach to managing these areas in a coordinated way that is beneficial to wildlife and people, and accounts for the sensitivity of sites.	To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
           Page 421	Principle 6: Planning Principles There is nothing in this principle to ensure that protection is the first consideration or to reflect the mitigation hierarchy. The initial GBI principle in Box 4.22 must require development to protect habitat and species as the first consideration where possible otherwise this strategy will become a license to destroy.	Reference to the overarching GBI planning principles being used to develop local planning guidelines in the Settlement GBI Frameworks added.
	Monitoring and Review. Urgent action is needed to gain adequate baseline information on habitats, species and GBI assets NOW. Only dealing with monitoring information in the future does not ensure the provision of initial information for future comparison. Loss is likely to occur without knowing what is there in the first place. This is illustrated by the functional link of south Devizes to the Bath & Bradford on Avon SAC, only established by the chance trapping of a ringed male Beichstein's bat in 2013. Although further survey work has been done to gain insight into the behaviour and movement of Annex II bats in this vicinity, much more is required to ensure that developments coming forward for the town do not impact the SAC. A Bat strategy is urgently needed. Despite this known link developments have carried on regardless. More information is needed to ensure the protection of the intricate mosaic of habitats that these rare bats are using. Development site specific survey is disjointed and too late at application stage to reverse allocation that is damaging. Landscape wide ecological survey is needed at an early stage so that a coordinated approach can be taken that accounts for the complexities and interconnectedness of wildlife and the accumulative impact of separate developments. If rare species or habitat is found during the planning process that need to be protected it must be made possible to remove allocated sites rather than just carrying on regardless and allowing development with inadequate mitigation that will not compensate for adverse effects.	Section 5.5 Monitoring & Review updated to confirm the Council will develop a plan and indicators for monitoring implementation of the GBI Strategy. To also be considered as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
	Our concern that there is presently inadequate protection is based on experience. We realise that this strategy does not deal with detail, but have included reference to our observations of specific situations in order to illustrate the points made. We have found that: developers have not identified nearby designated land when submitting proposals; developer survey has been poor and has not met requirements or has played down the presence of rare species; detailed information about protected species provided in the form of legitimate survey by well qualified independent experts has been ignored; County Councillors have ignored the recommendations of WC Ecologist; poor decisions have been made by Councillors who have no expertise or seemingly little interest in biodiversity issues. Resulting	Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	mitigation has been a token gesture that is not effective and has not compensated for loss of habitat. Recent applications are attempting to bypass the Local Plan meaning that sites are not part of a process where SA is carried out to ensure that development can be steered to the least damaging option. Without firm action to address flaws in the system damaging action will continue and a strategy based on mitigation alone will not prevent loss of biodiversity. Mitigation and planning gain are not new concepts, and loss has continued despite pursuing this approach for decades. Flaws and loopholes in the planning system that favour the developer need to be recognised and dealt with, otherwise the only actual 'gain' will be for developers who will find it easier to advance planning applications with cosmetic mitigation that seems appealing, but still results in loss.	
Sedgehill and Semley Parish Council	On behalf of Sedgehill and Semley Parish Council, please be advised that we would like to be involved in any future action partnerships or steering groups relating to Wiltshire Council's Our Natural Environment Plan. Our areas of interest are: • Nature Recovery and Landscape Management • Sustainable Farming & Land Management • Woodland & Trees	Noted
Winsley Parish Council	Winsley Parish Council welcomes these documents and finds that they offer a broad response to the challenges we are facing. We note that the proposals are designed to fit with the National Planning Policy Framework which feels right. Whilst welcoming the overall proposals we have the following comments to make which are either to raise the importance of some of the points made in the documents or to ask questions which we hope may help Wiltshire Council develop their approach further. 1. Themes We are concerned that delivering under your chosen six themes risks approaches which do not recognise the natural world's living and inter-related systems; which would be better recognised perhaps by using: energy, air, water, soil and food systems as higher level objectives which would seem then to invite 'naturally' integrated approaches?	Noted Noted – the delivery themes have been selected to broadly reflect the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan themes.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 423	2. Stakeholders We believe that you correctly identify communities as key stakeholders. However, if communities are to be encouraged to support this work, then community forums may well be in need of creation and fostering as they take on this work? As local people inhabit the spaces that are the subject of this document's intentions then we would welcome local partner organisations to work through networks of local parishes. Furthermore, as every single member of the county is affected by this strategy, and how effectively it is implemented, then actively supporting all communities in partnership working with this strategy acquires even greater significance.	Noted - Community Environmental Plans developed by Town/Parish Councils and local stakeholders using the Community Environmental Toolkit will set out actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects to support local priorities.
	3. Regional considerations We would ask that the plans made do indeed reflect the river catchment areas that are present in Wiltshire. Basing the strategy around catchment areas may avoid mistakes and allow us to recognise when benefits have been realised.	Noted
	4. Nature's way It can often be that allowing nature to grow back is often a very effective way of creating the environment human's respond well to. So (for example) where river courses have been buried in underground pipes, they are unseen and unappreciated and the rapid flow of water through piping can contribute to downstream floods. So dig the pipes up, open them to the air to be seen and appreciated and allow the water to find its own route-it will often move in braided channels and create wetlands which reduce the risks of downstream flooding.	Noted
	5. Strategy context This looks complex and we are concerned that it will reduce the possibility of useful change if specific, shared, higher level goals are not kept constantly in focus by all partners.	Noted - Community Environmental Plans developed by Town/Parish Councils and local stakeholders using the Community Environmental Toolkit will set out actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects to support local priorities.
	6. Trees It is widely recognised that tree planting is a very effective countermeasures to the climate emergency. How will this be implemented at scale?	To be considered as part of the Trees & Woodland Strategy.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	7. Farming and Allotments Encouraging the development of community engagement in farming is potentially a very effective way of promoting well-being and local food production (with low food miles) in partnership with the communities who will help grow and then eat the food. People who are more knowledgeable about how their food is grown will also help promote organic methods with less pesticide and fertiliser use and better soil quality with carbon sequestration. Where farming space is not available then wider provision of allotments are likely to be welcomed. Education work to support these initiatives would be welcome and social prescribing by the health sector should be promoted.	Noted
	8. Regional self sufficiency The local economy should be re-aligned to help provide locally the resources to generate renewable energy and to grow sustainably the materials that can be used (such as timber) say in house building. This stimulates the local economy whilst keeping transport miles low and builds local resilience as does the creation of greater food production in the region.	Noted
	9. Priorities There doesn't seem sufficient urgency in the priority section of the GBI Strategy. The Climate Strategy recognises that we are feeling the effects of climate change now and hence planning for a two degree temperature rise, whereas a five year review cycle for the Green and Blue Infrastructure appears at odds with that. A three year review cycle would reflect the urgency and the pivotal contribution of Green and Blue infrastructure to coping with the effects of climate change. Climate change is here now and is set to worsen rapidly so urgent action should surely start now!	Noted
	10. Best practice How does the council intend to check for, recognise, and implement examples of best practice which may be found across the UK, Europe or globally?	Best practice case studies are included in the GBI Strategy document.
Sustainable Sherston	I am part of Sustainable Sherston and would be happy to be the point of contact for any help needed. I would be keen to know more about the Community Environmental Toolkit as we are looking to carry out a local audit (though I'm not yet sure whether this would be a biodiversity survey or an energy audit). I'll check the toolkit but please do keep in touch via this email.	Noted

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Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside access Forum	I completed the survey as an individual, but am also the Chair of the Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum, and the Area Footpath Secretary for the Wiltshire Ramblers. Both organisations would like to be kept informed of developments in implementing the strategy, and we may also be in a position to become involved.	Noted
	I found the consultation to be very long in aspirations and worthy aims, but there was a complete absence of any timetable or deadlines for its implementation, other than the completion of further plans as shown in diagram 0.1, and the overall objective of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.	The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans.
	Given the organisations I mentioned above, my main interest is in the Health and Wellbeing overarching theme, with particular reference to walking and Wiltshire's rights of way network. The document notes the importance for healthy living of walking and cycling, and access to the countryside, but my experience has been that the Council is quite happy to spend large amounts of money on half-baked cycling routes in the major urban areas with only minimal, or no, consultation with likely users, which then have to be scrapped or hugely modified, while little or no consideration appears to be given to maintaining, let along improving, the rights of way network. This is correctly stated somewhere in the document to be some 6,000 km long. In box 3.5 on page 34, the statement is made that it is important to safeguard the integrity of the county's GBI network from inappropriate development. I certainly agree with this, but it is just as important to protect it from neglect. The Council's rights of way department has been woefully underfunded for years and is now a pale shadow of what it used to be before the Government's austerity campaign began. It seems that it has been viewed by budget setters within the Council as the most expendable/least important department in the council; there are now only six Countryside Access Officers (CAOs) to attempt to keep those 6,000 kms of rights of way in a serviceable condition, and although they do a magnificent job in the circumstances, their task makes King Canute's attempts to turn back the sea look easy by comparison. The case study in box 5.4 on page 74 of the document mentions the work done by volunteers in maintaining the network of rights of way, and it is certainly the case that without us the situation would be even worse. Page 75 mentions that increased funding is to be explored. I suggest that if any is obtained it be directed at the Rights of Way department forthwith.	Noted

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Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Private individual	1. The King Alfred Way is a unique asset that is partly within the 'wider countryside' of the county 2. There are opportunities to promote it as a tourist activity, and for those doing it to bring tourist money into Salisbury, linking in with train stations in Salisbury – from the route, so many different landscapes can be views and appreciated. 3. Eventually, the route could be not just sign posted for wayfinding (its hard to navigate without GPS now), but information boards could be installed at various junctures in the landscape, highlighting the different types of landscape one is passing through or looking out at, with some blurb about why its important now or historically…. KAW through Wiltshire - The Wiltshire website could be updated to include a link to this existing GI asset, as its currently missing, or hard to find:	To be considered as part of the Settlement GBI Framework as appropriate.
Bradford on Avon Town Council	Bradford on Avon Town Council welcomes the fact that Wiltshire Council (WC) is developing a Climate Emergency (CE) Strategy. We appreciate that this a complex issue and approve of the range of ideas included in the draft strategy. The lack of integration of this document with the WC Local Plan reduces its efficacy. The CE Strategy lacks vision and commitment to achieving its goal of seeking to make Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030. The recent IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) predicts that the world will reach or pass 1.5oC between 2030 and 2035 and is likely to exceed 2oC between the early 2040s and early 2050s. Every fraction of a degree of warming leads to more dangerous and costly impacts. Urgent actions could remediate this to some useful extent. Without WC commitment and urgency, there is little chance of us making much progress at all, and the impact of the Local Plan (unless the final is significantly improved from the draft) is likely to increase the County's carbon footprint rather than address the problem. It is interesting to note, that excessive, poorly thought out housing in the wrong places, of the wrong type and not of environmentally sustainable quality, is referred to as a Plan, whereas the Climate Emergency and Blue-Green Infrastructure documents are both referred to as Strategies; some of the right words, but not really a plan! The CE and BGI need to be fully integrated with the Local Plan and of at least equivalent weight of importance.	Noted Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 427	Comments about the consultation process: 1. Hard copies are difficult to come by for those less able to engage with the internet (but a few were at Climate Festival and in Library); 2. The online Teams information session was tricky to join, the link was partially lost during (my) session and deleted my questions, attendees could not see who/how many attending, attendees could not see questions from others, responses were poor; 3. The documentation is attractive and nicely illustrated, although key figures, especially maps, have poor resolution, and generally text is repetitive and lacking in detail making it difficult to respond in the questionnaires; 4. Examples of answers (other answers to follow from all sessions): a. Clean Air Zones are generally not a good idea, because WC didn't expect any problems in BoA with the Bath CAZ start-up, although everyone in BoA knew about it and expected it to be a problem for the town whilst WC did no preparation; b. Wiltshire cannot press for more sustainable housing (and several other issues) because they can only do what central government say … which in effect have no intention of making any effort for a 2030 target, as Westminster have committed to a less ambitious 2050 (with little real progress). Wiltshire Council has a position of significant influence to change government position on planning regulations, other Unitary Councils have pushed for stronger standards of sustainability. WC Climate & Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy response. 1. The Climate Emergency should be at the heart of all Wiltshire Council policies and have primacy; 2. Climate Mitigation should be a significant goal in its own right, bringing a focus on carbon sequestration projects; 3. We would like to see significant changes to policy and real action sooner than the suggested 2 years; 4. There is no detail of how objectives will be delivered, referring simply to 'future delivery plans'; 5. It seems clear therefore that Wiltshire Council's decarbonisation objectives will be no more than a 'wish list' in the Local Plan, Local Transport Plan and other plans, most of which have completely contrary objectives and will not be in place for at least 2 years.	Noted 1. Noted 2. Goal 1 has been strengthened to emphasise support for reducing carbon emissions and achieving net zero targets through sustaining a health natural environment and nature-based solutions. 3. Noted 4. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans. 5. Noted

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Page 428	6. There is a lack of measurable objectives and associated milestones. If the strategy is to be succeed, there needs to be more detail on clear aims on a yearly or every two years basis; 7. There is a lack of capital investment and budget commitments; 8. If the Strategy is to achieve its aims, immediate reversal of plans implementing climate destructive, high emission plans and policies, until such time as detailed carbon reduction delivery plans have been adopted, including the excessive housing target and poor housing standards, Westbury Incinerator etc.; 9. Active travel infrastructure needs significantly better emphasis: more than 'encouragement' for active travel. Greater provision of safe walking and cycling routes, EV charging points, EV taxis, car-sharing/clubs and all other possibilities to help reduce emissions as well as reducing the total number of vehicles on our roads; 10. There is no clear path for improving public transport which should be so much more than buses, especially improvement and protection of existing routes on the train services as these efficiently removes vehicles from the roads. This is highlighted by the local outrage about removal of the direct route to Waterloo with no consultation and expectation that Wiltshire Council should champion that cause; 11. No detail on sites to generate renewable energy, plant trees, apply regenerative agriculture or produce food for local consumption; 12. Complete dependency on other plans and strategies that are yet to be developed, which in themselves present a significant risk of increasing the County's emissions (e.g. through more commuter based development and road building); 13. All Wiltshire Council business should aspire to carbon-zero operationally. Recently announced, the Silverwood School extension approval with a recommendation to be operationally carbon-zero is commendable. However it is needs to consider all aspects, including that a majority of students will be transported there (cars? buses?), rather than gaining education and support within or near their own communities. 14. Lack of detail of what is included specifically in BGI Strategy, makes it difficult to comment as a community; 15. The BGI has limited definitions of what types of protection will be provided at designated sites and what are those sites;	6. Section 5.5 Monitoring & Review updated to confirm the Council will develop a plan and indicators for monitoring implementation of the GBI Strategy. 7. Noted 8. Noted 9. Noted 10. Noted 11. To be considered as part of the Trees & Woodland Strategy and Local Nature Recovery Strategy. 12. Noted 13. Noted 14. To be considered as part of the Settlement GBI Framework as appropriate. 15. Reference to the overarching GBI planning principles being used to develop local planning guidelines in the Settlement GBI Frameworks added.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
	16. The consultation response from Bradford on Avon was overwhelmingly in support of protecting existing greenspaces for well-being and wildlife; it is uncertain whether (for example) the Old Golf Course is 'in' the BGI and if it is, what protection it would be given; 17. The BGI document focuses on 'access' to wildlife and economic impacts, but despite all the evidence of massive loss insect, bird and mammal wildlife both in quantity and species, there are no actions suggested for enhancement or regeneration of habitats and safe corridors for wildlife. BOATC's made Neighbourhood Plan has green space protections, but the green corridors policy was removed due to lack of evidence (pre- 2016). We now have a significant amount of evidence and consultation, which will be incorporated into a Neighbourhood Plan update. 18. BOATC employing a dedicated Green Space Officer putting our community in the vanguard of BGI; Bradford on Avon Town Council 19. The Council could do more to indicate how it will use its influence to educate and lead residents and businesses to do more to reduce their own carbon footprint and protection of wildlife in areas beyond the Council's control. Bradford on Avon Town Council is keen to continue to support Wiltshire Council and its councillors in taking the urgent action that is now required. We declared a similar Climate Emergency within days of WC's declaration in 2019, which we augmented in 2020 with an Ecological Emergency. https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/town-council-commits-to-a-greener-future/ We have been working hard to engage with our community, doing projects and taking actions as best we can, but we are a small town and need support and leadership for the County to make any significant impact. There is little need for more evidence gathering, investigations and assessments; the evidence is irrefutable. There is an urgent need for more ambition and immediate action. Bradford on Avon Town Council is extremely interested in the GBI strategy particularly along the River Avon which is central to the wellbeing, biodiversity and heritage of our whole community. We would be keen to work with Wiltshire Council to protect and enhance our riverside and other green spaces and continue to take a strong lead on this, as we take on responsibility for these in the imminent asset transfers. Prepared by Cllr ▬▬▬ 14/10/21, in conjunction with BOATC and support from residents and groups including Climate Friendly BOA, BOA Preservation Trust.	16. To be considered as part of the Settlement GBI Framework as appropriate. 17. To be considered as part of the Settlement GBI Framework as appropriate. 18. Noted 19. Noted Noted

Private Individual	I endorse the Wiltshire Climate Alliance Response to Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy October 2021. This is a comprehensive and well-presented response. I have the following observations and comments which may be of some use.	Noted
	Wiltshire Council must recognise and formally declare an Ecological Crisis. The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. In the bottom 10 per cent, Natural History Museum Report Oct 2021. The UK is the most nature depleted country in Europe. 41 per cent of all species have declined in UK since 1970. UK State of Nature Report 2019.	Noted
	The GBIS needs to frame its strategy in the context of understanding the ecological emergency as it applies to Wiltshire and its neighbours in the South West. The Global Climate Emergency and Ecological and Biodiversity emergency are intimately linked, they are inseparable issues. We can't wait for climate measures to be implemented before acting on the urgency of measures needed to restore Biodiversity. The two emergencies are interlinked and should be given equal primacy in the formation, adoption and implementation of Council Policy. The Council cannot declare a Climate emergency without at the same time recognising and declaring an Ecological Emergency. This should promote and lead to the preservation and restoration of biodiversity as a central aim of Planning Policy.	Noted
	No net loss of Biodiversity, should be a given and should genuinely deliver a Biodiversity net gain, which should mean what it says. This is often stated as an ambition but there are very few examples of net gain this actually being realised. The Council should create an inventory of how this has been delivered so far, and how it plans to do so in the future. It is essential that Biodiversity net gain is supported by significant investment (at cost to Developers), to define what and where to implement appropriate biodiversity net-gain measures. This needs to be backed and supported by the commitment to monitoring the results of actions. This also requires significant investment.	Biodiversity Net Gain of at least 10% will be mandated as part of the Environment Act 2021
	There is already plenty of environmental information and data already held (collected over many years by volunteers), and held for example by the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (and others). There is already much accumulated and incontrovertible evidence of the decline in wildlife, and habitats to be able to define a Nature Recovery Plan. It is time for concrete actions not more reports.	The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will use numerous data sets to establish a current position with regards to habitats across Wiltshire, where improvements are needed and identify areas for enhancement.

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	The protected sites network, SSSIs, NNRs, Priority habitats and Local Wildlife Sites already provide the framework and building blocks of a future GBIS. However such sites are not all in a favourable condition. Landowners need to be incentivised and supported to restore them to favourable condition and to expand them within an enhanced, integrated GBIS. They need to be supported with both direct investment towards land management but also through provision of advice and support through access to professional advisors.	Noted
	The Wilshire and Swindon Local Nature Partnership declined and ultimately became in-active due to the withdrawal of funding support from both Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council. A future Wiltshire Climate and Environment Forum must be properly supported by staffing and financial resources in order to properly support and enable partners and community interest groups to contribute to the ambitions of the GBIS. It will require investment and commitment from WC and recognition that successful partnership working requires financial investment and support. It is unlikely to survive on goodwill alone.	Noted
Page 431	The GBI needs to aim high and set ambitious, testing targets for the restoration of biodiversity. Failing this will see the continued decline in wildlife and habitats. Planning Policy needs to be equally ambitious in recognition of the Ecological crisis. For example it could adopt the principle of an equivalence model for the restoration of biodiversity. That is to adopt the principle of allocating an equivalent amount of land to be set aside for biodiversity restoration, equal to that of each large development proposal. (e.g. Wetland restoration, Grassland restoration, Woodland restoration, Re-wilded land). These could also be framed in the context of providing rural economic (and related urban) benefits, and business opportunities, if framed in the right way.	To be considered as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
	Confirming the baseline condition of Wiltshire habitats and species is a never-ending and ongoing (resource-hungry) exercise. Enough information already exists, held by Natural England, and WSBRC (and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust) to confirm that wildlife is in decline and species and habitats are in unfavourable condition. The priority should be to acknowledge this and to define ambitious targets to reverse this, and restore wildlife to the countryside. On the proposed interactive PDF maps including species, habitats, agri-environmental etc. The environmental and biological data to inform these already exists. It just needs pulling together.	The Council is already working in partnership with Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (SWBRC) and Natural England to pull all the data sets together to form the evidence base to underpin the emerging Local Nature recovery Strategy.

It is essential that the new Wiltshire Climate and Environment Forum maintains links with the Swindon and Wiltshire LEP, and that they share and declare common objectives to restore biodiversity. The LEP is the driver for economic investment into Wiltshire. The SWLEP should equally acknowledge the Ecological crisis and be fully cognisant of the aims and ambitions of the Wiltshire GBIS. The same amount of energy and priority that is put into securing and delivering economic investment (which often seems to be able to be mobilised very swiftly) needs to be given to securing the investment required to support GBIS ambitions and the restoration of biodiversity. GBIS ambitions and targets (and Climate mitigation targets) need to be embedded into the economic investment plans (and the Local Industrial Strategy) and targets adopted by the SWLEP. Investment in Natural Capital (and biodiversity restoration) must be an integrated ambition of the SWLEP. The GBIS and the LIS should not be parallel strategies. They need to recognise the ambition of each other in acknowledgment of the shared need to address the Climate and Ecological Crisis in order to deliver sustainable development goals. Ecological and Environmental Monitoring is fundamental to the success of the definition and implementation of the GBIS. Such monitoring has long been poorly supported and invested in, and in some case withdrawn completely by Central and Local Government (e.g. support for Local Wildlife Sites in Wiltshire). Lack of investment in the future will mean that we do not have the ability to measure the success of future actions implemented. And no measure of the value for money of such interventions and investments.

I refer to Wiltshire Climate Alliance's Concerns under Theme 3: Nature Recovery & Land Management:

Concern 1. Yes there is a lot of language which is vague with reference to for example, encourage, promote, consider opportunities etc. There has to be clear recognition of the Ecological Crisis and strong Leadership in the first instance. Needs to be clear about promoting, and demonstrating the benefits of a healthy, wildlife rich natural environment. This has been brought into sharp focus by the Pandemic. The wellbeing of the planet is fundamental for the wellbeing of communities and the people who live in those communities. | Noted

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities. |

Page 433	Concern 3. Absolutely agree. For too long Development Planning (and Developers) have held the upper hand. The GBIS needs to be a fundamental, integrated component of all Planning proposals. Development Planning proposals should be declined if they don't include a minimum level of GBI (and this minimum GBI baseline should be set at a high level) recognising the historic losses of Biodiversity and the need to restore nature. We may in fact have already reached or gone beyond the tipping point for many species.	To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate.
	Concern 5. Biodiversity Net Gain. GBI Biodiversity net gain principles should therefore be set very high. Agree this should not be seen as a loophole, enabling development alongside piece meal GBI improvements that are not integrated (or connected) with a wider understanding of the overall GBI framework that is based on existing scientific evidence (distribution of species, habitats, interconnectedness of habitats, SSSIs, Wildlife sites, Agri-environment schemes etc). Development proposals should pass a series of Climate, Water Resource and Ecological tests before being allowed.	To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate.
	I refer to the full GBI Strategy document:	
	Box 4.14 Green Infrastructure Standards pg 56. While it is good to have standards. I personally consider these national standards are inadequate. They lack ambition of the scale and recognition of the need to restore biodiversity, and the importance and value of having natural green space (and wildlife habitats) where people live. Having adequate good quality wildlife rich green spaces near where people live will mitigate some of the damaging impacts of people visiting our most important and valuable wildlife sites, sadly emphasised by damage seen to many local sites seen during the recent pandemic lockdowns.	Noted
	Box 1.1. Responding to the Climate Emergency. There should be an equivalent Box, "Responding to the Ecological Emergency" Not all measures required to mitigate/adapt to climate change will automatically deliver for Biodiversity. The Ecological emergency should have equal billing and the Strategy must be framed in full acknowledgement of the Ecological Emergency	Noted
	Box 3.2 National Policy and Biodiversity Net Gain. Habitats enhanced and left in a measurably better state than before development. This must be supported by monitoring, to be paid for by the developer.	To be considered in the new Local Plan in line with the NPPF and latest legislation requirements as appropriate

Goal 2 Halting Loss of and Improving Biodiversity. This requires a step change in strategic thinking and understanding about the real decline of, and future needs for the restoration of biodiversity, and the increased investment required (including in ecological monitoring) to deliver this, fully acknowledging the ecological crisis. Otherwise we will all simply continue to supervise the continued ongoing decline of species and habitats. Theme Three. We will develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Noted	
New Wiltshire Climate and Environment Forum will pick up much of the work of the former WSLNP. This will require significant dedicated staffing and financial resources, with a clearly defined purpose and focus on defining and delivering the GBI and Nature Recovery Strategy, against agreed targets and goals.	Noted	
Wiltshire should set a target for re-wilded land as a contribution towards delivering biodiversity restoration targets.	To be considered as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	
Tree planting. Local tree nurseries should be established, potentially as small business opportunities to supply native tree species to landowners, in order to deliver Tree Planting targets. These could be set up as community initiatives. ULTIMATELY THIS ALL COMES DOWN TO POLITICAL WILL AND LEADERSHIP.	To be considered as part of the Trees & Woodland Strategy.	

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Natural England	We support the overall vision to deliver, more, better quality and better connected GBI and welcome the emphasis on delivery and funding. Given the range of benefits GI can provide and contribution to addressing climate and ecological emergencies as well as to social and health goals, GBI should be seen as essential infrastructure, as utilities and transport are, that is required to support new development. We encourage Local Authorities to ensure that sufficient financial contributions are made to meet GI needs in and around application sites. Further work should be done to consider large-scale strategic GI projects and spatial/corridor opportunities that developer contributions and other funding streams can be used to support. The value, in its broadest sense, of GI is recognised in the strategy and the pandemic has deepened our understanding of the roles it plays. Planning – emerging GI Standards Natural England is leading the Green Infrastructure Standards project; a delivery component of the 25 Year Environment Plan that will provide a consistent framework for implementing a green infrastructure approach across local policy and in development and nature-based projects. Research within the project has identified key benchmarks that are informing the update of Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards. We are also developing the first official England-wide map of GI. The new standards are programmed for a launch in the Summer next year (2022). Theme1: Flood and Water Management Improved management of watercourses - Natural England advocates the use of 'Nature based solutions' and associated opportunities to 'slow the flow' in the headwaters of the district's watercourses. These types of land management offer ways to improve water quality and related habitats, while also helping to reduce flooding downstream. We note and welcome the strategy's reference to the various relevant partnership working with sewerage companies, highways companies and advise including other ALBs to include nature conservation as an additional objective. Guidance on nature based solution to slow the flow can be found here.	Noted Noted – Box 4.14 updated to include latest status for the emerging National GI Standards. Noted

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Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), on and off site GI - We note and support the incorporation of SuDS into new development. Similarly we welcome the provision of both on site and off site GI as a theme for focused attention, together with the need to secure long term management arrangements at the outset Natural England support the notion to 'encourage greater respect for nature in how we use water' and advise the GBI strategy highlight opportunities for homeowners as well as developers to include methods for reducing surface water flood risk.	Noted
Theme 3: Nature Recovery & Landscape Management	
A major commitment in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, the NRN is a single, national network which will benefit people and wildlife by increasing, improving and joining-up wildlife-rich places across England, stretching from our cities to countryside, mountains to coast. It will contain sites designated for nature conservation and other wildlife-rich places where there is the potential to restore or create new wildlife habitat or form stepping stones to help wildlife populations grow and move. It will improve landscape resilience to climate change, providing natural solutions that reduce carbon and manage flood risk; sustain vital ecosystems such as improved soil, clean water and clean air and enable us to enjoy and connect with nature where we live, work and play – benefiting our health and wellbeing. We welcome the recognition of the links between the GBIS and the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategies and look forward to supporting the Council to develop that connection.	Noted
Theme 4 Woodland and Trees	
Natural England support the principles of the theme and commend the councils decision to produce a Tree and Woodland Planting Strategy.	Noted
Theme 5: Healthy Living	
Health and wellbeing	
The current Covid situation has also further shown how valuable it is to have access to green space close to where people live. A recent review (May 2020 - see link below) of evidence for the health and wellbeing benefits of green infrastructure sets out the sizeable body of research that underlines the importance of creating more, bigger, better and joined-up green spaces, especially near to where people live, and	Reference to evidence of health and well-being benefits of GBI has been strengthened in Section 4.2 - Theme 5: Healthy Living.

to address inequalities. https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/the-people-and-nature-survey-forengland-monthlyinterim-indicators-for-april-2020-experimental-statistics. A further research document (September 2020 - see link below) sets out evidence that green infrastructure supports health and wellbeing through promoting positive mental health states, providing a context and motivation for physical activity and recreation, and allowing people to experience nature. http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4799558023643136

Natural England advise that social and health benefits from allotments, orchards, community gardens and historic environment areas should be given greater emphasis. The work to connect with mental health workers providing 'eco therapy' is a great example of how an area can support local biodiversity, provide an important local food source, be a valuable space for health and wellbeing and create a sense of place for local residents. There is a strong evidence base demonstrating how access to nature, rich environments and green spaces will have a positive impact on health and wellbeing. Access to good quality natural green space and parks at all scales in a way that most people can experience nature and lead more active and healthy lives. It is often communities that are economically disadvantaged with poorer health and educational outcomes that also have the worst provision of good quality BGI.	Noted
Natural England note that there is no mechanism to understand how accessible BGI is across the plan area. This information should be combined with data like the index of multiple deprivation to understand how inequalities will be strategically addressed.	Accessible GBI to be considered as part of the Settlement GBI Frameworks.

Respondent	Comment	Council's Response
Personal response	Consider the cost benefit from a system perspective, over a longer time period and in light of other strategic priorities of the UK government and WC to save money and deliver multiple objectives at the same time. For example, re the councils Blue-Green Infrastructure strategy and the biodiversity crisis we also face, use Active Travel routes to create 'green corridors' within towns and in linking communities and include biodiversity positive landscaping and planting schemes as ways to keep routes safe (e.g. as boundaries to stop people wandering onto cycle paths when they go through parks and open spaces). For example, Active travel is good for physical and mental health and will reduce costs of delivering other services from the public purse. For example, cycle routes are much less costly to maintain therefore over time this will save money if it gets people off the roads. (Acknowledging that WC investment CBA must use the government Green Book for its investment consideration - this proposal is that WC considers wider CB).	Reference to using GBI corridors for active travel routes added to Theme 5: Healthy Living

Online Survey Comments	Council's Response
As a strategy document detailing aims, clear enough, but not clear how this will progress to practical action and clear results. We could seek to do all of this and achieve nothing. How do we make sure that doesn't happen?	Text boxes added to emphasise that the Council will develop an Action Plan (Section 5.4) and Monitoring Plan (Section 5.5).
Basic errors such as bold font on l and spelling was distracting as was poor font choices	Typos corrected
The plan consistently fails to clarify the terms it uses and fails to provide evidence for statements made. I refer as one example the reference to 'Right Tree in the Right Place' it would be important to define what is meant to the Council by this term as I take this to mean that a tree is selected that will be healthy and live a long life and not planted on priority habitat - the plan seems to mean something else but does not clarify what	Glossary added.
But again not enough was done to encourage individuals to do more within their own property boundaries. Converting to Green energy if they can afford to do this; convert to an EV if they can afford it; plants trees and bushes wherever possible in their gardens; collect grey water if they can; if we all reduce carbon footprint it will reduce the heavy rainy storms, and flooding; create healthier living as environment not as polluted; and in turn would create economic recovery and natural capital	Text box added to emphasise the role of Neighbourhood Plans/Community Environmental Plans (developed using the Community Environmental Toolkit) in identifying local GBI needs and opportunities (Section 3.2)
I don't understand how a few cycle lanes and allotments will offset the loss of healthy living, green space by overdevelopment of green field sites while neglecting to develop brown spaces within already settled towns, eg Trowbridge	Noted
Mindful of cost. Balance easier and more difficult progress, to make progress in all areas. Foster care and concern for place, a small section of the population litters and fly tips. This negatively impacts others' mental health and anger, especially where it is too dangerous for the public to deal with it. There's little point in having the GBI plan perfect but not dealing with litter and flytipping; a sad eyesore.	Noted
A very muddled strategy - and an insulting survey. The term "white" is a derogatory racial term.	Noted
There were a lot of unfamiliar terms and corporate 'speak'. The Summary would not have passed the Plain English campaign!	Glossary added
I think it could have been written in much clearer English aimed at the general population rather than Council staff who are more familiar with the terms used.	Glossary added
I found it difficult to understand some of it due to some of the long technical words and they didn't explain what it means	Glossary added

Online Survey Comments	Council's Response
I think it would help to acknowledge that the Climate Change Strategy is overarching, and that actions would be prioritised together.	Goal 1 has been strengthened to emphasise support for reducing carbon emissions and achieving net zero targets through sustaining a health natural environment and nature-based solutions.
The New Forest National Park authority logo didn't appear on page 71. An important partner, doing partnership working with organisations linking to the Solent and coastline and beyond.	New Forest National Park logo added
There seems to be a plethora of plans overlapping with one another. Are any of them coming to fruition or is there a danger that we are just heaping up words?	Noted
There have been many government environment promises in the past, let's hope this actually begins to take physical action,	Noted
Rather dense and repetitive with phatic phrases 'working with' 'aim to achieve' 'plan to ...'	Glossary added
One thing that isn't quite clear to me is how all sections of the community will be engaged, including poorer and disadvantaged groups.	Text box added to emphasise the role of Neighbourhood Plans/Community Environmental Plans (developed using the Community Environmental Toolkit) in identifying local GBI needs and opportunities (Section 3.2)
does not give detailed timeline for implementation.	Text boxes added to emphasise that the Council will develop an Action Plan (Section 5.4) and Monitoring Plan (Section 5.5).
It might be a strategy but it's more like an aspiration. If Wiltshire council had considered all these aspects before instead giving planning permission for anything from housing estates to industrial sites where there s no requirement then there would be no need for a strategy!	Noted
Took me a while to get the structure: CET to Settlement Frameworks to LNRS to GBI to Environment Bill but now can see how it fits together.	Noted
The means and actual plans missing.	The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities.
On the whole I thought it was well presented. It would be useful for the mapping to not be so pixelated (though I suppose these might have been made available elsewhere). I suppose some GIS layers dedicated to the GBI strategy could be added to online mapping info if it hasn't been done so already.	Mapping resolution improved

Online Survey Comments	Council's Response
I have a MSc in Global Enviromental Challenges. I know the subject inside out. This is typical council gobbledigook to a lay person, don't believe for a second you're actually going to do anything.	Noted
See point above. Not enough about the interdependence and connectivity of every aspect of the strategy, and how they relate to climate change and vice versa.	Noted
We keep seeing the words but the actions by Wiltshire Council don't match the words, the departments are not joined up giving them the emphasis required in a climate emergency. The delivery priorities need to all be equal as they are all important and should be at the heart of decisions.	Noted
I dont see how the delivery themes fit to the goals with actions. To protect the existing environment, stop building roads and destroying habitats. Need more connecting corridors for wildlife, where are they identified? Which areas of land are going to be given to over to tree planting. How are the rivers going to be clean? How can the public access green spaces on private land without restriction, eg calne-chippenham cycle route closed for shooting!	Local GBI needs and priorities to be identified in Neighbourhood Plans/Community Environmental Plans (developed using the Community Environmental Toolkit).
There needs to be a huge emphasis on education, creating a change in personal expectations (ie we will all need to change the way we live and give some things up) - critical to success will be ensuring people accept the need for and want to make these changes. The language and methods used need to be engaging, compelling and visible to all.	Noted
There are some very complicated paragraphs and some missed opportunities for being direct about action.	Noted
However on page 11 of the Exec Summary, defining B& G infrastructure you fail to include Wiltshire's many chalk streams and rivers which I understand are of international importance. Water extraction is not mentioned, this actually my put a cap on what development can and should be allowed. If there ain't enough to supply without depleting the natural environment, then no further development to be allowed. Simple really. Then we need a plan for water use reduction and waste treatment,	Noted
It is a good approach to restoring a very complex and interlinked system. I liked the idea of 'dividing' up the county by the water catchment areas and applying all the components of the strategy in each of the areas. This appears to be a good way of integrating the component parts to areas that individuals, communities, organisations and businesses can relate to.	Noted
GBI The Canal & River Trust fully support the work of the council in relation to the proposed GBI strategy and we particularly welcome the recognition of the importance of blue infrastructure. The Kennet & Avon canal is a perfect example of multifunctional green/blue infrastructure, and the Wilts & Berks canal can provide similar opportunities in advance of it becoming navigable. We suggest active travel should be added to the list of possible benefits. Nationally our canals experienced a huge increase in use...	Active travel benefits of canals emphasised in new text added to Goal 1

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Online Survey Comments	Council's Response
All 6 of the delivery themes listed above are important. Strategic GBI sites need to be better defined with clear boundaries and presented on larger scale map(s), also showing Strategic GBI in adjoining counties. Whilst production of Settlement Frameworks are welcomed, there is a missed opportunity to focus on drawing up additional detailed plans for 'linking areas' - which link Strategic GBI sites to form more robust, continuous GBI corridors through the county and over its boundaries	Noted
The delivery and links between the various plans and who is to be responsible for them is not clear.	Noted
The devil is in the detail. The Strategy is good (although could have included a baseline for future delivery to be monitored against), but the council should quickly move into developing and delivering action plans. What will be done and where (targets), by whom, what will it cost, and what are the funding sources (both committed and not yet committed).	Text boxes added to emphasise that the Council will develop an Action Plan (Section 5.4) and Monitoring Plan (Section 5.5).
In places the print was too small to read.	Legibility of text improved
There was a lot of lengthy aspirations but not a lot of concrete goals or details. The text was not very readable.	Noted. Legibility of text improved
There is not enough about Protection of green and Blue assets - nor about protecting Biodiversity from development/ infrastructure projects eg road building. No mention of reversal of cuts in last few years to "Green" services and posts - such as Countryside posts; the closure of the Wiltshire Tree Warden scheme; the end of education projects eg Forest School activities. It is counter to the GBI Strategy that eg Wilts Tree officers/Ecologists are over worked and cover too large an area/.	Noted
It was a rather long document. This is likely to affect the level of community engagement.	A summary version of the Consultation Draft was produced.
The maps on pages 19 and 20 are poor quality and lack sufficient information to understand or comment on.	Hyperlink to larger-scale maps in the Evidence Base online provided
Extremely thorough but perhaps over complicated and repetitive	Noted
The maps were too high level to understand in relation to local communities. No clarity about what I, as an individual, should be doing. No quantification of the impact of different strategies - so answering Q5 was difficult	Settlement-focussed maps to be provided as part of the Settlement GBI Frameworks.
Repetitive so easy to grasp the aims but not how you intend to do it	Noted
The 3 goal diagrams helped explain the interconnectedness of all	Noted
Easy to understand but no action planning, no budgeting, no responsibility or accountability, no timescales. No teeth. As Greta Thunberg said so eloquently, just more 'Blah blah blah'!	Text boxes added to emphasise that the Council will develop an Action Plan (Section 5.4) and Monitoring Plan (Section 5.5).
The maps are poor resolution and there is lack of detail. I understand the concept but not really what Wiltshire Council are going to do.	Hyperlink to larger-scale maps in the Evidence Base online provided

Online Survey Comments	Council's Response
It was a very dense document, I appreciate it's a complex subject but I think it could have been delivered in a simpler way. Very frustrating that the maps weren't clear, that there was no key and so rendered pointless.	Hyperlink to larger-scale maps in the Evidence Base online provided
It could go further and do more. Try being bold for a change. Less electric now the price is sky high and more hydrogen fuels.	Noted
All goals and delivery themes are important. We welcome the recognition of the importance of partnership working and in particular the engagement with town and parish councils. The Bremhill Neighbourhood Plan has objectives that go a long way in meeting the goals and delivery themes of the GBI Strategy. The specific objectives are Green and Open Spaces, The Local Landscape and Wildlife, Management of Water Courses and Flood Mitigation and Community Wellbeing. For example in the Green and Open Spaces.	Noted
This is a complex area, and for the lay person it is a lot of new information. However, the reading of the strategy did clarify many of the concepts and broaden my understanding of the issues and actions that need to be taken.	Noted
What is not understandable is why this implemented in 2012 when the Green Infrastructure Core Strategy Consultation was published.	Noted
I have been involved in conservation for many years and taken part in various consultations. However not sure how user friendly the document will be to people in general.	A summary version of the Consultation Draft was produced.
The goals were unambiguous and clearly expressed, however the plethora of graphics was confusing and did not add to comprehension of the strategy.	Noted
This was clear but much of it is aspirational and vague with no clear way forward to delivery.	Text boxes added to emphasise that the Council will develop an Action Plan (Section 5.4) and Monitoring Plan (Section 5.5).
A clear statement of what the strategy is and is not is needed ie what it does and does not 'trump' in terms of planning decisions, changes of land use etc. The strategy needs to be a working document which people can use in future: it needs to be clear what will flow from the strategy in terms of Wiltshire Council decisions which are made after adoption. People need to know whether decision makers will have to have regard to the Strategy or not?	Noted
I think the document is excellent. The only change I would make is to have four goals not three. I would put mitigation into a separate goal as it is more important than the adaptation and resilience.	Goal 1 has been strengthened to emphasise support for reducing carbon emissions and achieving net zero targets through sustaining a health natural environment and nature-based solutions.

Online Survey Comments	Council's Response
It lacks detail as to actually what will take place. Will Wiltshire owned farms be examples of good soil management and regeneration? Will local producers of crops grown on healthy soil be supported in their work and from air pollution from surrounding areas. Will workable cycleways and footpaths and electric vehicle charging points for all be high on the agenda? Without nature humans will not survive, this needs to be made evident to all Wiltshire residents.	The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities.
It is very difficult to list the delivery themes in order of preference as they all interact. Obviously you have to make a start so why not take Flood and Water Management and this will involve Farming, Landscape management and Trees	Noted
What is a swale? Why use this obscure language?	Glossary added
The strategy is a bit too wordy, even the executive summary	Noted
That action is taken to reduce and remove harmful activities which impact the green/blue infrastructure including the lawful discharge of sewage into the River Marden.	Noted
More words describing commitment to actual NEAR-TERM ACTIONS needed.	Noted
The strategy is filled with jargon-ridden language. I have worked as an environmental professional, so this was not a problem for me. If the Council wants to create enthusiasm for this strategy from the general public, it will need a different document.	Glossary added
Ranking themes (above) makes no sense, as these should all be integrated. Areas such as meadows/permanent pasture is virtually ignored, tho as important as woodland in terms of biodiversity, carbon sequestration etc. Nothing on agroforestry, regenerative farming.	Reference to potential of floodplain meadows to lock up carbon added to Theme 1 Flooding & Water Management. Reference to benefits of agroforestry/regenerative farming practices added to Theme 2 Sustainable Farming & Land Management
The strategy context looks complex and we are concerned that it will reduce the possibility of useful change if specific, shared, higher level goals are not kept constantly in focus by all partners.	Community Environmental Plans developed by Town/Parish Councils and local stakeholders using the Community Environmental Toolkit will set out actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects to support local priorities.
As above the attempt to rank the delivery themes is meaningless and counter productive, they are all important in different ways. The question below on Partnership working should be about just that, not just treating it as a way to act top down and inform the public	Noted
Not enough sense of urgency. It's already 2.5 yrs since the climate emergency was declared. Also a similar document produced in 2010 was essentially torn up? Need to demonstrate urgency in the action list.	Text boxes added to emphasise that the Council will develop an Action Plan (Section 5.4) and Monitoring Plan (Section 5.5).

Online Survey Comments	Council's Response
It did bring to mind Greta Thunberg's Bla bla bla. The words are fine but will they be implemented.	Text boxes added to emphasise that the Council will develop an Action Plan (Section 5.4) and Monitoring Plan (Section 5.5).
There needs to be more definitive goals and deadlines for every year.	Text boxes added to emphasise that the Council will develop an Action Plan (Section 5.4) and Monitoring Plan (Section 5.5).
The GBI strategy provides a clear vision for way ahead. However, Wiltshire Council needs to reconsider prioritisation of delivery themes. They are all important and inter-dependant on each other with the "whole" being greater than the sum of the "parts". Accordingly, all themes need to be taken forward in a holistic approach to delivery the maximum benefit across Wiltshire.	Noted
If you are sincere In your intention of reducing CO_2, how do you justify your intention to build a waste incinerator at Westbury? Why not a plastic reprocessing plant instead?	Noted
I think the time frames could be more aspirational it almost seems written to fit the next plan period rather than reflecting the urgency of the current crisis	Noted
More actions and safe guards ie monitoring needed - Give nature a chance - put it first for once! (ie nature, communities, Business) is always last and never gets and equal say.	Text boxes added to emphasise that the Council will develop an Action Plan (Section 5.4) and Monitoring Plan (Section 5.5).
Waffle without intent	Text boxes added to emphasise that the Council will develop an Action Plan (Section 5.4) and Monitoring Plan (Section 5.5).
The strategy says some good things, but how about some targets specific to Wiltshire	Noted
Question 5.0 is not good. It is not reasonable to ask us to put the items in order because they are all important. The question is - how will the Council persuade the public to pay much higher rates, and the Govt to pay their share when all the necessary work has to be funded. How willing are we all to accept a lowering of our living standards to meet these costs which will be very high>	Noted
It was very general and a bit fluffy. It didn't delve into what delivery plans might look like, case studies or possible ideas. Calling it GBI is interesting in itself, it seems to imply that nature is a commodity. Instead it is vital for our survival! Also the notion that we can just create it as we want it doesn't do justice to how mature systems are established over time.	The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities. Case studies provided.
Lack of clarity on the how. eg details on Settlement Frameworks and planning principals are crucial to delivery but not available yet. How will you prevent reliance on Net Biodiversity Gain as a source of funding from facilitating development at the expense of GBI aims. The woodland and trees theme can't be achieved without an audit list of trees (and hedgerows) felled as well as planted	References to the purpose of the Settlement GBI Frameworks strengthened throughout the document where appropriate. Tree audit to be considered as part of the Tree & Woodland Strategy.

Online Survey Comments	Council's Response
There are many fine words in this document, which should have been produced many years ago. Specific targets are needed to ensure effectiveness can be monitored and reported on. I would be interested to hear more about how the Council will ensure the proposed Climate and Environment Forum is more effective than the Local Nature Partnership. This document is urgently needed NOW as many new/recently approved planning applications give scant regard to multi-functional space	Section 5.5 Monitoring & Review updated to confirm the Council will develop a plan and indicators for monitoring implementation of the GBI Strategy.
Aims are clear, but the how is not. Too much emphasis on "encourage" How will you manage conflict eg where GBI aims conflict with developers requests or planning permission. Who decides the "worth" of what is being lost and what would be "net biodiversity gain" Will ancient woodland indeed be "off limits" as mentioned in the strategy. How will you handle resistance to change - eg from people who like "tidy" verges	The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities. Case studies provided.
The document is wide ranging and, to a large extent not focussed. Too many diagrams that actually give no clarity on where the Council are going and how they're going to get there. Too many vague promises and statements	The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities. Case studies provided.
It was very waffly and didn't commit to specific actions.	Text boxes added to emphasise that the Council will develop an Action Plan (Section 5.4) and Monitoring Plan (Section 5.5).
Far too much verbiage and too many acronyms for an "executive" summary.	Glossary added
Very difficult - way too many words, even in the Summary. Main document is FAR too long to understand, and it appears to carry a lot of duplication. Priorities for Action are the only clearly understandable parts of the main document. Now we need to know how precisely these priorities will be actually implemented.	The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will set out actions for delivery of strategic landscape-scale GBI projects within priority areas, and actions for delivery of settlement-scale GBI projects will be set out in Community Environmental Plans to support local priorities. Case studies provided.
It is very high level so I was struggling to understand what practical steps will result from the strategy and how we will know if the strategy has been successful given the lack of key performance indicators.	Text boxes added to emphasise that the Council will develop an Action Plan (Section 5.4) and Monitoring Plan (Section 5.5).
See above comment on need to streamline so more impactful/readable	Noted
Nowhere near as clearly communicated or well laid out as the draft Climate Strategy. Not as engaging, harder to understand. Maybe a stronger vision statement needed: now; (intermediate); end state.	Noted

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Online Survey Comments	Council's Response
Many questions on how outcomes will actually be delivered.	Text boxes added to emphasise that the Council will develop an Action Plan (Section 5.4) and Monitoring Plan (Section 5.5).
I only started to understand it deeply after I had come across the Evidence Base and Workshop Report. There is jargon and there are unclear passages.	Glossary added

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APPENDIX 3

Changes to Goal 1 shown with tracked changes for easier comparison.

Goal 1: Mitigation, Aadaptation, mitigation and resilience to climate change

By 2030, we will have increased our ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change through adoption of nature-based solutions...

Working in partnership, we will do this by:

- Contributing to national targets and Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy objectives for cutting greenhouse gas emissions (including from urban and rural land use, land use change, opportunities for active travel, and the agriculture and waste sectors).
- Considering the best nature-based pathways to help support 'Net Zero' for the county
- Supporting the delivery of Implementing climate change adaptation strategies and management plans, resilience for Wiltshire to improve its resilience to impacts of climate change associated with a 2°C temperature rise and management strategies.
- Reducing risks of harm from natural hazards through adoption of natural flood and water management approaches alongside traditional grey infrastructure .at the local and catchment level.
- Improving air quality in locations that fail to meet national standards, thereby contributing to national targets to reduce effects of air pollution on people and wildlife.
- Contributing to national targets for reducing over-abstraction of water, and meeting water quality objectives for biodiversity and drinking water
- By sequestering promoting nature-based carbon removal from the atmosphere through better soil husbandry management, the protection of existing natural carbon sinks and the promotion of tree and woodland establishment.

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Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject: **Climate Strategy and update on council's response to the climate emergency**

Cabinet Member: Cllr Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Development Management, Strategic Planning and Climate Change

Key Decision: **Key**

Executive Summary

At its meeting held on 26 February 2019 Full Council resolved to acknowledge that 'there is a climate emergency and to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030'.

A commitment was made to provide six-monthly progress updates on actions the council is taking to tackle the climate emergency in Wiltshire. This is the fifth progress report to Cabinet following updates in October 2019, July 2020, February 2021 and July 2021. Significant progress is reported against each of the seven Climate Strategy themes.

To ensure Wiltshire has in place a strategy for its 2030 climate ambitions, appended to this report is the final Wiltshire Climate Strategy 2022-27. The final strategy incorporates changes made in response to the consultation, which took place in September and October 2021. A consultation report, outlining the consultation process and the main findings from this is also appended.

Proposal(s)

That Cabinet:
1. Notes the consultation feedback on the draft climate strategy;
2. Approves the final Wiltshire Climate Strategy (2022-2027) and recommends it to Council for adoption as part of the council's policy framework;
3. Delegates permission to the Corporate Director for Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Development Management, Strategic Planning and Climate Change, to approve delivery plans for the climate strategy once developed;
4. Notes the actions taken in response to the climate emergency following the last update in July 2021.

Reason for Proposal(s)

1. To ensure Wiltshire has in place a strategy for its 2030 climate ambitions
2. To provide Cabinet with an update on actions taken in response to the climate emergency.

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject:	**Climate Strategy and update on council's response to the climate emergency**
Cabinet Member:	**Cllr Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Development Management, Strategic Planning and Climate Change**
Key Decision:	**Key**

Purpose of Report

1. To ask Cabinet to consider the consultation responses and recommend the Wiltshire Climate Strategy to Council for approval; and to provide the fifth progress update on actions taken in response to the climate emergency

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The programme of work to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030 will contribute to all four business plan priorities (2022-32) of:

i. Empowered People
ii. Resilient Society
iii. Thriving Economy
iv. Sustainable Environment

3. The update on the actions taken in response to the climate emergency is contained in paragraphs 8-80 and is structured against the seven delivery themes of the draft climate strategy.

Background

4. At its meeting held on 26 February 2019 Council debated the following notices of motion:

12b) Acknowledging a Climate Emergency and Proposing the Way Forward;

12c) Environment and Global Warming.

The council resolved to acknowledge that there is a climate emergency and to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030.

The minutes of the meeting are available online (see pages 21 to 24). Cabinet has also pledged to make Wiltshire Council carbon neutral by 2030.

5. As part of this motion, the council resolved that Cabinet should report to Full Council on a six-monthly basis regarding the actions the council is taking and will take to address the climate emergency. The fourth report was presented to Cabinet in July 2021.

6. A Global Warming and Climate Emergency Task Group was established by Environment Select Committee in 2019 to develop recommendations to seek to achieve the target of making the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030. The task group developed two reports and recommendations covering energy, transport and air quality (see Environment Select Committee papers for 13 January 2021) and planning (see Environment Select Committee papers for 3 March 2021).

7. In November 2021 the Task Group updated its name to the Climate Emergency Task Group and agreed its revised objectives as:

   - To help shape and influence the development of Wiltshire Council's programme (in all relevant areas) for meeting its objective of making Wiltshire Council carbon neutral and seeking to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030 (excluding the geographical area administered by Swindon Borough Council).

   - To scrutinise the delivery of this objective through the Climate Strategy (2022-2027) and its delivery plans, as well as key plans, policies and programmes, such as the Local Plan, Local Transport Plan and Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. Including the way in which the Council is measuring progress and how it is performing and reporting against baselines.

   - To provide recommendations on other aspects of decarbonising the county including partnership working and community-led approaches as well as acting as a national role model.

Main Considerations for the council

8. Since the last report in July 2021, the draft Wiltshire Climate strategy has undergone significant consultation. Appendix 1 summarises the response to the consultation. This was carried out from 1 September to 17 October 2021 jointly with Our Natural Environment Plan - Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Strategy. The results of the GBI Strategy consultation are being reported elsewhere on the agenda. The purpose of the consultation was to update residents of Wiltshire and other stakeholders of current plans and to gain their views to inform the development of the strategy.

9. The consultation made the draft strategies public and explained them through three webinars and four face to face library events. There were also targeted events with schools and disability groups as well as extensive communications through social media, parish/town/city councils and via other stakeholders such as the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, social media channels and printed media. We received more than 1000 completed Climate Strategy surveys and 35 stakeholder letters.

10. The amended Climate Strategy is attached as Appendix 2 with changes following the consultation highlighted. Updates have also been made to reflect the changes in national policy since the draft strategy was written, given that several key national strategies were published during the consultation period, in the run up to the COP26 UN Climate Summit.

11. This report also contains the council's fifth six-monthly update on tackling the climate emergency. With the new climate strategy proposed to be adopted at this meeting, this update is structured against the seven delivery themes as set out in the strategy.

General

12. The council's new business plan puts the council's climate objectives at its heart. Our mission states that 'we take responsibility for the environment' and 'we are on the path to carbon neutral'.

13. In order to progress the Sustainable Environment priority of the council's business plan and to embed the Environment Act 2021 in service delivery, the council has created a new Environment directorate. The directorate includes two new high profile roles currently being recruited to: Assistant Director for Environment and Head of Natural and Historic Environment. The new directorate brings together the existing Waste Management, Climate and Public Protection services with a new service for Natural and Historic Environment.

14. A facilitated action planning day was offered to all Wiltshire town and parish councils on 16 November 2021, and 41 staff and councillors attended, representing more than 30 local councils. The day covered the science of climate change; its current and future impacts locally, and their effects on nature, livelihoods and people. Action planning included the levers of influence available to local councils, and the areas of action such as energy generation, transport and waste. The local councils then considered how to engage and communicate with their residents and businesses within their communities. Finally they decided on actions that they could do immediately, as well as what they needed from Wiltshire Council and what they could do to support Wiltshire Council.

15. We published answers to over 100 frequently asked questions as part of the climate strategy consultation. These are grouped into themes and can be found on the climate section of our website - Climate strategy consultation questions and answers.

16. The #WiltsCanDoThis social media campaign was launched on 20 September, to help inform and encourage people to take action in their own lives to support climate change, with weekly posts on the council's Twitter and Facebook. The campaign focuses on the seven delivery themes of the draft climate strategy.

17. Between 20 September and 5 December 2021, a total of 76 posts were issued across Facebook and Twitter, reaching a total of 1.1 million individual accounts.

There have been 842 clicks on links within the social media posts. There were 101 comments received across the posts, 239 likes and 104 shares or retweets.

18. The posts that received the highest level of engagement included the waste focused posts outlining recyclable items people may not be aware of, the carbon footprint calculator for people to calculate their own footprint, and posts sharing what the council has done towards becoming carbon neutral. We also took the opportunity of using the #COP26, #OneStepGreener and #TogetherForOurPlanet hashtags during the conference to reach a wider audience. The COP26 posts that received the highest engagement were the ones sharing that the council's Community Environment Toolkit and Salisbury River Park project would be featured at the conference.

19. Many great community projects are being undertaken within Wiltshire and updates from the community engagement managers are included in Appendix 3.

Delivery theme: Energy

20. The council is looking to set up a bulk buying scheme for solar panels within the county in 2022. The programme, Solar Together, is run by the company iChoosr to enable residents of Wiltshire to get high quality solar panels at a lower cost. Solar Together has run in many other areas, including 5 rounds in London. The council will promote the Solar Together scheme to residents, who sign up with iChoosr if they are interested. iChoosr then runs a reverse auction to find the lowest cost supplier who meets their quality requirements. To achieve the scale necessary for the bulk buy, Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council will run the scheme at the same time and through the same reverse auction, though it will be separately branded for each council. Promotion will take place from May 2022 with installation in Autumn 2022.

21. The council has procured a new energy contract which has enabled it to offer green electricity to all schools in Wiltshire at a very competitive rate. As a result, 128 schools will be supplied with green electricity from 1 April 2022. 23 of these schools are academies and 105 are maintained schools. It is projected that approximately 2000 tCO_2 per annum will be saved by the 128 schools making this switch. The council has also promoted the free [Energy Sparks] programme to schools to encourage them to take control of their energy bills and educate their pupils about energy and carbon.

Delivery Theme: Housing and the Built Environment

Housing retrofit

22. Since autumn 2021, Wiltshire residents have been able to access a brand-new scheme that gives eligible households with an income of £30,000 or less, and living in a property that is rated D, E, F or G for its energy efficiency, the chance to access up to £10,000 for measures such as insulation, solar panels, double

glazing and new front doors. Further information can be found at https://swindonwiltshire-lad-applications.com/.

23. As of November 2021, over the Wiltshire and Swindon area, the scheme had 34 installations with 320 further applications being processed, 47 of which had agreed to installations. The target number for Swindon & Wiltshire is 391 homes receiving measures. So far installed measures include solar photovoltaics, loft insulation, heating controls and ventilation.

24. The council was successful in its bid for a grant of £25,000 from the South West Energy Hub's capacity building small grants programme. The grant will allow the council to undertake a housing condition survey to identify and assess the suitability of targeted housing stock across Wiltshire for retrofit energy efficiency measures. This will place the council in a stronger position to bid for future government retrofit funding, such as further rounds of the Local authority delivery scheme (LADS) and the Home Upgrade Grants (HUGS).

25. To date 57 council homes have been retrofitted using the LADS 1b funding reported on at the last update, installing measures such as intelligent high heat retention hot water cylinders, solar panels and Quantum high heat retaining storage heaters. These works have also included fitting low energy light bulbs and topping up loft insulation. Further works will include air source heat pumps, more solar panels and wall and floor insulation. The feedback we have received so far has been positive with tenants already claiming savings on their electricity consumption. A video has been made to explain the scheme and reassure future tenants.

26. We have two members of staff coming to the end of their Retrofit Coordinator training through the Retrofit Academy Centre of Excellence and we are in the process of getting staff from across the Housing teams onto a Level 3 Award in Energy Awareness.

New Build Social Housing

27. The Council's zero carbon modern methods of construction (MMC) pilot project, which will deliver 19 new affordable homes, is progressing but currently waiting on planning determinations for 2 of the 3 sites. We are all acutely aware of ongoing delays in the construction industry with key materials, this concern appears to be impacting much less on the manufacturing industry, where the factory orders stock and materials based on a pipeline of work. We are working closely with a housing association in Dorset to combine our development needs over a 3 year duration and seek an MMC Manufacturer to deliver 1000 homes across the two organisations. By aggregating our demand we are able to give the factory assurances of upcoming work, which enables productivity and efficiency gains. This also enables the factory to work with suppliers with the pipeline, to fix prices for the duration of the contract, enabling the council to have a clear price for delivery of modules that will be set over a 3 year period. The procurement of a 3 year supplier is due to be in place by March 2022 further committing to the zero carbon standard that the pilot homes will achieve.

28. Furthermore, we are also seeking to push developers to achieve higher environmental standards when building their affordable housing contribution. When bidding on s106 opportunities the council's offer is encouraging higher environmental standards and bidding to reflect the increased specification. This has enabled a successful bid on a site in Semington which will deliver 6 units at [Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP)](#) rating A+.

29. Through the Community Led Housing hub "Homes of Our Own" we have been working closely with Seend Community Land Trust (CLT) to bring forward 10 units of affordable housing. Seend CLT have partnered with White Horse Housing to bring forward 10 Passivhaus units, which are due to start on site by the end of this year. Wiltshire Council have helped fund this development with Right to Buy Receipts and Commuted Sums, keen to support low carbon, energy efficient homes and will be working closely with White Horse Housing to understand the principles of Passivhaus development.

30. Wiltshire Housing Development Partnership is a partnership between Wiltshire Council and affordable housing providers. The current Partnership was renewed in April 2021 and will run until 2026. There are currently 11 Provider Members that all play a key role in delivering the Council's target of 650 homes per year.

31. One of the key aims of the Partnership is to ensure that Wiltshire Council and the Provider Members work together to improve the environmental standards of Affordable Housing stock and to assist the council in responding to the climate emergency and mitigating climate change. In selecting members for the partnership, Provider Members are required to provide details of the EPC rating for their existing housing stock, and how they are seeking to achieve zero carbon affordable homes, both existing and new build.

32. The January 2022 partnership meeting is focusing on addressing the climate emergency. Provider Members will be sharing examples of best practice in terms of new technologies and construction methods that they are implementing to respond to the climate emergency in their own delivery programmes throughout the UK.

33. The partnership annually reviews the performance of Provider Members to ensure there is full commitment in addressing the climate emergency

New build market led housing

34. Our Stone Circle Development Company is creating market led housing that has a very low carbon impact. Three schemes have been submitted for planning consent to deliver homes with air source heat pumps instead of gas boilers, delivering a total of 72 units.

Non domestic retrofit

35. A scheme to refurbish Melksham House which includes two double electric vehicle charging points (four parking bays) has received planning consent. Melksham House is a listed building which places some constraints on what

can be achieved to improve the sustainable attributes of the building fabric (such as full insulation and triple glazing). Following the approval of additional funding by Cabinet in December (see item 95 here) Melksham House scheme will be all electric and include photovoltaics at ground level, air source heat pumps and LED lighting throughout. There will be no gas supply.

36. Warm and Safe Wiltshire (WSW) is the Council's energy advice service and works in partnership with Swindon Borough Council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy. The current service has been extended by an extra year to run through to the end of March 2023. This extra one year extension allows the Public Heath Team to run a commissioning exercise to evaluate the current service and explore opportunities to widen its scope across both internal and external partners. The commissioning exercise aims to be completed over the coming twelve months allowing continuity of service commencing in April 2023.

37. Over the last three years WSW has been match funded by the Warm Home Fund (WHF) contribution, which was due to come to an end in April 2022. However, due to the success of the service reaching its performance targets before the end of the contract, an additional funding bid was made for a top up payment towards the scheme. This bid was successful and the WHF awarded an additional £19,000 to allow WSW to continue with its in depth case work through to August 2022. The in depth case work allows community case workers to visit fuel poor households, providing bespoke energy debt and energy efficiency advice to help reduce household energy bills.

Delivery theme: Carbon Neutral Council

Pensions and investments

38. As reported in the last two updates, the Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee has been devoting significant time to considering climate change, to determine how best to protect the Fund's investments and position the fund to take advantage of investment opportunities. The committee has now approved its first responsible investment policy for the Fund, which includes a section on climate risk as well as many targets and plans around decarbonisation. A range of publicity and engagement activities on the responsible investment policy were held with scheme members and also externally in late October and early November 2021.

39. There has also been a redesign of the investment's webpages, including the climate change page, which now includes a range of useful information:
   - Our position and relevant investment beliefs
   - Climate scenario modelling findings, and what actions we've taken
   - Our current emissions data, pledges, and road map
   - Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) reporting, which shows how the Fund is managing climate change risk against the four pillars of governance, strategy, risk management, and climate metrics

- Information on our portfolios, and investment opportunities we can access as part of a transition to a low carbon economy
- Investment case studies

40. A colourful and informative climate change one-page factsheet, published on-line, was developed to engage scheme members in the run up to COP26, to show how the fund was taking action. Furthermore the fund has collaborated with other funds, and the Brunel pool, to develop a Paris-aligned passive benchmark, and has invested £600m in this portfolio at its launch.

Fleet

41. The council's first Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan approved in October 2021 (and highlighted also in the transport section) contained a requirement for a feasibility study to look into the council's workplace infrastructure. The feasibility study has now been funded and awarded. The study will also look further at what vehicles may be suitable for the move to net zero emissions, as vehicles can only be purchased with the infrastructure to support that move. Funding has been identified and approved for a number of electric vehicle charging points and these will be allocated to where the feasibility study finds the grid infrastructure can support them.

42. The council has funding for 2021/22 for a number of vehicle replacements. There looks to be the opportunity for a large number of these to be electric, as they will be standard vehicles and allocated to where the workplace infrastructure can support their operation. However, we have a number of service critical vehicles that have to be replaced, which regrettably do not have viable zero emission solutions at present.

43. The emerging Fleet Strategy (which will need to be consulted on and agreed) seeks to deliver a carbon neutral provision for 2030 for all council vehicles. The agreed staged targets will be designed to meet that outcome and approved in the strategy document. The move to zero emissions will also be dependent on the findings of the workplace infrastructure study, highlighted above, as vehicles can only be purchased with the infrastructure to support that move. Furthermore, the vehicle market must have viable solutions, which is currently not the case with larger or more specialised vehicles.

44. An order for new electric and non-electric bikes for council staff has been placed with a local bike provision charity. The aim is for the bikes to be used to help reduce some of the scope 1 emissions of the council. They can be utilised to completely replace vehicle journeys, or alongside vehicles to reduce emissions, for example allowing staff who have driven to a site to then utilise the bikes for local journeys. Guidance for the bikes' use including training and bike maintenance have all been arranged and there is a target date of 31/3/22 for full implementation.

Static emissions

45. We are currently investing in a large-scale programme of works on many of our high energy using operational buildings, including leisure centres, offices, libraries, and others. This work will assist the council to reduce the demand for energy at source through energy efficiency and self-generation.

46. The Property Carbon Reduction Programme has so far delivered 15 completed projects with 17 more currently awarded and underway. These range from LED lighting upgrades to PV solar panel installations to the removal of oil fuelled heating and other carbon saving works. This represents a total capital commitment of £1.3m and is so far estimated to save 593 tonnes of CO_2 per year from the council's carbon footprint.

47. A further 17 PV installations have been accelerated in response to the current energy market price rises, as they will help to mitigate the impact of those increased costs. These are currently being procured and will be completed before March 2022.

48. The council is also looking at a programme of solar canopy installations in sites where there are suitable council owned car parks sited next to high energy using buildings. This project is in the early stages of identification and feasibility.

49. As reported in the last update the council secured government funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to carry out work during 2021 to decarbonise 4 major sites and to improve energy efficiency at 13 others. Much of the work has now been undertaken including all 17 of the PV system installations and the upgrade of the 4 air handling units at 3 leisure centres. When the three heat pump installations are finalised, the programme of works, costing £4,452,281 is estimated to save the council 994 tCO_2 per year.

50. Thanks to sustained investment in solar PV over time and the above recent programmes of work, in 2020/21 we generated 450,135 kWh renewable electricity on our own estate, which was a 39% increase on the previous financial year. The total amount of electricity generated by council-owned solar panels in 2020/21 was 727,097 kWh.

51. The £12 million project to convert the council's streetlighting to energy efficient LED lighting is approaching completion. Approximately 95% of the streetlights have been converted so far, with the remaining units being heritage and special units which should be converted in the next few months. Energy consumption per year is reducing by about 64% from 12,771,626 kWh to 4,597,785kWh, which will provide significant cost savings for the council in future years as well as reduced maintenance costs.

52. The Leisure, Culture and Communities department is the largest carbon emitter in the council and has been looking at more ways to mitigate its carbon impact. Libraries and Leisure teams now receive monthly reports of energy data at a site level including usage, carbon and cost data as well as quarterly

performance comparisons covering pre and post-covid closures. This data is cascaded to teams at individual sites so any issues can be raised back to the energy team to investigate as necessary.

53. The Library Service has introduced a 100% degradable membership card and now use biodegradable tapes and packaging for processing and delivering stock. Changes in processes also mean library cards are no longer replaced when they expire to reduce waste.

54. Leisure and Library staff awareness of the energy usage in their buildings has also been increased by the introduction of Energy and Climate Change Champions. They monitor monthly utility reports for their building, feeding back any issues they identify, helping to reduce consumption by suggesting ways the services can improve energy efficiency and carbon credentials.

55. Ten leisure centres have created six month recovery plans until the end of the financial year; one of the actions has been to appoint the Energy Champion, outlined above. Whilst the champion role is in its early stage its inclusion in the leisure recovery plans indicates the importance the team put on this area.

Delivery theme: Natural Environment

56. Two Wiltshire Council projects were featured as good practice on the Local Government Association (LGA) stand at COP26. The first was the council's [Community Environmental Toolkit](#), produced in conjunction with Natural England, which gives local groups the tools they need to improve habitats and the natural environment in their area. The other council project was the [Salisbury River Park](#), a collaboration between the council and the Environment Agency, with support from the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) and Salisbury City Council. The project will create a green link through the centre of the city, bringing major environmental improvements and mitigating against flooding.

57. Wiltshire Council and Bradford on Avon Town Council have worked together to secure a £96,000 grant from the Forestry Commission's Local Authorities Treescape Fund to plant around 3,000 trees and hedgerow trees in the town. The grant, which will be matched with an additional contribution of £41,349 from Bradford on Avon Town Council, will fund this pilot tree planting programme in the town that, if successful, could be rolled out to other towns in Wiltshire. The town council has already identified suitable sites, both on its own land and on Wiltshire Council land, which it will take on from the unitary authority as part of an asset transfer programme. Preparatory work as part of the funding application has already been completed, and so planting will start this winter, followed by a programme of maintenance.

58. Two grant applications to Natural England to support the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which is a new requirement of the Environment Act, were successful and total £10,000. The first grant will support

some early data and evidence mapping for habitats across Wiltshire and Swindon which will be essential to start to understand what already exists ahead of considering opportunities for further improvements. The second grant will be used to engage consultants to support the council with further community engagement and the roll-out of the Community Environmental Toolkit.

59. The council also submitted an expression of interest for £495,000 to the Trees Call to Action Fund. The aim of the money was to allow for two new ecologists, some consultancy costs and some capital works to improve riparian buffers and woodland connectivity in the Hampshire Avon River catchment for people, biodiversity and water quality. The fund was heavily over-subscribed and the council's bid did not make it through to the next round.

60. The council's Natural Environment Plan - Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy (GBI), which was consulted on at the same time as the Climate strategy, is also being considered at this meeting.

Delivery theme: Waste

61. The council and its main provider of household recycling centre services, FCC Environment, have expanded the reuse opportunities available to Wiltshire residents at these sites. All eight household recycling centres operated by FCC now provide separate labelled "walk-in" containers where residents and site staff can store good-quality items suitable for reuse or refurbishment, such as furniture and 'bric a brac.' Many of these items are made available to charity partners able to refurbish and re-sell them or donate to families in need. Between January 2021 and December 2021, a total of 317 tonnes of reusable items have been collected.

Item	How it is reused	Tonnes collected April - Sept 2021
Furniture, bric a brac and white goods	Items collected by charity partner *Kennet Furniture Refurbiz (KFR)* where they are refurbished if required, and then made available to households on a limited income.	20.8
White goods	White goods collected by charity partner *Pauls Repair Academy* where they are refurbished if required, and then made available to households on a limited income.	12.6
Bicycles	Bicycles are collected by charity partner *Sue Ryder,* who run repair workshops with inmates from HMP Erlestoke, teaching them new skills in maintenance.	4.1
Bric a Brac, Household and Electricals	Items sent to auction by *FCC Environment,* proceeds from the sale of reusable items at auction also contributes to the income share	47.9

	due to the council from the Lot 2 Household Recycling Centre contract.	
Mobile phones, spectacles, sewing machines and vacuum cleaners	Items sent for refurbishment by various organisations or components of the items are reused.	4.6
Total		**90.0**

62. As well as the significant environmental and carbon reduction benefits of reuse, there is also considerable social value derived from this activity. Charities such as KFR are run by volunteers and are helping equip individuals with useful skills that can be vital for their personal development, as well as providing good-quality household items at a reduced cost to Wiltshire residents in need, and therefore supporting Wiltshire communities.

63. The council is currently working with FCC Environment to further expand the range and quantity of reusable items collected at the recycling centres, as well as working with Hills Waste Solutions to start collecting reusable items at the two sites operated by them on behalf of the council.

64. Building on the implementation of a new recycling collection service in March 2020 which allowed the waste collection vehicle fleet to be reduced by 19%, whilst also collecting record quantities of material for recycling, the council is continuing to work with its contractors (Hills Municipal Collections Ltd) to assess the feasibility of implementing new residual waste collection rounds. This would improve service efficiency and enable further reductions in the fleet of collection vehicles, thereby helping reduce the carbon impact of this essential frontline service.

65. The council provides a chargeable "opt-in" service for the kerbside collection of garden waste, giving Wiltshire residents some choice whether to participate in the scheme, recognising some households do not generate much by way of garden waste, and that some households prefer to manage their garden waste at home through composting. Whilst the service has always had a large take-up by residents, the number of subscribers opting to receive this service has increased by almost 10% since 2020 and has continued to rise in 2021 with 90,700 residents forecast to sign up for garden waste collections by the end of the financial year.

66. There has also been a corresponding increase in the amount of garden waste collected, with 34,536 tonnes forecast to be collected by the end of 2021/22. As the collected garden waste is composted locally at sites in Purton and Rockbourne, this equates to an estimated carbon equivalent saving of over 17,000 tonnes of CO_2e per annum, compared to this waste being sent to landfill. A key priority both nationally and for the council, is to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill as it produces methane when it breaks down when disposed in this way. Methane is recognised as a harmful

"greenhouse gas" and can be 25 times more damaging to the environment than carbon dioxide.

67. The council has also experienced an increase in Wiltshire residents purchasing subsidised food waste digesters since the pandemic, with 2,508 green Johanna's sold between January 2020 and August 2021. These sales are estimated to divert 63 tonnes of food and garden waste from landfill, saving 11.4 tonnes of carbon each year. The home composting of food and garden waste is an effective method of reducing the waste collected and carbon generated by collecting and treating it.

68. During June and July 2021, the waste service proactively engaged in stakeholder consultations run by Defra in respect of wide-ranging proposals under the government's Environment Bill (now passed into UK Law as the Environment Act 2021). The proposals include the future implementation of a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers, a new Extended Producer Responsibility in respect of packaging, and potential future requirements in relation to Consistency in Recycling Collections of household and business waste, expected to include weekly collections of food waste. The government response to these consultations, and information on possible implementation dates, is expected early in 2022.

Delivery theme: Green economy

69. Target 2030 is a business energy efficiency project that aims to support small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire to achieve a change in their energy consumption, putting them on a more sustainable footing for the future. The council has been promoting this project which is funded through the European Regional Development Fund and delivered by Severn Wye Energy Agency, a sustainability charity with 20 years of experience supporting local businesses. The programme aims to support 100 SMEs in Swindon and Wiltshire, offering free energy efficiency survey and report from one of Severn Wye's expert Business Energy Advisors, alongside 30% grant funding towards recommended energy efficiency and carbon saving measures. The programme is planned to run until 2023.

Figures for Wiltshire:

- 44 SMEs have had a survey
- 29 have had 12 hours support and/or at least £1000 of grant funding
- 11 have had a grant paid out
- 9 on top of that have approved grant and we are waiting for the installation of works to be confirmed

- £164k in total grant funding has been paid out
- 390 tonnes of carbon have been saved annually by installed measures
- £547k is the value of the total installed works

Additionally:
- £86k further grant funding has been approved
- 231 tonnes annual savings associated with the approved grant funding

- £289k value of approved works yet to be completed

Case studies are available on the Target 2030 website for the following Wiltshire businesses that have benefitted from the programme: Alvan Blanch in Malmesbury, Red FM in Royal Wootton Bassett, Hartley Farm Shop in Bradford on Avon, FDC UK in Dinton and APT interiors in Mere.

Delivery Theme: Transport

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

70. The council's first Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan was approved in October 2021 (see Cabinet papers, item 72). The plan will help to reduce carbon emissions in the county and improve facilities for EV drivers by both upgrading what's already in place and increasing the number of available chargers.

71. The council will support city, town and parish councils to secure On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) grant funding for residential chargepoints on Wiltshire Council land through council grants of up to £2,500 per site. It is looking for partners to consider the installation of charging hubs, at central and out of town locations, and also adding more chargepoints to its own buildings so the council fleet can be converted to electric vehicles.

72. The plan will also encourage businesses to install workplace chargepoints and will ensure all chargepoints on council-owned land will be supplied with energy from 100% renewable sources.

Public transport

73. Wiltshire Council's Cabinet agreed its Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), which was submitted to government on 29 October 2021 (see Cabinet papers, item 73). This ambitious strategy for public transport in Wiltshire will be assessed by government. In total, £306k has been granted to Wiltshire to help build capacity within the organisation to deliver the ambitions set out in the BSIP, as well as fund work done by transport consultancy Atkins. Two new posts are proposed to manage the BSIP and the ensuing Enhanced Partnerships that will need to be in place with bus operators by 1st April 2022.

74. The Wiltshire Council bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) for funding to develop a feasibility study for a new station in Corsham, as part of the Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund, has been approved and is on track to progress to the next stage of the process. The proposed new two-platform station would be situated on the Great Western Main Line, with potential train service links to London Paddington, Bristol, Swindon and Reading. It would help to reduce traffic volumes in Corsham and along the A4, and provide easy access to and from MOD Corsham, the largest employer in the town.

75. A Strategic Outline Case (SOC) will now be produced, the first stage of the DfT's business case process. The SOC will set out more details on the

proposed project and the case for building a new station, and how the plans would fit strategically into local priorities and wider government transport ambitions.

76. Work on the Devizes Gateway continues (this was submitted in an earlier round and as such is further along the process). The SOC was submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) at the beginning of November. Its development has involved close working with local partners including Danny Kruger MP, Devizes Development Partnership (DDP), Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP), Great Western Railway and Network Rail to develop a strong and robust case.

77. Overall, the SOC puts forward a strong strategic case for a Devizes Gateway station; it will help to improve transport connectivity, reduce car usage, and assist with the Government's ambitions to reach net-zero and level up communities (the SWLEP's Rail Strategy estimates that the station would have a £6.56m annual Gross Value Added impact). The proposal has widespread support across not just the local area but the wider region. The SOC also shows that the station is viable from an operational (train service) perspective.

78. If the SOC is approved, the DfT will provide up to 100% of the Outline Business Case (OBC) costs - the next stage in the business case process. The OBC identifies the preferred scheme option and includes a detailed business case where further consideration will be given to design, planning, access and consultation matters.

Active travel

79. As mentioned in the last update Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) are being developed. New funding (of up to £30,000) has enabled a LCWIP to begin development for Devizes. Work on setting the brief for this, in conjunction with Sustainable Devizes and Cycle Friendly Devizes, has begun. Work continues on the Wiltshire wide plan and the plan for Salisbury. The government has allocated the council funding to prepare LCWIPs for Chippenham and Trowbridge, and work will begin once the funding allocation is received.

80. Appendix 4 contains an update on the active travel schemes being undertaken by the council.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

81. As part of the governance supporting the development and delivery of the Climate Strategy, the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee sits on the Councillor Climate Working Group. The Climate Emergency Task Group has seen and commented on draft versions of the

climate strategy in July and December 2022. The task group has recently updated its terms of reference as set out in paragraph 7.

Safeguarding Implications

82. The impacts of climate change are amplifying safeguarding issues and falling heavily on vulnerable people both globally and in the UK.

83. Evidence suggests that vulnerable demographic groups experience disproportionate effects on their health outcomes from climate related impacts.

84. This includes young children, babies and older people who are particularly affected by extremes in temperature and the disruption caused by severe weather such as flooding[1]. People with physical or mental health problems have a lower ability to act due to physical constraints or a lower awareness of their circumstances. People with low personal mobility or living in areas with lower accessibility of services tend to have less ability to respond and recover because it may take them longer to help themselves or to seek and receive help from others.

Public Health Implications

85. Climate change and public health are inextricably linked. Adopting a climate strategy for Wiltshire, which looks to reduce carbon emissions in Wiltshire, will have a significant and positive impact on the health of the population. Actions from implementing the strategy will improve health outcomes for all residents and help reduce health inequalities. Better home insulation will not only reduce emissions but also provide healthier homes for some of our most vulnerable people. Active travel schemes will help increase levels of physical activity, connecting people to their local communities and potentially leading to improved air quality through reduced car use. Local food production will decrease food miles, benefiting the environment, whilst providing healthier choices.

Procurement Implications

86. Measures within the climate strategy may have a cost and the strategy itself references procurement, however this is not quantified at present.

87. Project leads will be engaging with Procurement directly and in line with the council's procurement policy.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

88. One of the key principles is for the Climate Strategy to be equitable, ensuring the transition to low carbon, climate resilient future is fair.

89. The consultation and engagement approach for the Climate strategy has been undertaken so that it is inclusive with specific efforts to reach groups of society

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[1] [Socially vulnerable groups sensitive to climate impacts | Climate Just](#)

traditionally seen as harder to reach (please see Appendix 1). The final strategy also looks to be inclusive and provide a fair and just transition.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

90. This report sets out the council's response to the climate emergency, including the proposed adoption of a climate strategy for Wiltshire, and as such should have a positive impact on the environment and climate of Wiltshire.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

91. Without the adoption of the Climate Strategy the council's policy framework will not sufficiently reflect this corporate priority, and there would be significant reputational risks associated.

92. Work to tackle the climate emergency will improve health, save money and drive the transition to a green economy so all of these elements would be negatively impacted if this work programme did not go ahead.

Financial Implications

93. In response to the acknowledgement that there is a climate emergency and the resolution made by Council to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030, a Sustainable Environment is a key principle of the Council's Business Plan.

94. As part of the Budget Setting process, Revenue and Capital budgets have been updated to deliver against this objective, this includes continued investment, new investment and savings and covers the programmes listed in the report above.

95. The emerging Fleet Strategy which is due to be consulted on and agreed in 2022 will require further capital investment in vehicles and infrastructure and seeks to deliver a carbon neutral provision for 2030 for all council vehicles.

96. The council has commissioned a study to quantify how much the pathway to a carbon neutral council will cost.

Legal Implications

97. The climate strategy is not a statutory document and as such there were no statutory requirements for the consultation. However, consultation was undertaken in respect of this strategy and the consultation that was undertaken is considered sound as it was undertaken when proposals were still at a formative stage and provided sufficient information and time for consultees to provide appropriate comment.

98. The formal consultation stage, as reviewed in Appendix 1 to this report, sets out the reasoning and timings for the consultation and it has led to changes to the final strategy and provides an appropriate summary for the decision maker to have due regard.

99. It is noted that in addition an earlier discussion document was also published with the Cabinet papers for 2 February 2021.

100. This Policy once adopted by full Council will form part of the Budget and Policy framework as set out in Part 3 section B of the Council's constitution. All decisions made by Cabinet, Committees and Officers have to be made in accordance with the Budget and Policy framework including this policy.

Workforce Implications

101. Replacement of our fleet with electric vehicles where possible and encouraging staff to use the new bikes being provided for short journeys will require changes to ways of working. The Climate Strategy also commits us to rolling out carbon literacy training to staff.

Options Considered

102. The proposed adoption of the climate strategy is the reason this item has been highlighted as a key decision. The other main options are to not adopt the Wiltshire Climate Strategy, or to not adopt this version and send back for further drafting. These options would have a direct impact on the ability of the council to meet its objectives to be carbon neutral by 2030, by delaying its ability to make delivery plans and continue work to combat the climate emergency.

Conclusions

103. Since Full Council resolved to acknowledge that there is a climate emergency and to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030, a number of areas of work have been progressed and continue to progress as set out in this report.

104. This report is also significant as it proposes the adoption of the Wiltshire Climate Strategy (2022-2027).

Parvis Khansari, Interim Corporate Director – Place

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Climate Strategy consultation report

Appendix 2: Proposed final Wiltshire Climate Strategy 2022-2027

Appendix 3: Update on community projects from the Community Engagement Managers

Appendix 4: Active Travel update

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Climate Strategy Consultation Report

From 1 September to 17 October 2021, Wiltshire Council jointly consulted on its draft Climate Strategy and draft Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. The purpose of the consultation was to gain the views of the public and stakeholders to inform the development of the strategies.

This report summarises the activities and results of the consultation carried out on the draft Climate Strategy. Methods used included three webinars, four face to face events in libraries, and events with schools and disability groups. This was accompanied by extensive communications through social media as well as traditional press releases. Direct notifications of the consultation were sent to Parish, Town and City Councils (Local Councils), other public sector partners, business forums, the Local Resilience Partnership, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Wiltshire Climate Alliance asking them to promote this opportunity to their membership and partners. Posters were put up in all libraries, leisure centres and on parish notice boards directing members of the public to the consultation. A summary of engagement activity is in Annex A; an analysis of the reach is in Annex B; and analysis of which organisations responded is in Annex C.

1. Overview

A total of 1091 survey responses were received. Of these, 957 were from the online survey and 134 were from surveys completed in schools (years 7, 10, 12 and 13 - that is those aged between 11 and 18) and as part of other outreach.

The majority of those responding were individuals, with 29% of those (324 responses) stating that they were a member of a local environmental organisation. 77 responses were from organisations and there was an overlap of 19 responses being both a member of a local environmental organisation and responding for that organisation. 35 letters were received separately from stakeholder organisations, some of whom also completed the survey. Where possible, comments sent by e-mail have also been included in the data presented in this report.

Overall, respondents said that while they support the strategic objectives, they want to see targets and details of how Wiltshire Council will act to make Wiltshire carbon neutral. They want to see Wiltshire Council sharing how it has reduced its own emissions, use its powers to reduce housing and transport emissions and work with and support others such as businesses and farmers to make changes. They also want to see Wiltshire Council embedding climate change into decision making and communicating the urgency and importance of action on climate change.

Demographically, the respondents represent the Wiltshire population adequately in terms of proportions of people with disabilities, BME communities and gender. Proportionally, younger and working age people were underrepresented and those of 55 to 64 years overrepresented. The reach of the consultation on social media was over 75,000 individuals, not all perhaps based in Wiltshire. More were engaged through attending a webinar, receiving an email or seeing a poster in their community. For this level of reach to result in just over a 1000 completed surveys perhaps shows the difficulty of engaging meaningfully on the topic of climate change.

It also gives a taste of the difficulty ahead in engaging interest, conveying hopeful but true messaging and galvanising real change.

The format of the survey was kept simple in order to encourage completion. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed with high level objectives, and then had short free text boxes to say what they thought needed more or less emphasis in the strategy as a whole. All objectives received a very strong level of support. Between 86% and 95% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with every objective. 925 (82%) of those completing the survey stated something that they wanted to see 'more of'. In contrast, only 461 (41%) said they wanted to see 'less of' anything. 152 of these said they wanted "less talking and more action" or messages to this effect. The consultation webinars generated many questions and the council has responded by publishing them with written answers on the website, in addition to those that were answered during the events.

It is worth remembering that while efforts were focussed on hearing from those who are not directly involved in environmental activity already, many of the responses displayed high levels of awareness and motivation. The council gratefully acknowledges the thoughtful and constructive survey responses and the many suggestions for possible activities for delivery of the strategy.

2. Analysis of Climate Strategy consultation responses

The survey asked respondents the extent to which they agree or disagree with the high level objectives from the strategy, and then gave the opportunity for them to write short free text answers on what they thought needed more or less emphasis in the strategy. Many responses were received on emphasis and these have been analysed thoroughly. All comments were considered on their merits. However, there were many comments received regarding transport and homes and the built environment, which are two of the areas which have the highest emissions, while industry was not raised as frequently. This might reflect the awareness levels of respondents, for instance some important aspects such as methane or grid evolution are not mentioned often.

2.1 Extent of agreement / disagreement by proposed objective

The extent to which the objectives were agreed or strongly agreed with was consistently high, with only five falling below 90%. While it is encouraging to receive this endorsement of the objectives, this was not unexpected. The strategic objectives are ambitious, but difficult to disagree with if respondents want to see action on climate change. They are deliberately at a high level to encompass all potential areas of delivery, while specific detail will be covered in forthcoming delivery plans Those with lower agreement may reflect a lower clarity or understanding of the term – for instance "circular economy" and "green economy" were not defined in the survey.

Consultation Responses by Objective
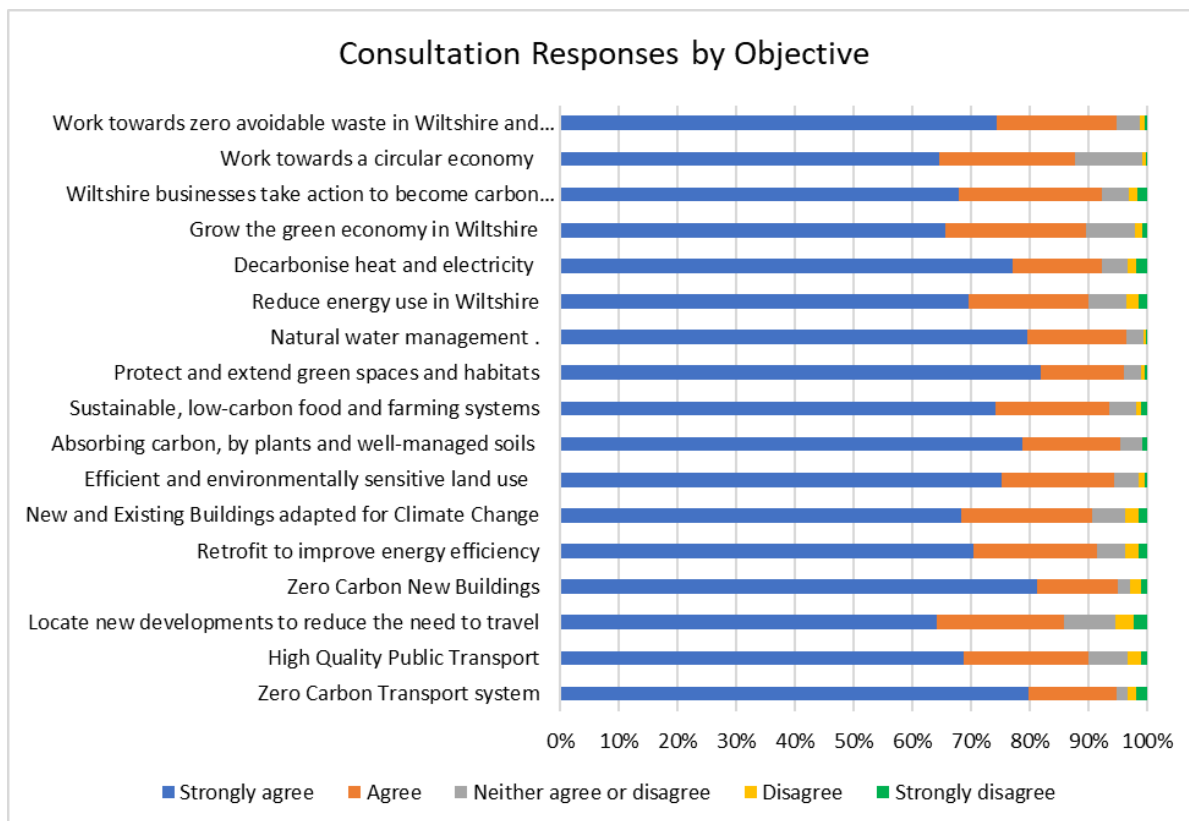
Of the 34 respondents who strongly disagreed with at least two objectives, 12 did not provide a postcode and 22 provided a Wiltshire postcode. Analysis of the more/less responses from those who disagree with objectives show that on the whole these respondents disagree with the council taking any (or significant) action on climate change, (especially given a global context where other countries are seen as producing more emissions and doing less) and using public money to do so.

Few of the responses from those who disagree with the objectives give constructive changes which could be made to the strategy except the following:

- **Green Economy**: the strategy does not mention industry which is a major source of emissions. The council should not dictate to businesses how to run their private affairs.
- **Transport:** EVs produce emissions in their creation, use and disposal. Wiltshire needs free flowing roads.
- **Energy:** support for nuclear power, opposition to wind and solar power. Avoid disadvantaging those already struggling to heat their homes.

2.2 More or less emphasis in the strategy

Respondents were asked to write, in free text, what they would like to see more and less emphasis on in the strategy. 73% (805) of respondents added some text. The open text boxes were limited to a count of 1000 characters (approximately 200 words) to ensure that answers were concise, staff time to analyse the answers was kept to a minimum, and ensure the strategy progresses to adoption on time.

The text was read and analysed by the climate team who recorded when respondents mentioned something related to strategic objectives or suggestions for delivery and recorded anything else which did not fit directly with those themes.

This was a thorough and time-consuming piece of work and has given valuable insight, however this is not a scientific analysis. Often when a respondent filled this box it was with a list of things they felt strongly about, and their suggestions did not always relate to something in the strategy or did not add anything new to strategic aims. For instance, "no new roads" was a repeated phrase, however the strategy makes no mention of roads. "No new roads" was also mentioned in both the "more emphasis" and "less emphasis" boxes. The team decided to reflect the comments on face value, so where someone said "no new roads" in the less emphasis, (i.e. providing a possible double negative response) this was counted as them wanting to see less road building in Wiltshire. Also, some areas naturally overlap, so Green Economy and Waste objectives; and comments on Energy, for instance use of land for renewable energy, overlap with the Natural Environment theme. In these instances, comments were attributed to one theme.

The chart below shows how many times each Climate Strategy theme was raised in the comment boxes. Transport and the built environment were the most frequently commented on, reflecting the importance that Wiltshire Council plays in these areas, as well as their contribution to emissions. In contrast, the Green Economy had the fewest comments. Perhaps this reflects the low number of responses from businesses (10 business responses in total).

Total Written Comments by Theme

Theme	Comments
Transport	~575
Built Environment	~410
Natural Environment	~235
Waste	~170
Energy	~150
Carbon Neutral Council	~60
Green Economy	~60
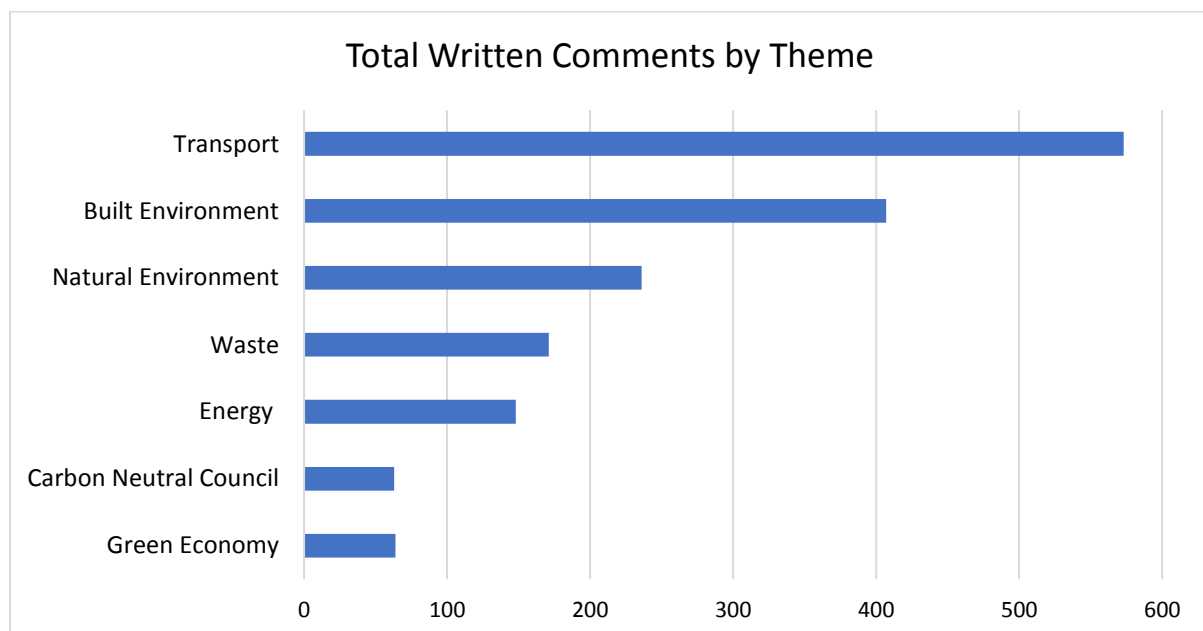
2.3 Responses from Organisations

Responses were received from 77 organisations (or departments within Wiltshire Council) and while some of these were submitted through the survey 35 others were submitted in long letters by email which required careful reading and consideration. Many responses came from local councils and from environmental groups. Where

possible, the responses by letter have been added to the survey and the points raised in the letters included in the theme analysis in each section. Although inevitably this is an imperfect system, it has been attended to diligently, to make the most of valuable input.

Number of Responses from Organisations
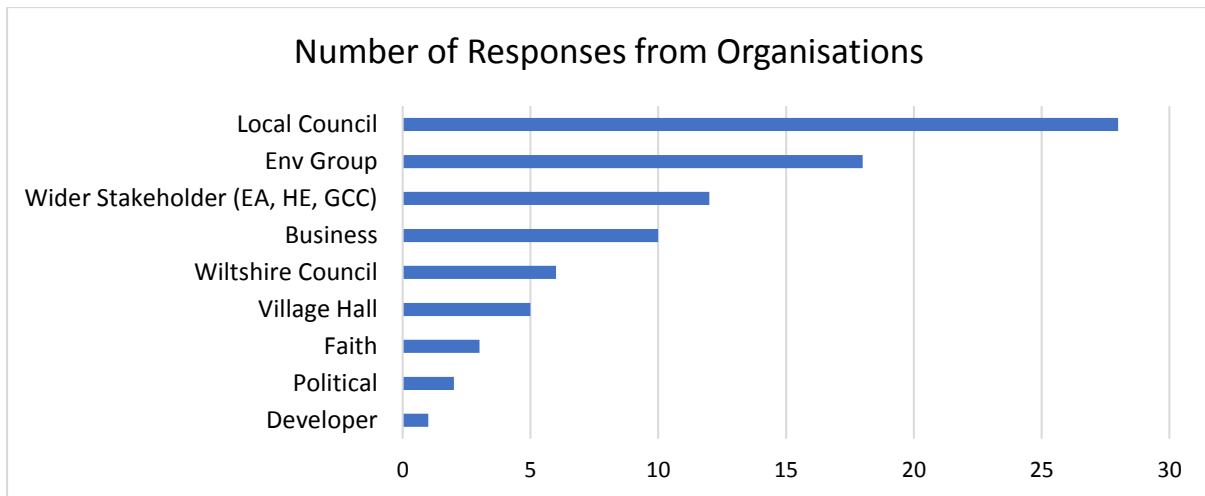
3. Analysis of responses by Theme

3.1   Crosscutting Comments

Crosscutting Comments
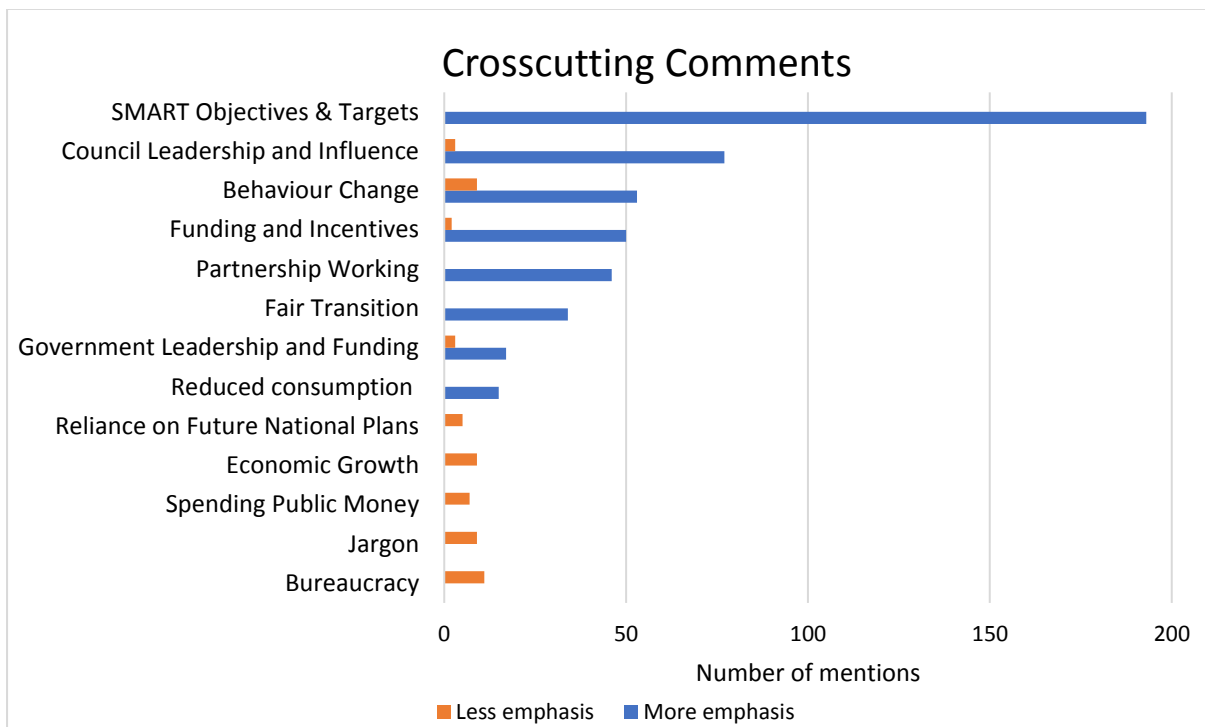
Most responses in this category mentioned they would like to see targets, SMART objectives or clear timescales for action in the strategy. How the work would be funded and progressed in partnership was also mentioned. Some said that the council should make more of its role as a leader and influencer, especially with regard to communicating and driving behaviour change. It was pointed out that

5

national Government influences were important and that supporting behaviour change also needs systemic and wider changes. Some respondents asked for clarification of whether the carbon emissions for Wiltshire include consumption emissions from imported goods. There were also responses regarding reducing bureaucracy and jargon, reducing focus on economic growth and a small number who objected to using public money on climate change mitigation. People with lived experience of disability were concerned about the impact of climate change on disabled people both in recent extreme weather events such as Hurricane Katrina and Californian wildfires, but also in relation to heatwave in the UK. Plans to identify, alert, evacuate and shelter those with access and functional needs is an important consideration for adaptation plans in Wiltshire.

3.2 Transport

Transport Objectives

Transport Comments
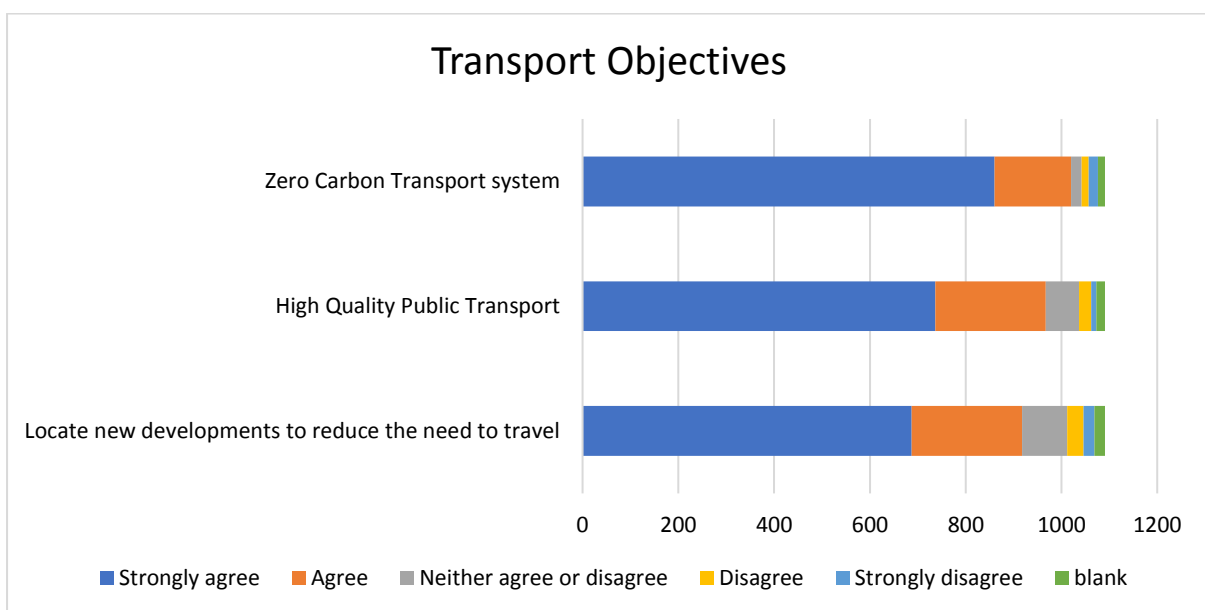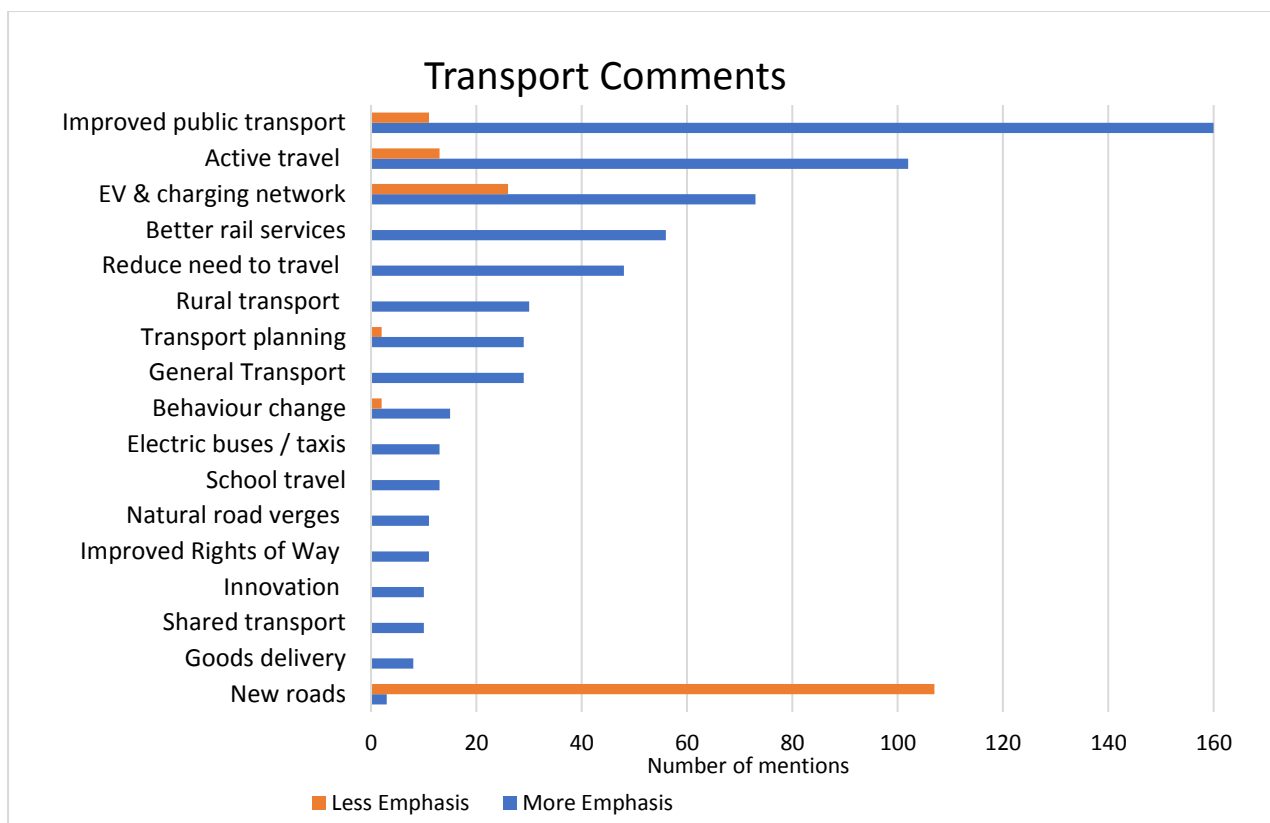
Improved public transport and the policies and infrastructure to encourage active travel were the two most popular comments on transport, with more than 100 mentions each. Some voices said that rural bus services are difficult to fill and would be unpopular, and a small number were against active travel. Electric Vehicles had some support, with many comments encouraging the council to improve the charging network, although there were some comments pointing out that EVs have energy, waste and carbon implications and that the market would take care of the infrastructure. Young people had concerns about the cost of an electric car. Rail services and their integration with other modes were also suggested as changes to the strategy. Reducing and planning out the need to travel was mentioned in conjunction with planning of new housing, as well as mentions of rural travel being a challenge for Wiltshire. The split between rural and urban populations in Wiltshire was queried by some respondents, with alternative calculations offered. There were comments on goods movements, school travel, rights of way and car sharing, however they were not mentioned as frequently as other subjects. The young people at school sessions wanted safe active travel, especially in dark evenings.

The strategy does not mention building roads, however many responses specifically stated "no new roads" or a similar sentiment so this has been reflected in the results. People with lived experience of disability were interested in bus improvements, as they reported some difficulties with boarding and using buses in Wiltshire, as well as mobility within towns which is difficult at present.

3.3 Homes and the Built Environment

Homes and the Built Environment Objectives

Homes and the Built Environment comments
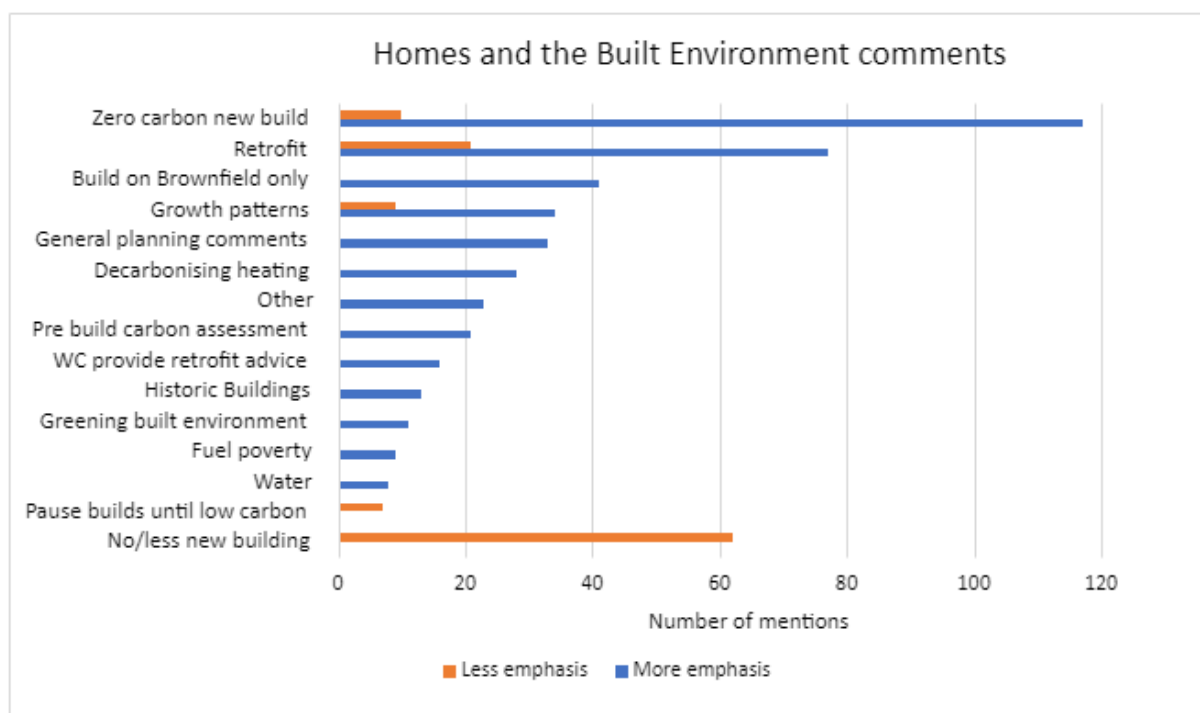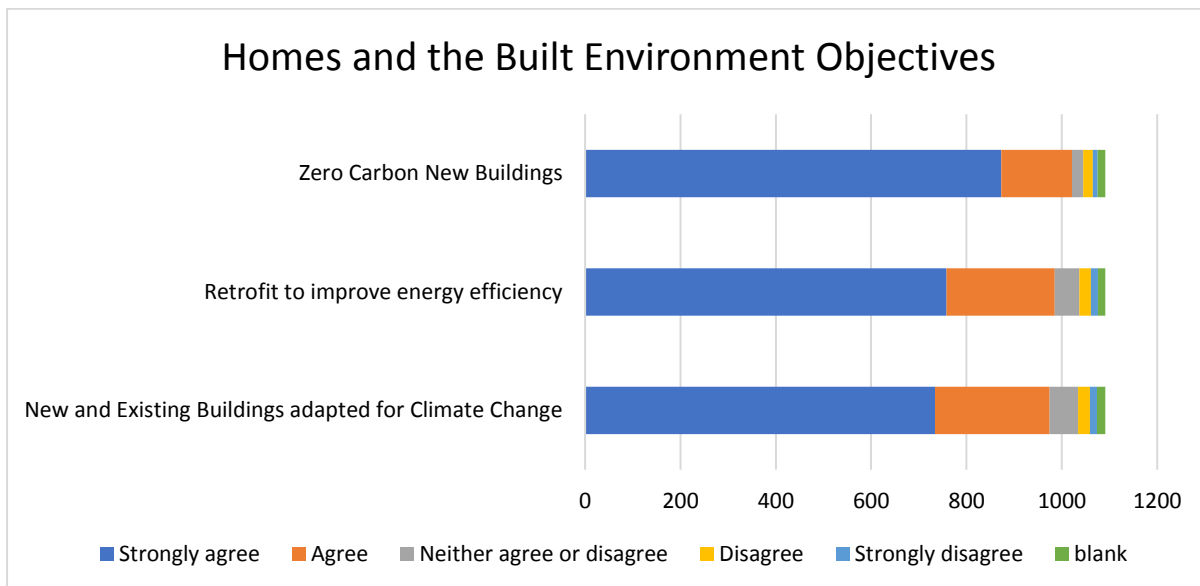
Zero carbon new building, particularly of housing, was the most raised topic within the built environment (more than 100 mentions), followed by retrofitting of existing property (which a smaller number of people also suggest the council should advise on). A small number of voices pointed out that retrofitting is expensive and not always worthwhile or not desired in listed and historic buildings.

Use of brownfield land instead of greenfield land for building; location of new developments in terms of commuting and access to services, as well as comments around planning requirements which reduce the impact of new housing were all

mentioned in relatively similar numbers. In terms of what respondents would like to see less of, many simply said they wanted to see no new building or significantly less, and others would like to see development paused until net zero carbon or other standards are in place.

General planning comments included requiring new development to provide carbon assessments and incorporate renewables and the need to reduce or remove certain technologies quicker (such as new gas boilers) and concerns with different technologies. Comments on nature focussed on the need to ensure greenery within the built environment, particularly in urban areas and respecting the rural nature of the county. Young people had concerns about the extra cost of a zero carbon home.

Some comments pointed out that domestic and commercial water use and management is not in the strategy objectives.

3.4 Natural Environment, Food and Farming

Natural Environment, Food and Farming Comments
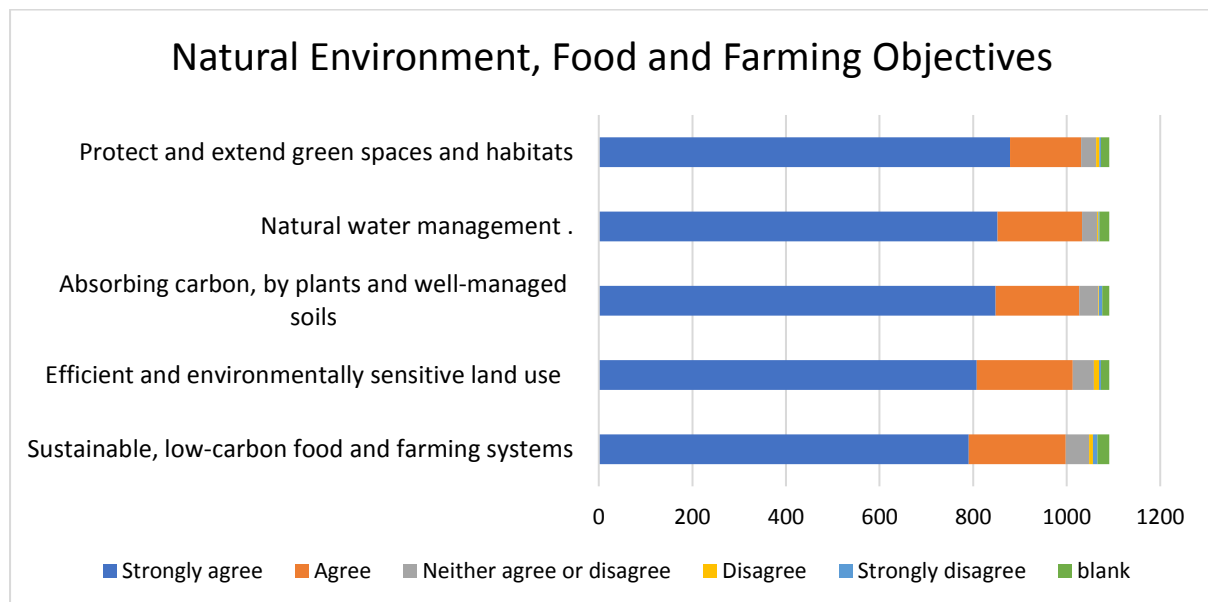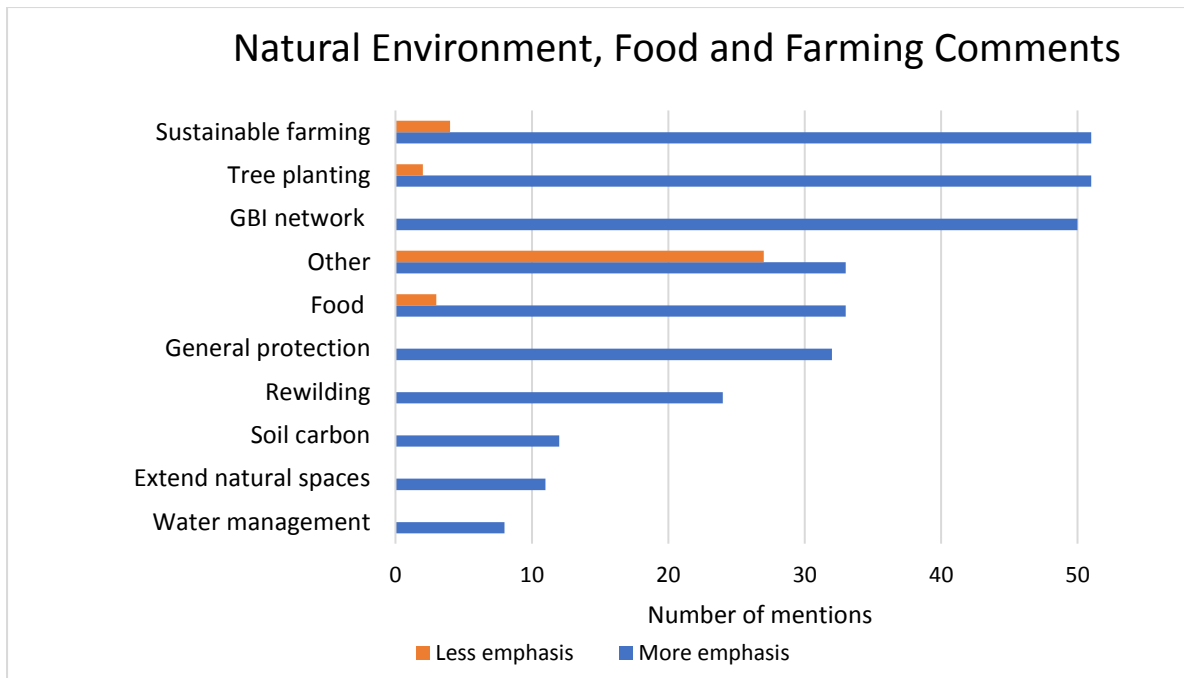
Tree planting was a popular subject, and comments included concerns around planting enough trees, the need to protect existing trees and the effects of Ash dieback and not relying on planting trees to absorb carbon. A similar number of comments were made regarding connecting the Green and Blue Infrastructure network and protecting biodiversity, as well as more emphasis on sustainable farming techniques in order to limit pollution (e.g. pesticides) and its effect on biodiversity, water quality, air quality. Some comments were that there is a tendency to protect landowners, balanced with those saying that farmers are under many pressures and should be listened to.

Comments on general resilience and protection recognised that there is a need to both create and protect green space, as well as protecting the rural nature of the county from development.

In the food comments there were voices both for and against encouraging reduced meat and dairy consumption, food miles, interest in local food production, and less reliance on imported food, or food from places with lower food standards.

There were very few comments relating to adaptation or resilience of the natural environment to climate change, perhaps showing the low awareness of this subject, however it was pointed out that this section was not clear on adaptation.

3.5 Energy

Energy Objectives

Legend: Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree or disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree | blank

Energy Comments

Number of mentions

Legend: Less emphasis | More emphasis
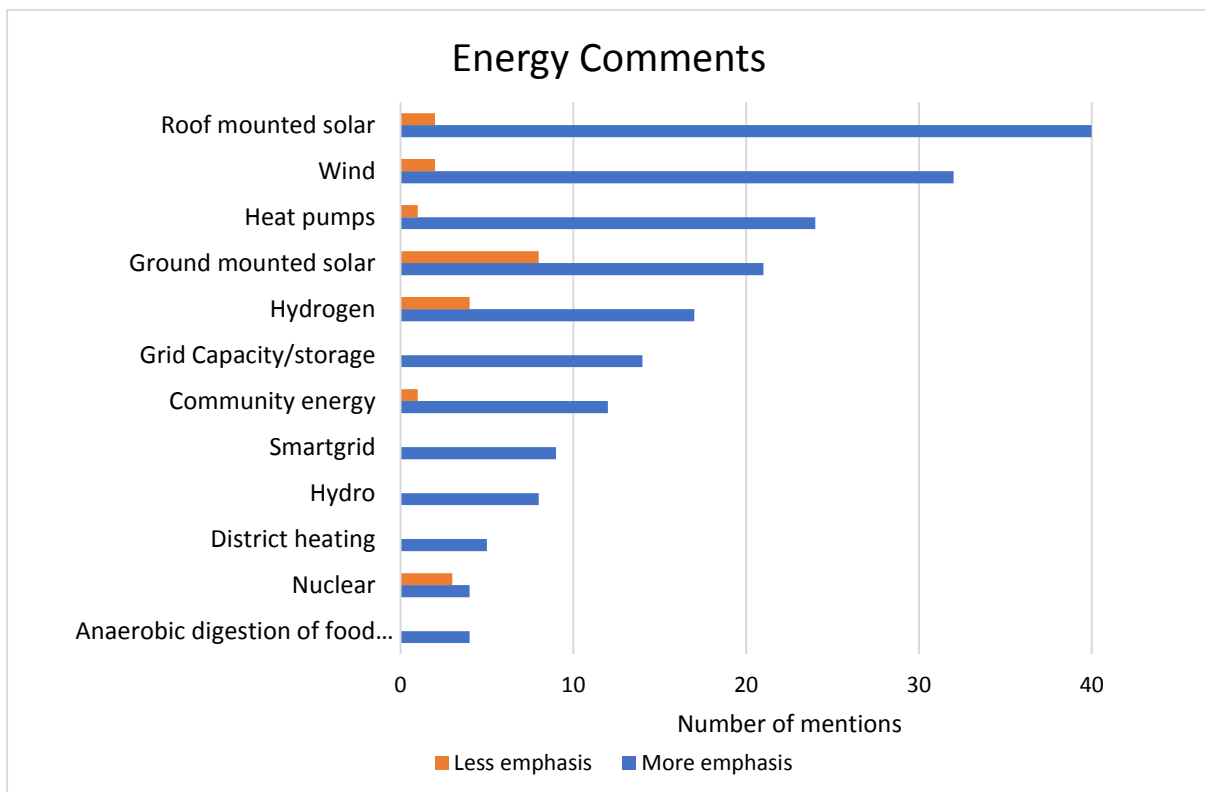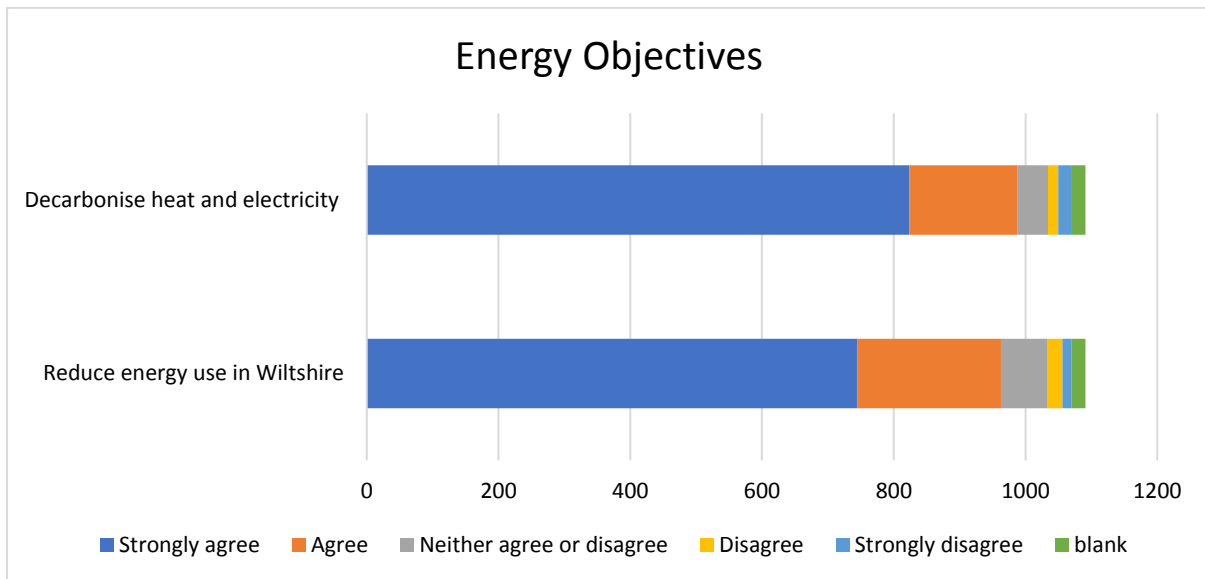
Out of all the technologies mentioned, roof mounted solar (particularly on new build houses) was the most popular, with wind energy and then heat pumps having a high number of mentions with few arguing against. Ground mounted solar farms had support, but more people pointing out that good agricultural land should not taken out of use for this, then hydrogen, hydro and nuclear power as well as energy from anaerobic digestion were also mentioned.

In terms of supporting technologies, community and district heating systems and "smartgrid" technologies (grid adaptions and evolution to accommodate renewable energy) were suggested. Incineration, with its role in energy from waste was mentioned by a high number of people as something they did not want in the strategy, on the grounds of its unsustainable nature and air quality implications.

Those who have lived experience of disability responded that ensuring affordable and reliable electricity supply, and suitable internal temperatures, for those who rely on it for medical or mobility reasons in the short and longer term is important.

3.6 Waste

Waste Objectives
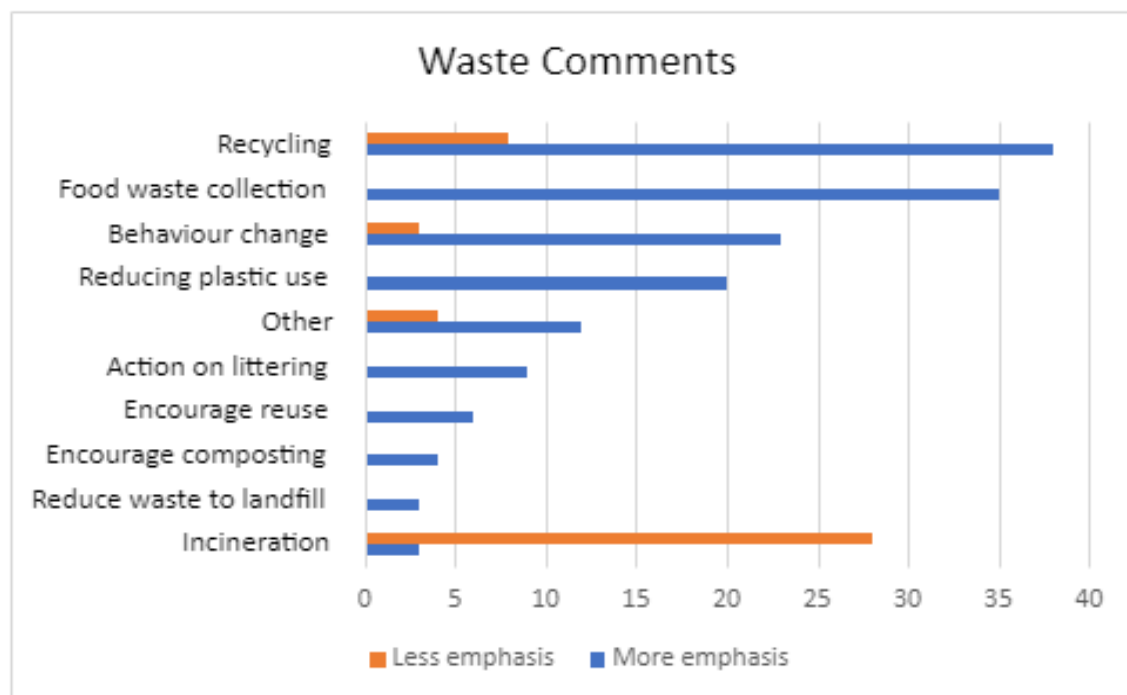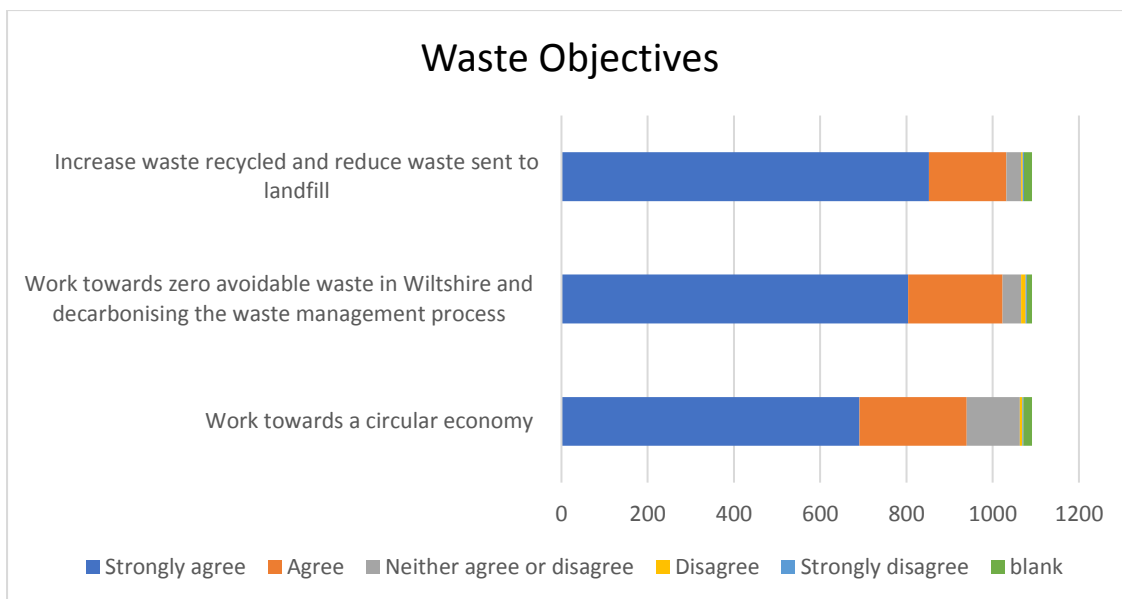
Waste Comments

Ensuring that recycling works well was a popular theme for comments, with others commenting that this should have less emphasis as it is not highest in the waste hierarchy. This was then closely followed by suggestions that Wiltshire Council should or could collect food waste. There were then similar numbers of comments about encouraging behaviour change with plastic being a priority to reduce. In "other" there were various comments covering charging for waste, digestors, preventing food waste at source, landfill in quarry sites, fly tipping, commercial waste and community solutions. Respondents also mentioned action on littering, encouraging and enabling reuse, and composting. There were comments saying that incineration was not a favoured solution for waste, while a few others said they thought incineration was better than landfill or a good solution.

3.7 Green Economy

Green Economy Objectives

Wiltshire businesses take action to become carbon neutral and climate resilient	
Grow the green economy in Wiltshire	

Legend: Strongly agree, Agree, Neither agree or disagree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, blank

Green Economy comments

Category	
Business advice and support	
Green jobs	
Skills and Education	
Emphasise shop local	
Other	
Green economy not a priority	

Number of mentions

Legend: Less emphasis, More emphasis

There was a small number of comments relating to the green economy, perhaps reflecting a low understanding of the term or low engagement with businesses.

Council support, co-ordination and encouragement for businesses to reduce their emissions and impact on the environment was popular. With regard to green jobs there were suggestions of demand for skilled people such as home heating advice and wind energy. Respondents supported Wiltshire Council encouraging apprenticeships and emphasis throughout the education system to inspire young people to consider a green job, the young people consulted were enthusiastic about green jobs. There were also some respondents who pointed out that national policy and wider trends will have most influence over skills and jobs and that supply and demand could be expected to balance themselves.

There was recognition that people should buy locally. That is both shopping locally and locally produced items. Promotion of small shops and businesses was also mentioned.

In saying what should have less emphasis, some responses pointed out that "business as usual" and economic growth should not be emphasised as they produce carbon and waste.

3.8 Carbon Neutral Council

Carbon Neutral Council Objectives

Wiltshire Council to become carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030

Wiltshire Council provide leadership locally and nationally, sharing learning

■ Strongly agree   ■ Agree   ■ Neither agree or disagree   ■ Disagree   ■ Strongly disagree   ■ blank

Carbon neutral council comments
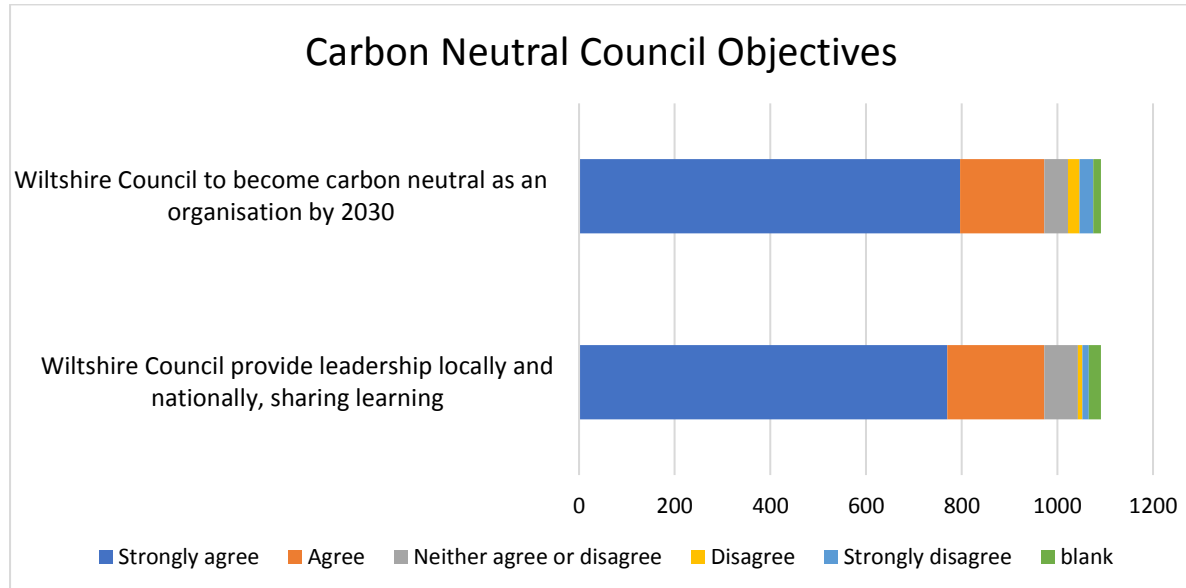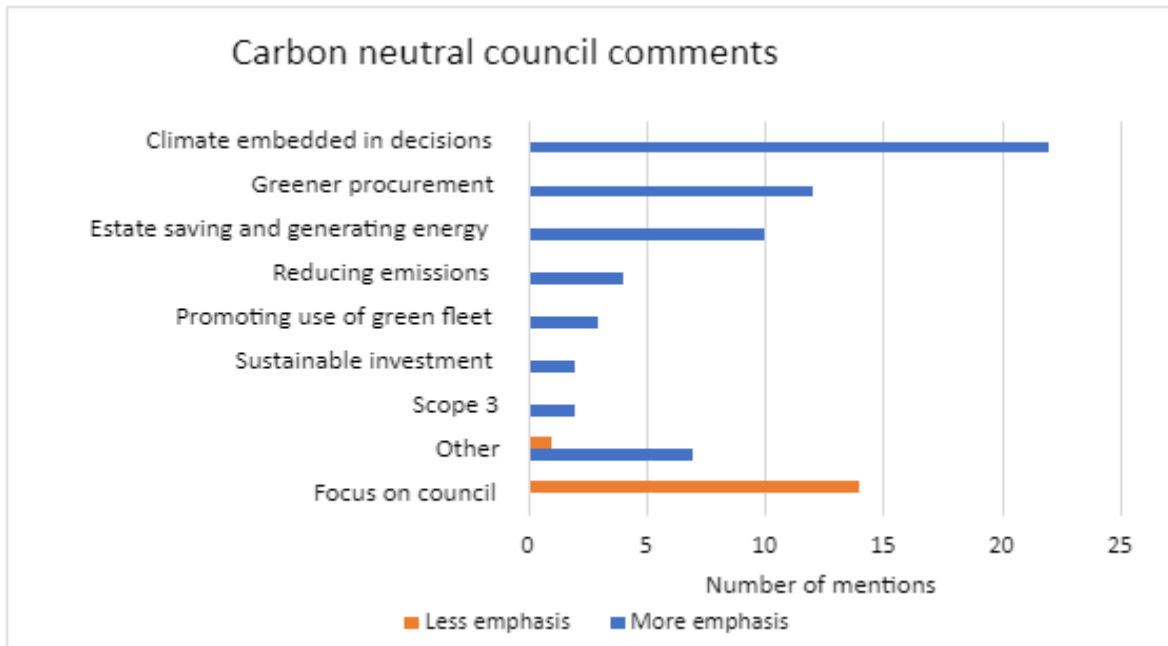
Embedding climate considerations into all council decisions; sustainable procurement by the council; retrofitting energy efficiency measures and increasing renewable generation on the council's own estate were raised the most in this section. Fleet, investments and more information about how Scope 3 emissions (not directly controlled by the council) and embodied carbon are calculated and addressed were also mentioned.

Some comments said that as council emissions are such a small proportion of Wiltshire overall they should have less emphasis in the strategy.

4. Some quotes from the responses to the consultation

"Don't pander in the climate strategy: go big, or go home."

"Less reacting to small pressure groups intent on derailing the plans needed to mitigate the climate crisis e.g. back tracking on PFS [People Friendly Streets] and cycle lanes in Salisbury. You can't lead from the middle and responding to the whims of facebook groups but from the front with well argued cases for change which will appeal across the wider population."

"We do not need a handful of people doing eco methods perfectly; we just need thousands doing it imperfectly"

[Less of] *"The whole nonsense surrounding climate change which is as it has always been normal and it is human arrogance to believe we can alter or control it. Many believe that the "green" movement has little or nothing to do with the environment but is basically a Marxist organisation devoted to the destruction of the capitalist*

system. Reference to the appalling Agenda 21 as espoused by the UN should give us all food for thought!"

"Invest in and empower climate team and the Climate Emergency Task Group, through additional resources, to deliver solutions from aspirations."

5. Conclusions and next steps

The respondents to the survey want to see Wiltshire Council make urgent changes to ensure carbon reduction in Wiltshire. In order to have confidence in this process they are looking for targets, timelines and tonnes of carbon reduced for each action. They want to see Wiltshire Council sharing how it has reduced its own emissions, use its powers to influence housing and transport and work with and support others such as businesses and farmers to make changes. They also want to see Wiltshire Council embedding climate considerations into decision making and communicating the urgency and importance of action on climate change.

The final strategy is scheduled for adoption at Full Council on 1 March 2022. Delivery plans will be developed which show targets, activities, review dates and include how progress will be monitored and learned from. The comments from the survey which relate to delivery ideas will be included as part of this process.

Given how much there is to achieve, the Climate Team will be reaching out within Wiltshire Council and beyond to engage the residents and stakeholders of Wiltshire, developing two way dialogue and information sharing and collaborating where possible.

Annex A - Consultation activity summary

Webinars

A key consideration within this consultation was to go beyond the interest groups and make sure a representative group were reached. Activities to broaden the reach of the consultation were school events, library events and specific promotion to those with a disability or learning difficulty and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups. We produced an Easy Read version of the draft Climate Strategy which was promoted and shared with The Good Lives Alliance, Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living and other groups that work with young people and those who have a learning difficulty or English is not their first language.

The council communications team produced a suite of press releases, Facebook posts, residents and business e-news, and tweets which were published before, during and after the consultation period externally and internally. These promoted the webinars which were held for Wiltshire Council staff, Wiltshire councillors and Area Board environment leads as well as three public engagement webinars. In total 426 people attended the webinars. Area Board Chairs made a chairman's announcement directing people to the consultations.

At all of the webinars, the Climate and GBI strategies were introduced by councillors and presented by officers, then councillors answered questions both submitted in advance and on the day. Written answers were published on the Wiltshire Council website for all 107 questions submitted through the sessions.

Online engagement

Total posts	Total clicks	Total reach	Total impressions unique users	Total retweets / shares	Total likes	Total comments
46	517	623,139	85,888	163	97	23

Website views before, during and after the consultation
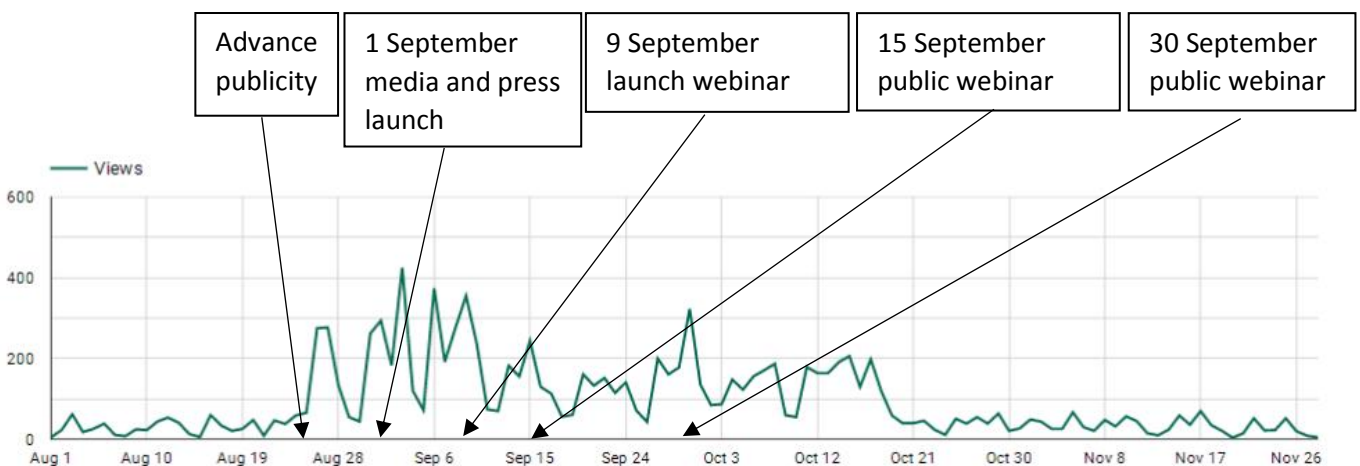
There were 4734 visits to the climate consultation webpage between 1 August – 17 October 2021, of which 2583 were new visitors. The total user ranking for that period matches popular pages such as road closures, missed bin collection, and concessionary bus passes. The graph above shows how the number of views varied before and during the consultation period, with key promotion events approximately marked on the timeline. It is clear that the consultation had an uplift effect on visits to the website for the period until the 17th of October and that levels of views returned to lower levels following the consultation.

Media coverage

There was good coverage of the consultation in the local media, with stories covering the launch, comments from Wiltshire Climate Alliance around lack of urgency, and the #WiltsCanDoThis communications campaign. Articles were included on the BBC website, Melksham News, Planet Radio, Salisbury Journal, Wiltshire Times, White Horse News and the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald.

People with a disability or learning difficulty

The Climate Team promoted the consultation and the Easy Read summary of the Strategy via The Good Lives Alliance and other departments within Wiltshire Council. The Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living assisted with the development of the Easy Read summary of the Strategy, promoted the consultation and offered assistance in completing the survey. They also promoted and ran a facilitated session with a small group of disabled people on the 12th of October in Devizes to get their views, which have been integrated into the results.

Young people through school sessions

Working with the Children and Young People advisor of the Salisbury Diocese, four schools were offered sessions to present the strategy to pupils and gain their views. During the consultation period three schools accessed this offer, and 129 surveys were completed. The language of the objectives were slightly simplified, and the demographics questions were shorter, as well as being presented on a paper form rather than online. The sessions were run with 5 classes, covering Religious Education, Science and Geography classes and school years 7,10, 12 and 13. The young people were interested in the strategy and were enthusiastic about green jobs. They asked about the level of influence of the council, considered safety of active travel and the cost of net zero homes and electric vehicles. There was interest from all the schools to participate in further work.

Digitally excluded

Significant efforts we made to reach people who could not access the consultation online. This included posters in all libraries, leisure centres and parish notice boards and a reference copy of the strategy in every library (including mobile libraries)

An informal public session was held in each of four libraries (Devizes, Chippenham, Trowbridge and Salisbury) on market days where relevant. These were promoted through press releases and on A boards in the town on the day, and gave residents an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the strategies.

Within these libraries, displays of books related to climate change and nature were organised by the library staff which also had a poster directing people to the strategy survey and a reference copy of the strategies was available in all libraires.

Questions were answered around business waste, community and personal action, retrofit, planned house building and cycling provision. Discussions were had around recent climate protests, action by Town and Parish Councils, the different responsibilities of residents, businesses and government. The views from these sessions have been integrated into the results.

The level of interest at the sessions varied, in quieter sessions staff approached people gently to try to open a conversation about climate change or the natural environment. This is not an easy subject to raise with people, however these events gave valuable insight into current wider levels of awareness and action on climate change, and awareness and concern was heard, especially from those with children or grandchildren.

Annex B - Reach of the consultation

Promotion of the survey concentrated on achieving a wide spread in geography, demographics and opinion. The results have been compared with statistics from Wiltshire Intelligence and Office for National Statistics data.

Geographical spread

The map shows that those who provided a postcode mostly lived in the Wiltshire county area, with only two in Gloucestershire.
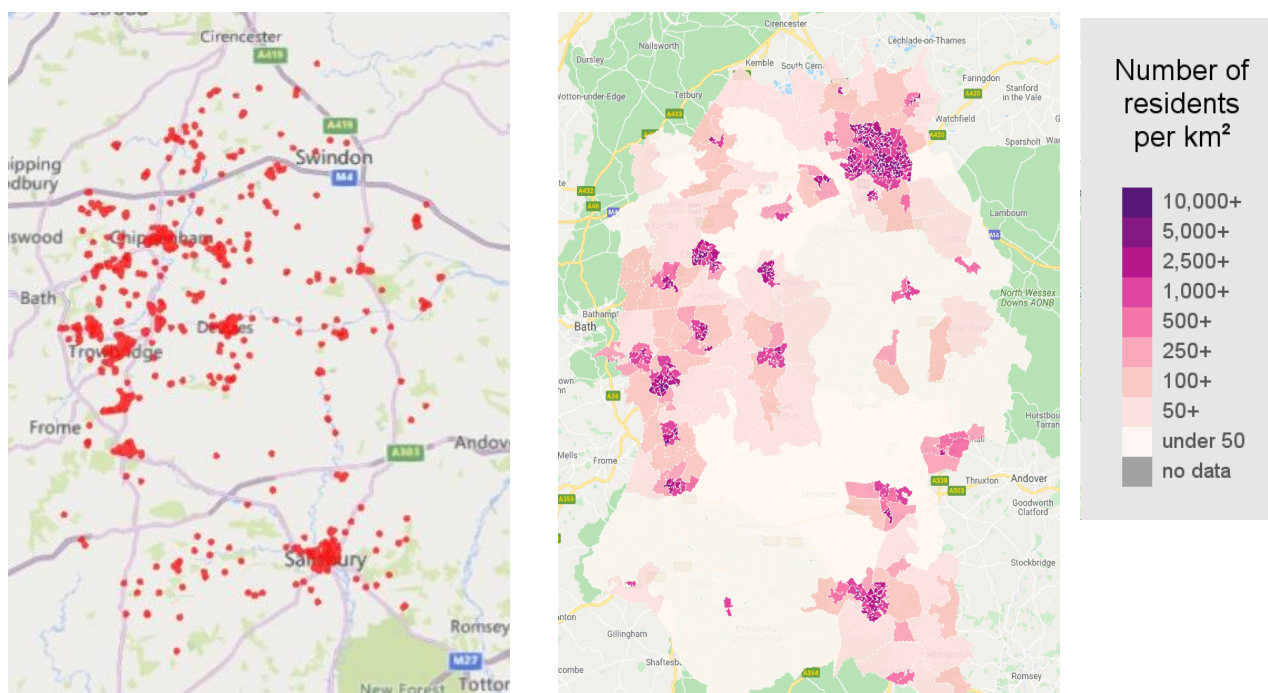
Geographical distribution of respondents was visibly well spread over the county. When compared with the heat map[1] of number of residents per km[2] it is possible to see that the clusters of responses map well against the population centres in most settlements in the target area, with the exceptions of Tidworth and Amesbury. These are communities with high military populations who move frequently, making them harder to reach. This shows future work required to raise awareness and improve communications with groups and individuals in these communities.

Age

The proportion of survey responses varied significantly between age groups. People up to the ages of 44 were under represented compared with the Wiltshire population, whereas those 55 to 64 were over represented. The response rate from over 65s and 45-54 year olds broadly matched the Wiltshire population.

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[1] Heatmap from plumplot.co.uk using OS data

% Respondent ages compared with County
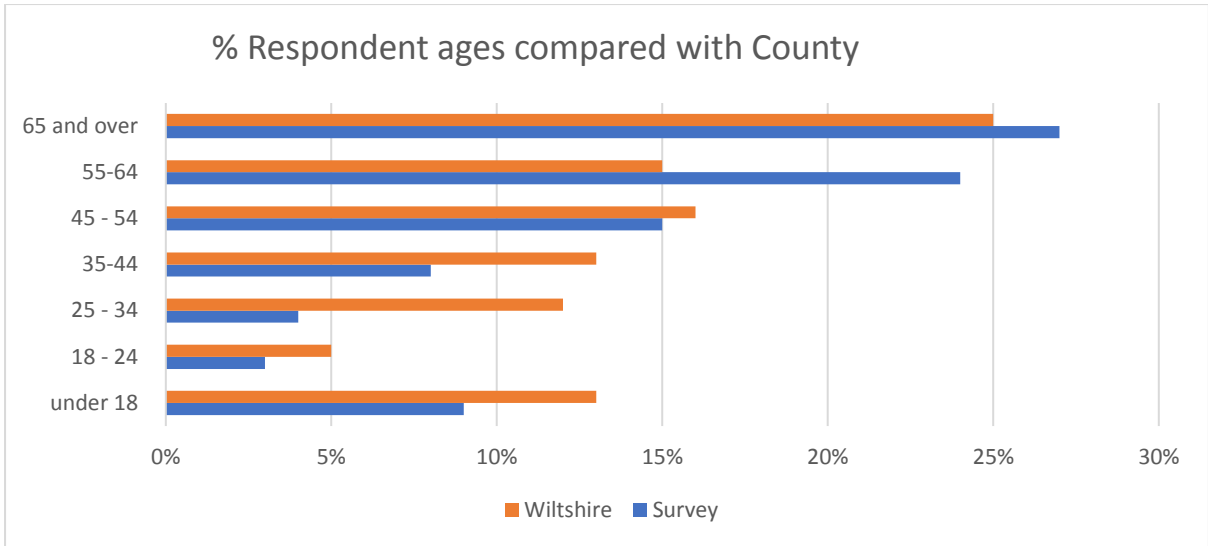
Gender

The county statistics used do not recognise genders other than male or female, which makes comparison somewhat more inaccurate. However, of those who gave an answer from the survey, 46% were male, 53% female and 1% another gender. This compares favourably with the county statistics of 49% male and 51% female.

% Gender of respondents compared with County
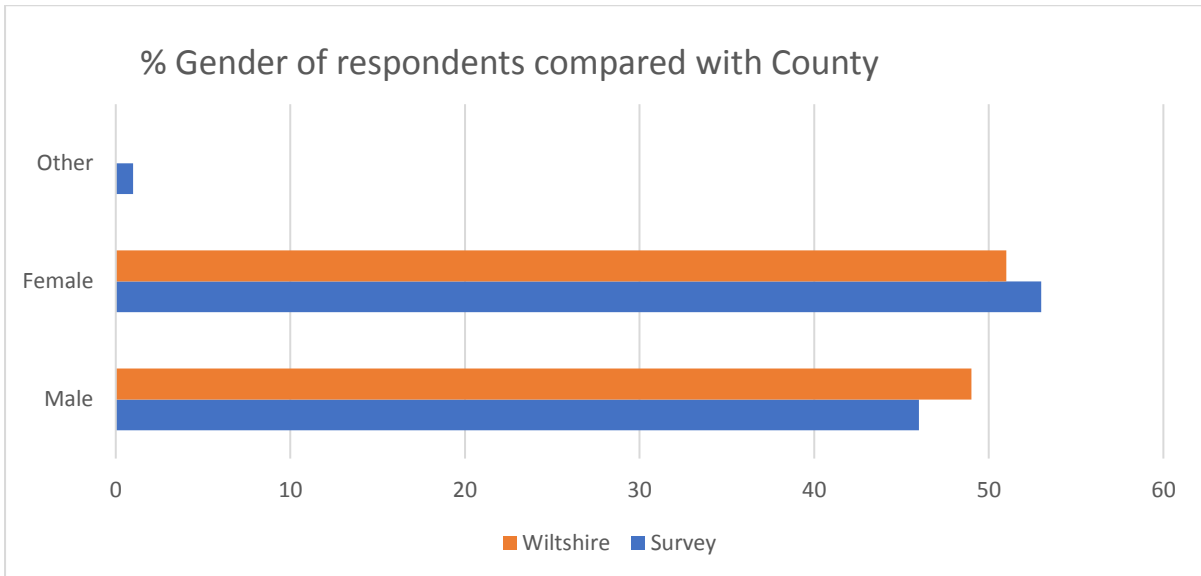
Disability

Of those who gave an answer to this question, 14% said that they had a disability or long term health condition compared with 9% of Wiltshire as a whole.

% respondents with disability or long term health condition compared with County

no disability

long standing illness or disability

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

■ % Wilts population   ■ % responses
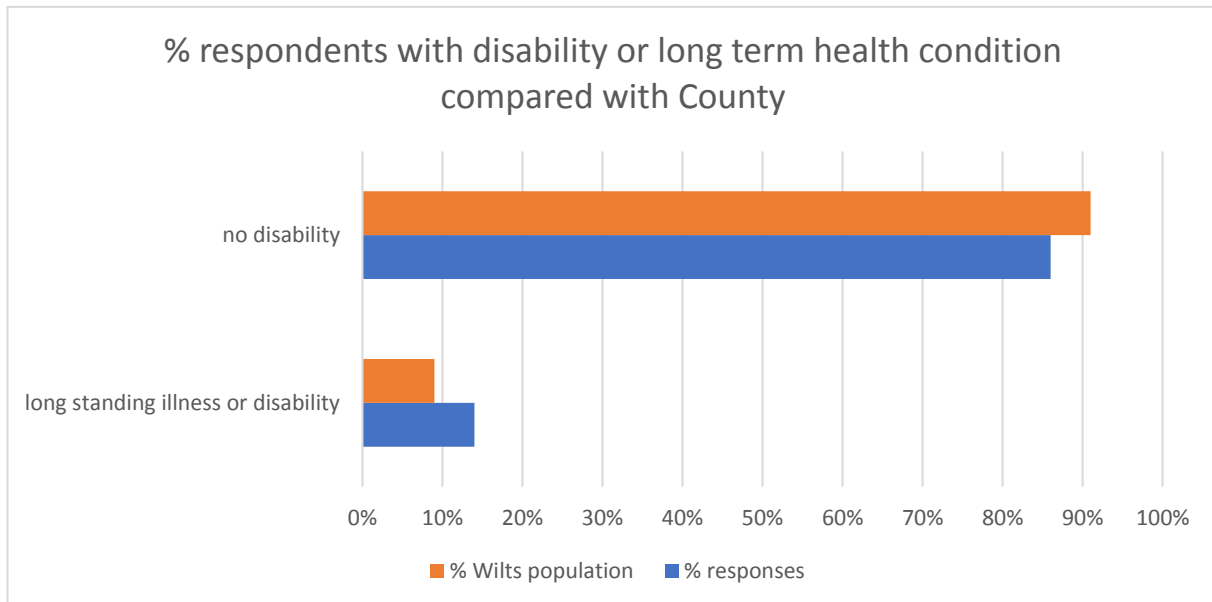
Ethnic Origin

Of those who gave an answer from the survey, 96.5% said that they were white, and 3.5% said that they were Black or another minority ethnicity (BME). This mirrors the statistics for Wiltshire (excluding Swindon) which are 96.6% white and 3.4% BME. Efforts were made to contact and involve faith leaders as well as the Wiltshire Racial Equality Council and through the Wiltshire Council Black History Month conference in early October. Still, more could be done to involve and communicate with these groups.

% Ethnicities of respondents compared with County

Black or Minority Ethnic

White

0.00 20.00 40.00 60.00 80.00 100.00 120.00

■ Wiltshire   ■ Survey
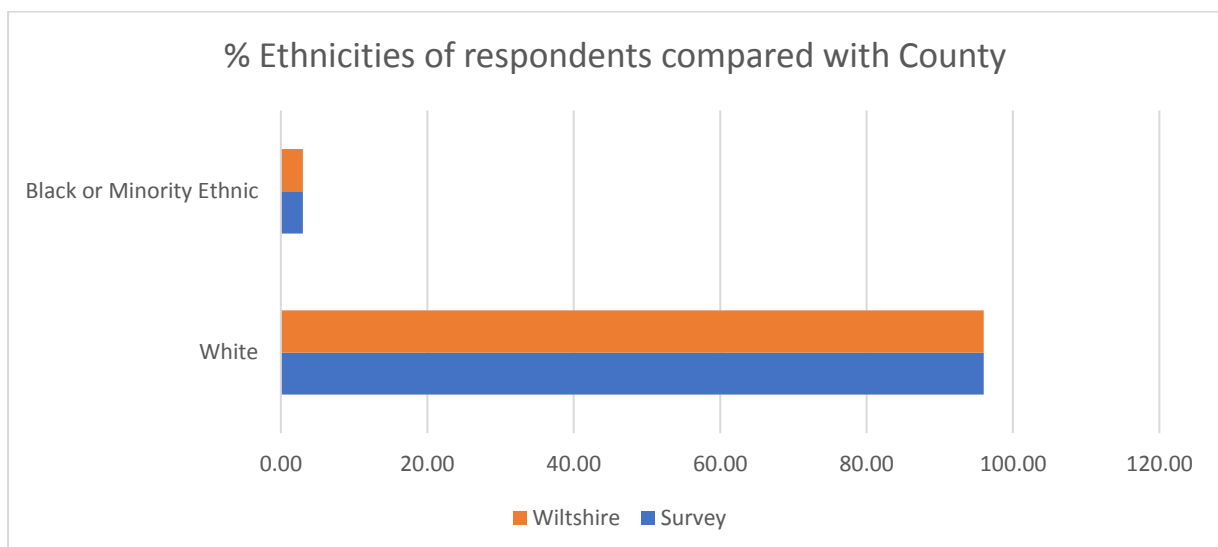
Household Income

All the income brackets have some responses, with the lowest bracket the least well represented. Nearly a third of respondents preferred not to answer the question. The school survey did not include this question. Although efforts have been made to find comparison data, this has not been successful.

% of responses by Income Bracket

Income Bracket	%
Blank	~18
Prefer not to say	~22
Above £70,000	~13
£50,001 - £70,000	~10
£30,001 - £50,000	~17
£10,001 - £30,000	~17
Below £10,000	~3
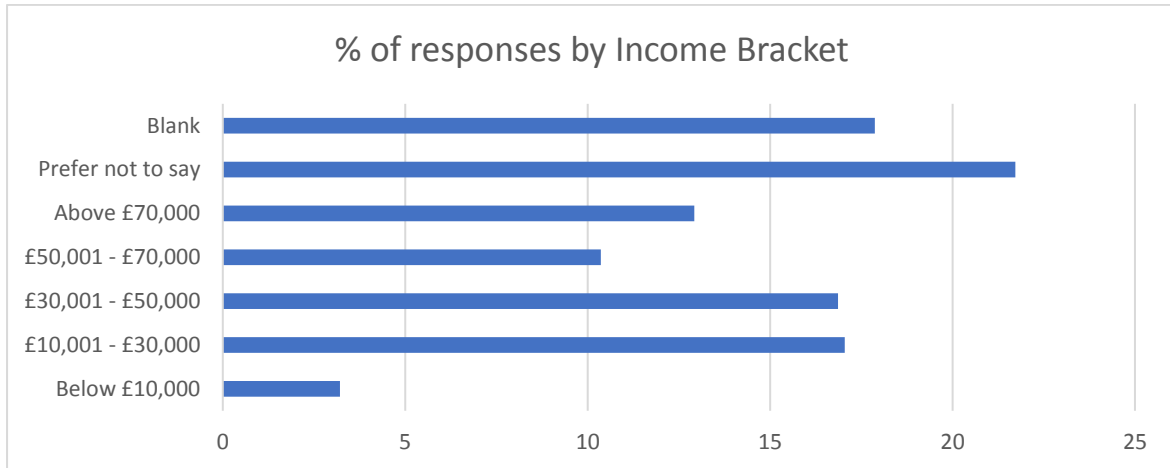
Annex C – Responses from Organisations

Given the intention to reach those who are not already highly motivated and informed and reach those who may be more representative of the Wiltshire population, the survey asked if respondents are a member of a local environmental organisation. One third said that they were and many named more than one organisation when asked.

Members of a local environmental organisation
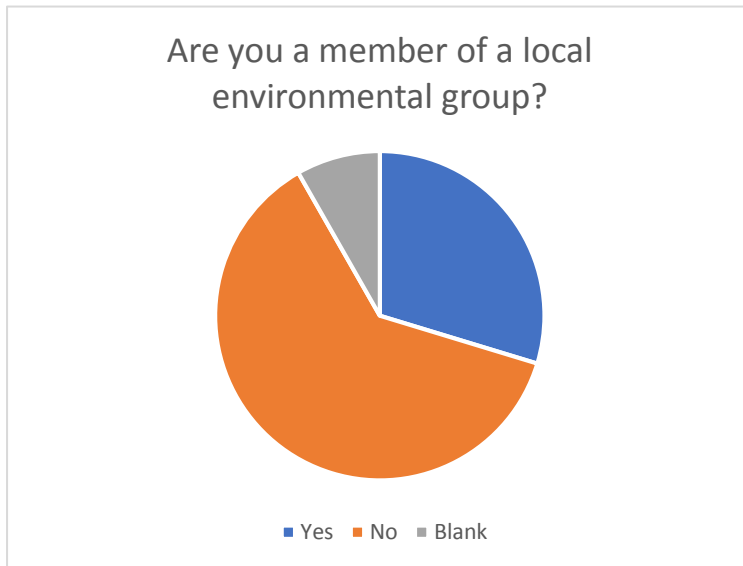
Organisations that are mentioned most

The table shows the number of times membership of local environmental organisations were mentioned by respondents for the most frequently mentioned groups. All mentions were counted, so if a respondent said they were a member of three different organisations these organisations were recorded.

Are you a member of a local environmental organisation?	Number of mentions
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	52
Wiltshire Climate Alliance	43
Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon	21
Sustainable Devizes	14
Green Party	12
Sustainable Warminster	10
Sustainable Calne	10
Transcoco	9
Salisbury Transition City	8
Carbon Neutral Aldbourne	8
Zero Chippenham	8
Trowbridge Eco Group	7
Royal Wootton Bassett Env group	6

Sustainable Sherston	6
Extinction Rebellion	5
Malmesbury groups	4
Friends of the Earth	3

Local environmental organisations mentioned

Below is a list of all the different organisations mentioned by respondents when asked if they were a member of a local environmental organisation. This shows the spread of the different possible stakeholders for further engagement and joint work.

Action for the River Kennett
Active Travel Salisbury
Aldbourne Carbon Neutral
Aldbourne Wildlife
Avon Needs Trees
Barton Farm Conservation Volunteers
Bremzero
Bristol River Avon Bioregion Group
British Association of Shooting and Conservation
British Cycling
Bushton and Clyffe Pypard
Butterfly Conservation
BWCE
CEAG
Chippenham Devizes and North Wilts Green Party
Citizens Climate Lobby (UK)
COGS
Colerne Parish Council Climate Strategy Working Group
Corsham Council Environment Group
Cotswold AONB
Cotswold Water Park Trust
Countryside Alliance
CPRE and CPRE Wiltshire
Cricklade Climate Action Network
Cycling UK (Wiltshire)
Devizes Group, Citizens' Climate Lobby UK
Drews Pond Wood Project
Eco Bromham
Extinction Rebellion (BoA, Frome, Salisbury and Chippenham)
Friends of Marden Valley
Friends of River Frome
Friends of the Earth
Fruitful Malmesbury
Green Party and Green Party (Wiltshire)
Green Party (North Wilts)
Green Party (Salisbury)
Greenpeace
Hullavington Sustainability Group
Kennet and Avon River Trust

LEAF
Malmesbury Against Plastic
Malmesbury Climate Action Network
Malmesbury River Valleys Trust
Marlborough Community Fridge
Melksham Energy Group
MSFAG
Murhill Bank Nature Reserve
Nadder Community Energy
National Trust
Nature Chain
Pauls Dene verges group
Pewsey Roots and Shoots
Planet Shaftesbury
Plantlife
Quakers Walk Community Biodiversity Group
Royal Wootton Bassett Environment Group
RSPB
Salisbury & Wilton Swifts
Salisbury Area Greenspace Partnership
Salisbury Community Energy
Salisbury Methodist church Eco group
Salisbury Transition City
slow food
SPTA Conservation Group
St Andrews Chippenham Social Responsibility
St Andrews Laverstock
St John's Gastard
St. Andrew's Church Castle Combe
St.Mark and St.Andrew Salisbury
Stop The Melksham Bypass
Sustainable Calne
Sustainable Devizes
Sustainable Sherston
Sustainable Warminster
Teco
The Green Party
The Ramblers
The Woodland Trust
Tisbury Natural History Society
Transcoco
Transition Marlborough
Trowbridge environmental community
U3a Sustainable Planet
Urchfont Parish Council
Westbury Town Council
Westwood Biodiversity Group
Wild Colerne
Wiltshire Climate Alliance
Wiltshire Ornithological Society

Wiltshire Wildlife Conservation Volunteers
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
WWF
Zero Chippenham

Organisations that responded to the consultation or the survey

The lists below are organisations that responded to the consultation in alphabetical order, grouped by type. There are 77 organisations and a further 5 responses from within Wiltshire Council.

Parish Councils

Aldbourne Parish Council
Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council
Bradford on Avon Town Council
Bremhill Parish Council
Broad Chalke Parish Council
Bromham Parish Council
Calne Town Council
Calne without Parish Council
Cheverell Magna Parish Council
Chippenham Town Council
Colerne Parish Council
Compton Bassett Parish Council
Corsley Parish Council
Corsham Town Council
Devizes Town Council
Dilton Marsh Parish Council
Great Bedwyn Parish Council
Malmesbury Town Council
Melksham Without Parish Council
Mere Town Council
North Bradley Parish Council
North Wraxall Parish Council
Sedgehill & Semley Parish Council
Seend Parish Council
Winsley Parish Council

Local Groups

Active Travel Salisbury
Carbon Neutral Aldbourne
Chippenham Cycle Network
Citizens Climate Lobby (Devizes)
Climate Friendly Bradford on Avon
Drews Pond Wood Project
Friends of the Down Cemetery
Salisbury & Wilton Swifts

Salisbury Civic Society Development Committee
Sustainable Warminster
Sustainable Devizes
Sustainable Calne
Sustainable Sherston
Tisbury Natural History Society
Transition Community Corsham
Wiltshire Climate Alliance
Zero Carbon Chippenham

Commercial

Bath and West Community Energy
Direct Healthcare Solutions Ltd
Eden Renewables LLC
Glentham Life Sciences Ltd.
Leafield Environmental
Nadder Community Energy
Positech Energy
Positive Nature
Orez
Redrow
Southern Tank Services Ltd
Thames Water
The Healthy Life Co
Vistry Group
Wansbroughs

Wider Stakeholders

Cranborne Chase Partnership
Environment Agency
Gloucestershire County Council
Great Western Railway
Historic England
MOD safeguarding
National Farmers Union
New Forest Park Authority
Sovereign Housing
Transwilts
The Canal & River Trust

Village Halls

Village Hall (a charity)
Figheldean Village Hall
Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall committee
Minety Village Hall
The Benson Village Hall Compton Bassett

Internal

GWCE Task group
Wiltshire Councillor
Wiltshire Council Highways
Wiltshire Council Future Chippenham
Wiltshire Council Housing and commercial

Faith Groups

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
St Andrews Parochial Church Council

Political Groups

Green Party (Chippenham, Devizes, North Wilts)
Labour Party (North Wiltshire Constituency)

January 2022

2022-2027

Wiltshire
CLIMATE STRATEGY

Wiltshire Council

WILTS CAN DO THIS
WILTS CAN DO THIS
WILTS CAN DO THIS
WILTS CAN DO THIS

Foreword

Our world is changing around us, with increasing temperatures, extreme weather and risks to property, health, wildlife habitats, and food production. Climate change affects us all, but we also all have the power to do something about it.

The council has acknowledged the climate emergency and committed to becoming carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030. We are taking immediate action to tackle the climate emergency rather than waiting for this strategy and its delivery plans to be in place.

Being 'carbon neutral' and having 'net zero carbon' emissions are slightly different, so the concepts are explained in 'Our Approach' in relation to our commitments. Essentially, we need to ensure that any carbon dioxide emitted – from vehicles, homes, businesses or the land – is balanced by an equal amount taken out of the atmosphere - for example being absorbed by trees, soil or captured from factories by specialist technology. However, bearing in mind that nature absorbs carbon dioxide relatively slowly from the atmosphere and that technology to capture it is not yet available at scale, the easiest way to take action is to cut our emissions significantly. This also shifts our energy reliance from finite resources to long-term,

sustainable sources of power.

This will mean making changes to the way we all live our lives. New technology will help us to enjoy our lives without emitting carbon but this will need to be accompanied by changes in the way we do things.

Research shows us that a bright future, fuelled by clean energy, is achievable and affordable. However, we need a commitment to achieving this goal and we need to put actions in place now.

We also need to adapt to impacts of climate change that will be inevitable – for example by preparing for more floods and heatwaves. However, the long-term costs of adapting will be far higher if we do not act now to minimise our impact and so the short-term investment is very worthwhile.

Climate change is a global problem, but the UK is well-placed to set an example to the world. And we want Wiltshire to be a role model for the country.

The council's ambition for Wiltshire as a county – beyond just the council's footprint – is to seek to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and contribute to global efforts to keep temperature increase to safe levels.

Everyone in Wiltshire is invited on this journey and we want to make sure that no-one is left behind or disadvantaged in this transition. From the older generations

to the very youngest – who will be most affected by climate change – we want to invite you to help shape the future.

As a large county made up mainly of market towns with their rural hinterlands, the challenges and the opportunities to cut greenhouse gases are quite different from those in urban areas.

The purpose of this strategy is to highlight key areas that we in Wiltshire can focus on in the next five years as well as setting out some important context on policy and emissions data. This strategy is structured around seven delivery themes. A discussion of challenges and opportunities in each theme was presented in a discussion document in January 2021 so this strategy does not repeat that discussion.

We were pleased with the level of response we received to our consultation on this strategy in Autumn 2021. This final version is a longer document which incorporates feedback from the more than 1000 residents and stakeholders who responded.

Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader

Introduction

In February 2019, against a backdrop of increasing concern over climate change, the council acknowledged the **climate emergency** and committed to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030. To this end, in July 2019 Wiltshire Council **pledged** as an organisation to become carbon neutral by 2030. A Climate Emergency Task Group was set up, gathering the views of a wide range of stakeholders to provide recommendations on ways to reduce carbon emissions.

Wiltshire Council has been working to reduce its carbon emissions for over a decade with some of the following results:

- We cut our carbon footprint by more than 80% between 2015 and 2021

- Thanks to sustained investment in renewables over time, in 2020/21 council-owned solar PV generated 727,097 kWh. Renewable electricity generation on our own estate increased by 39% compared with 2019/20.

- In October 2019, Wiltshire was named by Friends of the Earth as the most climate-friendly local authority area in England and Wales

- Energy consumption from streetlighting is being reduced by two thirds thanks to a £12 million LED programme

Significant progress has already been achieved since 2019, as reported to Cabinet and Council through six-monthly reports. We recognise however that cutting carbon emissions deeply and rapidly over the coming years is a huge challenge and that there is much more to do. We will learn from best practice elsewhere and share our skills and experience with local partners who look to us for leadership on this agenda.

The council has engaged with residents and stakeholders in Wiltshire to develop the strategy through a comprehensive consultation process. This demonstrated overwhelming support for all our climate objectives and a strong desire for the council to show leadership and do more, faster. A summary of the consultation feedback is available in the council's Cabinet papers for 1 February 2022. The Wiltshire Climate Alliance was formed in 2020 as an umbrella organisation for environmental groups across the county. These groups have been holding the council to account on its climate commitments. They have also helped to shape this draft strategy through workshops in 2020 and 2021, including two organised by the Wiltshire Climate Alliance Youth group of under 25s.

As national policy and legislation are crucial enablers of action at a local level, we are involved in influential national networks to shape and inform central government thinking. The council's leader chairs the **Countryside Climate Network**, made up of ambitious council leaders from 28 rural councils who represent over 45% of England's land area, making the case that rural communities can be at the forefront of climate action.

This strategy sets a framework for reducing emissions in Wiltshire over the next five years and for making the county resilient to climate impacts. This strategy is not a statutory document but it will influence other key council strategies and plans such as our emerging Local Plan and our Local Transport Plan. Our new Business Plan firmly reflects the objectives of this strategy: our mission states that 'we take responsibility for the environment' and 'we are on the path to carbon neutral'.

About this document

This document has deliberately been kept simple and succinct to encourage a wide readership. The council's **climate webpages** complement the strategy, including the discussion of the issues and evidence published in a Discussion Document in January 2021. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are published to help explain issues such as net zero development and planning, and there is information on what residents and organisations can do to tackle climate change. The website will also provide progress updates on this strategy.

The **UK Climate Change Committee** estimates that local authorities can influence one third of emissions in their area. This makes public engagement and buy-in from organisations and businesses critical to tackling the other two thirds – as well as advocating for strong government action. This high-level strategy sets out our objectives and areas of focus while remaining flexible. As the world around us evolves in terms of knowledge, legislation and policy, technology and the market, we will adapt to take advantage of these opportunities. Detailed delivery plans will be developed, and in recognition that we are facing an emergency, we are already taking action on a number of fronts.

This strategy is not perfect. It is built on the currently available evidence base, but there are gaps in understanding and more work will need to be undertaken over time. Technical studies will be commissioned as required to address these gaps, including to help us set meaningful interim targets.

Photo: Youth climate protest. Credit: Jane Lewis-Evans

Strategy overview

Transport

20
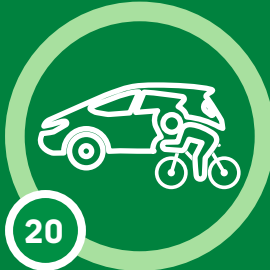
Achieving zero emissions surface transport in Wiltshire is a challenge which will require action across all areas, with a significant role played by zero emissions vehicles, in conjunction with reducing trips and shifting modes. Zero emissions transport is a necessary priority, since transport produces the largest proportion of emissions in the county.

Homes and the Built Environment

24

New buildings need to be net zero carbon as soon as possible, using less energy and running on low carbon sources of electricity and heat. Existing buildings need to be retrofitted along the same principles. All buildings also need to be able to cope with the impacts of climate change.

Natural Environment, food and farming

26

A healthy natural environment is crucial to achieving net zero, and providing ways for people and wildlife to adapt to the stresses of climate change. Central to our challenge is the efficient and sensitive use of land for all our needs – local food production, preserving habitats, generating energy, absorbing carbon dioxide and providing homes.

Energy

29

We need to reduce the energy we use, as well as using low carbon forms of energy, including from microgeneration. There are also opportunities to explore in terms of 'smart' and digital solutions that help to smooth demand, and ensure fair distribution of energy and new technologies.

WILTS CAN DO THIS

Green economy

We want to grow a net zero, climate resilient economy in Wiltshire. This includes opportunities for training and more jobs in green sectors, as well as building up supply chains to enable objectives in our other delivery themes.

31

Resources and waste

Using the waste hierarchy 'reduce, reuse, recycle, recover energy' helps reduce the energy and emissions associated with extracting, manufacturing, transporting and storing all the products we use.

33

Carbon Neutral Council

This section sets out the areas of work that will help Wiltshire Council become a carbon neutral organisation. The council's role also extends to providing leadership and opportunities to share knowledge and learn from one another.

35

Strategies and Targets Timeline

An overview of key government and council milestones to 2050.

40

> "Achieving net zero is a colossal challenge and significantly more challenging than government's previous target to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050. Achieving net zero means all parts of the economy, including those that are harder to decarbonise, need to reduce emissions substantially. In some sectors, there are well-understood pathways to net zero but there is uncertainty in other sectors over how to reduce emissions. This is because it is not yet known how quickly some technologies will develop or how much individuals will be willing to change their behaviours."

National Audit Office report, December 2020

Our approach

This strategy will help Wiltshire Council – and Wiltshire's people – to lead action on climate change. We hope that residents, communities, organisations and business will join us in working towards these shared goals and principles.

We will focus on reducing carbon emissions in order to keep global temperature to below 1.5°C. However, given that the effects of climate change are already being felt, we need to plan to be able to cope with the impacts of climate change associated with a 2°C rise in global temperature. Our existing Climate Change Adaptation plan supports this and will be reviewed to reflect the most recent research into climate impacts and mitigation in Wiltshire.

During the period of this strategy we will focus on our commitment to being carbon neutral by 2030 (meaning focussing on substantially reducing emissions, before residual emissions being offset or compensated). Beyond 2030 we will aspire to be fully net zero, meaning that stricter criteria will apply to offsetting, which should be via carbon removal methods such as tree planting and 'carbon capture and storage' technologies, and for these to be sufficient we will have reduced emissions almost completely.

We will scale up existing technologies and solutions, while supporting innovation for the future.

2030
Be a carbon neutral council

2030
Wiltshire to be carbon neutral

2°C
Be resilient to the impacts of climate change

We will focus on Wiltshire-based ('territorial') emissions in the first instance as these are better understood. Although we recognise that embodied carbon in materials and in the imported goods that we buy and eat also need to be brought to net zero, this is something the council has extremely limited influence over.

The council only has direct control over 0.5% of carbon emissions in Wiltshire but can use its democratic mandate and other levers of influence to have an impact on wider emissions (see diagram), including influencing strategic partners on infrastructure projects.

Most activities to mitigate climate change involve new and smarter ways of doing things. It will be essential to involve all sectors and generations, and especially children and young people as they will be the most affected.

Principles

Our strategy and delivery plans will:

- Be inclusive – ensuring the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient future is accessible to all sectors of society, including our rural communities and businesses.

- Be evidence led – using the best available science and analysis, while working to increase knowledge in areas where there are gaps. Our evidence base has been informed by feedback from a wide range of stakeholders.

- Follow the Greenhouse Gas Hierarchy, making sure that low carbon technologies and offsetting do not take the focus away from reducing energy use in the first place.

- Deliver co-benefits – where action to tackle carbon emissions also yields health or financial benefits, such as air quality and physical exercise benefits from walking and cycling.

- Further embedding climate considerations in decision-making.

Local Authority spheres of influence

Direct control: e.g. Council's operation, buildings, fleet, streetlights

Indirect control: e.g. Buying, goods and services, investments, business travel

Regulatory role: e.g. Planning, licensing

Leadership and demonstration: Leading by example. Showcasing and rewarding good practice

Partnerships: Joint delivery, convening, co-ordinating, supporting

Enabling and engaging: e.g. Inspiring action, providing information

Photo: Caen Hill Locks

Context

This strategy identifies areas of focus for climate action for the period 2022-2027. Given that we are tackling an emergency, we are taking immediate action rather than waiting for this strategy and its delivery plans to be in place. Immediate opportunities are highlighted ❗, while we also include the wider challenge and objectives for the longer-term.

International and national bodies, such as the UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) and the **International Energy Agency** have given clear messages that governments are not yet doing enough but that there is a viable way to achieve net zero and avoid the worst impacts of climate change. We are currently on course for 3-4°C of warming but with a concerted international effort and investment, limiting warming to 1.5°C is possible, as per the UN Paris Agreement. The Glasgow Climate Pact resulting from the COP26 conference in November 2021 is likely to lead to 2.4°C warming if all countries follow through on their commitments. However there are plans for swift follow up and tightening of targets to achieve the Paris goal.

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National

2050
UK to become carbon neutral

2030
68% reduction in carbon emissions

1.5°C
Keep UK temperature rise below 2°C while aiming for 1.5°C

International

1.5°C
Keep global temperature rise below 2°C while aiming for 1.5°C

> " The 2020s must be the decisive decade of progress and action. "
>
> **Climate Change Committee sixth carbon budget**

Photo: Malmesbury aerial view

Britain's emissions have fallen for the last eight years in a row and are now 48.8% below 1990 levels. UK emissions dropped by 9% in 2020, mainly due to the large reductions in road transport during nationwide lockdowns and the reductions in business activity.

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350ppm
SAFE

450ppm
UNSAFE
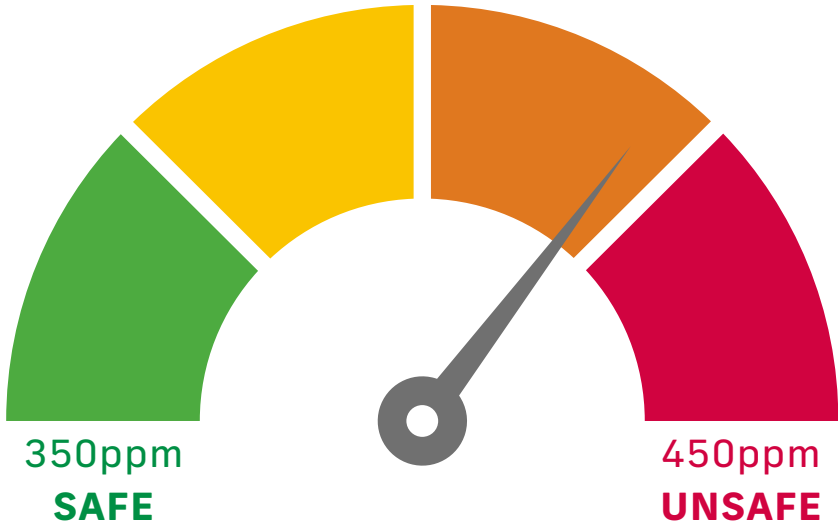
The currents level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere peaked at 420pp, in May 2021

Photo: Westbury White Horse

Financing our ambitions

This is a very challenging time for local government finances across the country. Nonetheless, since the council acknowledged a climate emergency, it has already allocated £88m capital and £3.9m revenue to deliver on its climate programme - but we know much more will be needed. The council will use invest to save principles for its own assets while recognising that research by Surrey County Council indicates that the cost of reaching net zero in that county will be in the region of £3-4 billion. While Surrey is a more densely populated county with more than twice the number of inhabitants, this gives an indication of the order of magnitude of investment required in Wiltshire. The majority of these costs will be funded by individuals and businesses improving their building energy performance and switching to electric vehicles; however, some council funding will be required to unlock investment and act as match funding to draw in large grants from government and other investors. The main risk recognised by the Surrey County Council study is that external funding is not available at the scale required to meet their targets. Wiltshire Council will access government funding wherever possible and welcomes the commitment in the government's **Net Zero Strategy** to simplifying and consolidating funds for net zero initiatives and the recognition of the need for longer-term funding streams. National legislation will enforce change through replacement of vehicles and boilers, however the immediate reduction in emissions that we need will require additional action and funding. New ways of raising finance, such as green community bonds and an Environment Fund, will also need to be explored.

Photo: Corsham
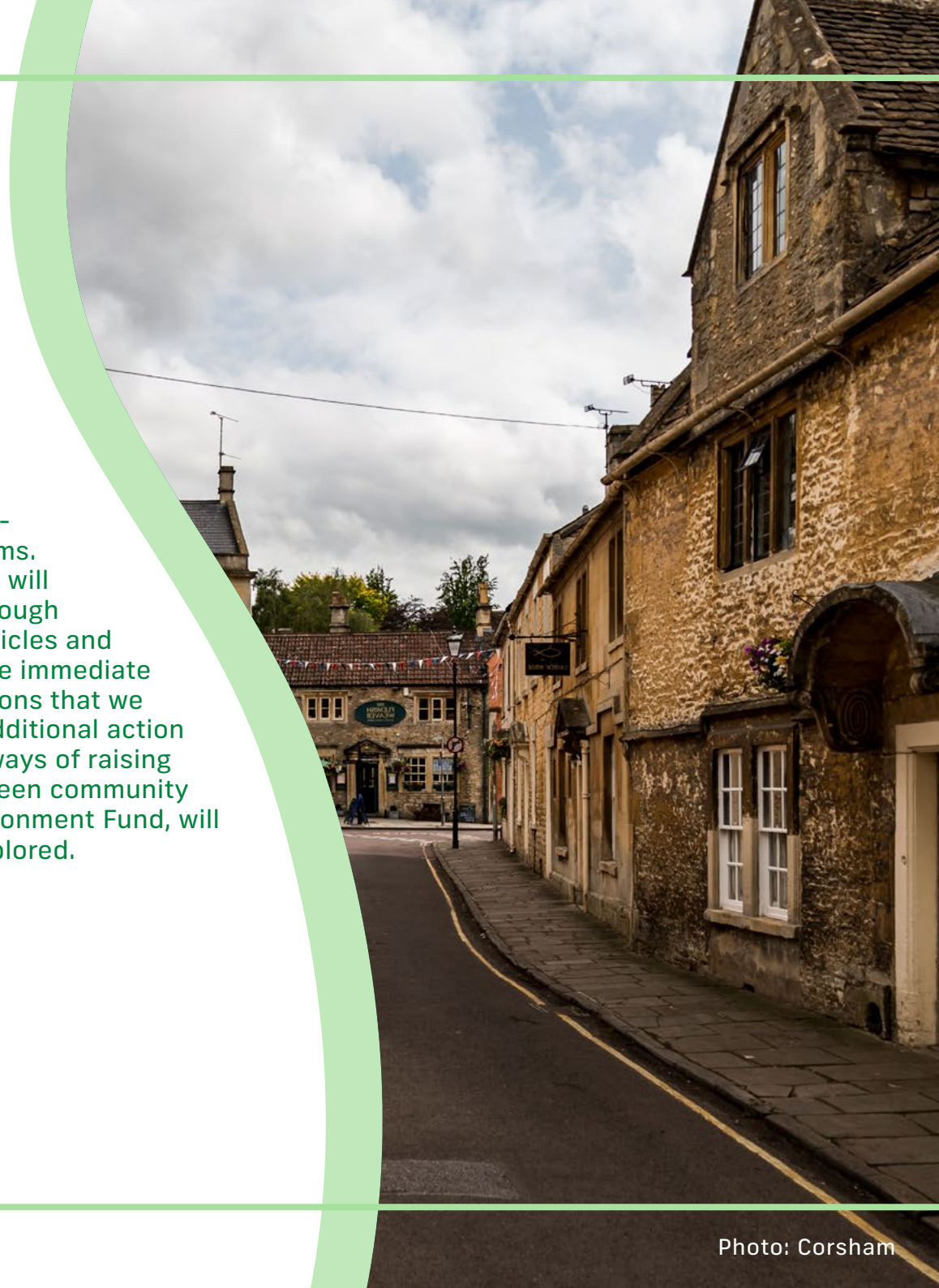
Where we are currently

To reduce emissions and work towards making Wiltshire carbon neutral, we first need to understand our emissions. The pie chart below shows the key sources of emissions in Wiltshire (chart 1). These are the territorial emissions from Wiltshire and do not take into account imported goods.

Wiltshire's renewable electricity generation accounted for approximately 6% of the county's total energy demand. Wiltshire has made rapid progress in reducing carbon emissions: while Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and number of dwellings grew in recent years, energy usage and CO_2 emissions fell (chart 2). There remains a significant way to go to decarbonise transport, reduce reliance on fossil fuels for heating, and protect and enhance carbon stored in the natural environment.

Chart 3 shows Wiltshire's territorial emissions per person per year for 2005-2019 from government statistics. These initially reduced in line with the regional/national averages but the rate of reduction in Wiltshire has slowed in recent years. Territorial emissions exclude the footprint of goods and services from other parts of the world which are consumed here. Wiltshire's total territorial emissions in 2019 were 2,587 $ktCO_2$.

Consumption based emissions are not available at a local authority level, however they have been calculated for England as a whole. England's consumption based carbon footprint (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides) was estimated to be equivalent to 652.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($MtCO_2e$) in 2017, a 15.3% reduction on levels in 2001. As a proportion of total emissions in 2017, greenhouse gases emitted overseas in the production of goods and services consumed in England made up roughly half (46.3%) of the total footprint.

The Tyndall centre for climate change research has calculated carbon budgets to 2050 for every local authority area. These budgets set out the maximum amount of carbon dioxide that can be emitted and still limit global warming to 1.5 degrees compared to pre-industrial levels. With no change to current emissions, Wiltshire would use up all its budget within seven years.

As part of developing a delivery plan for Wiltshire, research will be carried out to find the most efficient measures to achieve carbon reduction and establish the cost of trajectories to carbon neutrality. The council has commissioned a roadmap which will model a number of emissions reduction pathways, setting out what needs to happen to get to carbon neutrality. These illustrative pathways will set out the amount of each technology required and an estimation of how much carbon would be saved by each measure where these are quantifiable.
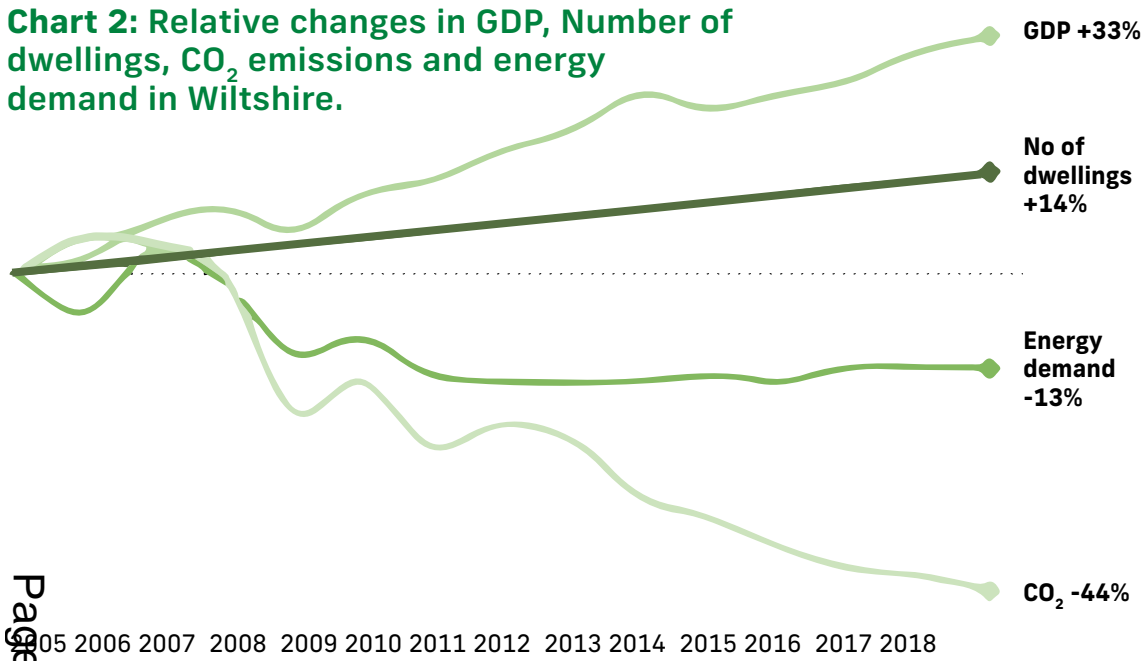
We will use our monitoring and reporting framework to help understand the impacts of the strategy – in terms of carbon, costs and additional benefits in areas such as air quality, jobs and skills.

Chart 1: Wiltshire emissions by source, $ktCO_2$ (BEIS data, 2019)

- Transport 45%
- Industry, commercial and agriculture 29%
- Homes 26%
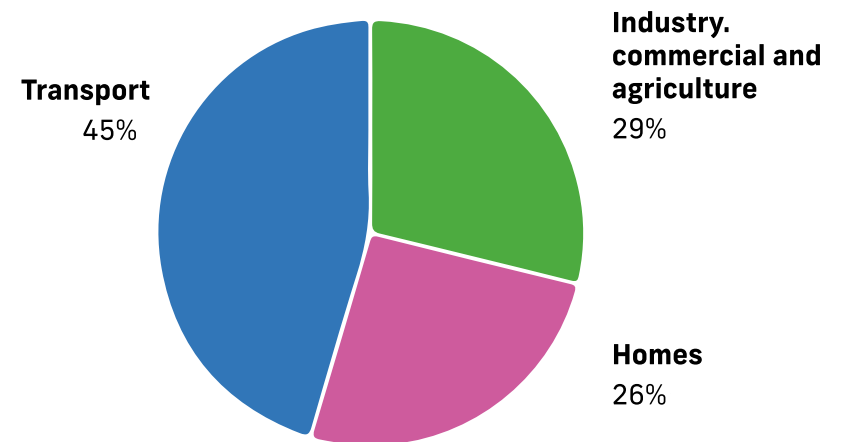
Chart 2: Relative changes in GDP, Number of dwellings, CO_2 emissions and energy demand in Wiltshire.

GDP +33%

No of dwellings +14%

Energy demand -13%

CO_2 -44%

2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

Chart 3: Change in per capita CO_2 emissions over time

11.0
10.0
9.0
8.0
7.0
6.0
5.0
4.0
3.0

tCO$_2$ per capita

2005 2007 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

— **Wiltshire** — **South West** — **National**
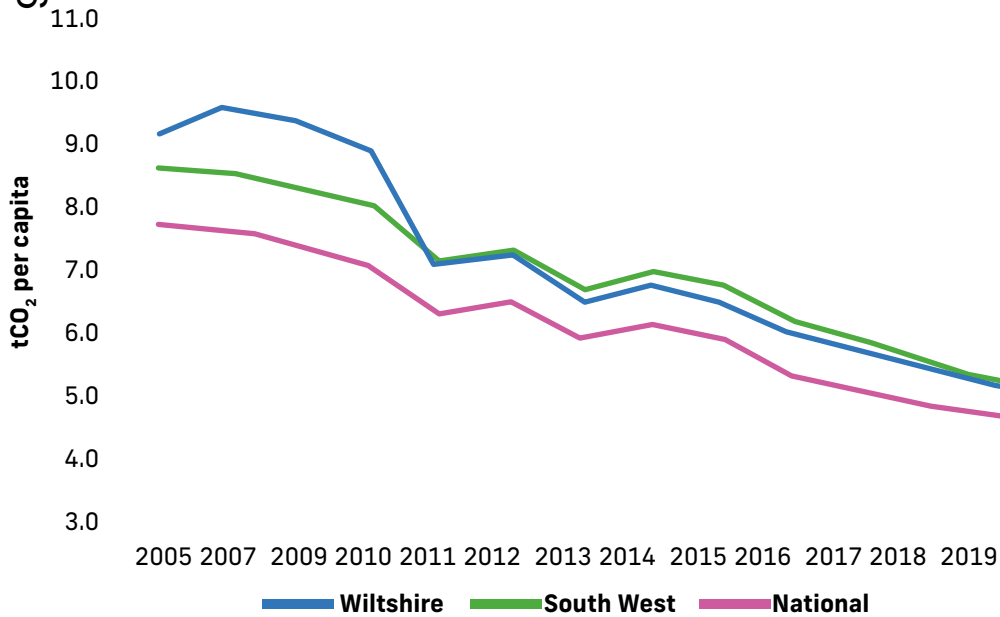
Photo: Bluebell woodland

Emissions explained

Throughout this document we use the term 'carbon' and 'carbon dioxide'. Carbon is not harmful in itself, but is used as shorthand for carbon dioxide - the gas responsible for 80% of global warming.

Other greenhouse gases also contribute to climate change, such as methane and nitrous oxides. While the charts in this section only track carbon dioxide (CO_2), we need to stop all greenhouse gases from accumulating in the atmosphere. The actions that we put in place will also decrease the other main greenhouse gases. In 2021 the UK signed up to a **Global Methane Pledge** to reduce methane emissions – an effective and fast-acting way to address climate change.

An average person
will emit 5.2 tonnes of CO_2 per year

Return flight to Orlando
will emit 2.1 tonnes of CO_2e

Return trip to Rome
by plane will emit 0.44 tonnes of CO_2e

by train will emit 0.01 tonnes of CO_2e

by car will emit 0.16 tonnes of CO_2e
(with four people travelling)

An area the size of Wiltshire
completely covered with trees could absorb only 1/3 of our county's annual emissions.

Figures calculated using BEIS data, 2019 and carbonfootprint.com

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Photo: Getty Images

How National Policy Supports our Strategy

The UK government has set a target of achieving net zero emissions across the entire country by 2050. This is in line with international goals set by the United Nations. In Wiltshire we can, and will, go further and faster.

The UK government puts supporting green jobs and the net zero carbon goal at the centre of its plans for a green recovery. It is committing significant investment towards achieving this goal, such as £1 billion for retrofitting buildings, £1.3 billion for developing electric vehicle infrastructure and £5.2 billion for new flood and coastal defences.

During the pandemic the government has made a range of climate-related announcements although some expected national strategies were delayed. National policy changed rapidly in the run up to the United Nations Climate Summit, known as COP26, held in

Glasgow in 2021, which coincided with the development of this strategy. At **COP26** the commitments from all countries who signed up to the Paris Agreement were reviewed and the **Glasgow Climate Pact** was drafted. As the host nation, the UK sought to provide ambitious leadership and set interim targets to net zero by 2050: a 68% reduction on 1990 emissions by 2030 and a 78% reduction by 2035.

The message from national government and independent studies is that many of the solutions we need are already understood and available. They include solar and wind power, heat pumps for buildings, electric cars – and more walking, cycling and public transport. We therefore need to base our immediate action on existing technology and behaviour change, while innovating for the longer-term.

The UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) **Sixth Carbon Budget Report**, (December 2020) provided specific scenarios and recommendations for transition to net zero for each sector. The report is clear that we still have the

opportunity to turn the situation around and it is achievable, and affordable.

Many of these measures will deliver co-benefits, for example the woodlands and green corridors created to absorb carbon will also boost wildlife and provide accessible green spaces which is of proven benefit to physical and mental health and wellbeing.

There is a recognition in the **Environment Act** of the negative impact that climate change is having on biodiversity and the benefits that the natural environment can provide in mitigating over-heating and winter flooding. The Environment Act also contains legal provision to overhaul how waste is managed in the UK, with a focus on treating waste as a resource; increasing levels of recycling; and making producers responsible for meeting the costs of collecting and processing of packaging waste.

The **10 Point Plan**, **Net Zero Strategy**, **Heat and Buildings Strategy** and the Sixth Carbon Budget report set out very clear intentions on our national direction of travel as shown in the illustration.

This context allows us to be ambitious but also means that we need to stay flexible. This will enable us to adapt to changes in national policy and technologies.

As national policy and legislation are a crucial enablers of action at a local level, we are involved in influential national networks to shape and inform central government thinking in this area. The council's Leader chairs the **Countryside Climate Network**, made up of ambitious council leaders from 28 predominantly rural councils who represent over 45% of England's land area, making the case that rural communities can be at the forefront of climate action.

National Intentions

More journeys by public transport, walking and cycling

Thousands of jobs created in green sectors
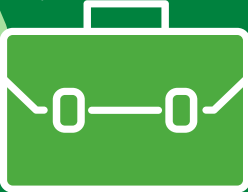
More renewable energy, including offshore wind, hydrogen and nuclear

More electric vehicles

Grid evolution, smart energy generation and storage technologies

A

Delivery themes

❗ = starting immediately

Wiltshire has a beautiful natural environment with rural villages as well as more urban settlements. Using the government's **definition of rurality** and government designated Output Areas from the 2011 Census, our population is split roughly equally between urban and rural areas.

The strategy for tackling climate change in Wiltshire is structured around seven delivery themes. These are presented separately, but there is a large amount of overlap between the themes. For example decisions on where we locate homes and employment (built environment) will affect travel patterns (transport). Reducing energy consumption (energy) underpins other delivery themes such as avoiding trips (transport) and building net zero carbon homes (built environment). How we use land will impact all the themes - for renewable energy, tree planting, food or the built environment.

As would perhaps be expected in a rural county, the largest carbon emitter and our first delivery theme is transport. The natural environment, which featured as a key topic in engagement, is also a wide-ranging theme with many objectives.

The diagram on the next page illustrates the connections between the themes.

This strategy does not set out specific actions and targets; these will follow via delivery plans which will provide more detail on how the objectives will be delivered.

52.6%
URBAN POPULATION

47.3%
RURAL POPULATION

How we build new homes and retrofit existing ones is an important part of the delivery themes of **Home and the Built Environment**, but how we do this also impacts, and is related to, the other delivery themes as well.

By aiming to be a **Carbon Neutral Council** we can look to lead by example with our ten year council home retrofit scheme and pilot of zero carbon builds
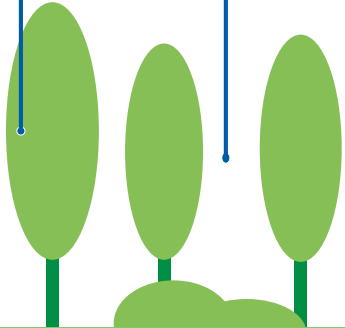
Adaption and Nature based solutions

Energy efficiency and micro-generation

Transport

Waste

New development should include biodiversity net gain and wider links to a network of green spaces

Introduce passive cooling measures

Green roofs

The location of the home can affect the travel available to residents

Residents' behaviour alongside options available for disposal will impact on waste

Tree planting to create shade, cooling and biodiversity

Solar PV and/or solar thermal

Switch to water efficient appliances

Loft insulation

Energy efficient lighting and appliances

Solar shading

Fit insect screens

Cavity or solid wall insulation

Relocate appliances

Double, triple or secondary glazing on windows

Raise electrical sockets

Electric vehicle

Harvest rain water

Underfloor insulation

Low carbon heat source – air or ground source heat pump, hydrogen boiler or district heating

19

Transport

The UK Government's recent **Net Zero Strategy** builds on the **Transport Decarbonisation Plan** which sets the scene for our approach to reaching net zero for transport. Key national objectives are to end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans from 2030 and requiring Local Transport Plans to set out carbon reductions in line with net zero. It is clear that in Wiltshire, a county where the car is currently the main travel mode for rural communities, an important part of the picture will be electric or other zero emissions vehicles. We also want residents to be able to choose modes of travel such as cycling, walking, shared and public transport because they are convenient, affordable, green and inclusive. 15% of Wiltshire households do not have access to a car or a van, rising to 54% of households in the lowest income quintile.

The range of public transport solutions available to us in Wiltshire means that buses will play a central role to our journeys, both in rural areas and more urban places, while railway stations can become hubs for onward travel and integration between travel modes. Evidence shows that increased cycling and walking presents us with a pleasant way to get around to shop, work, socialise, and enjoy improvements to our health, local environment and economy. The national Net Zero Strategy provides the objective that half of all journeys in towns and cities will be walked or cycled by 2030. This will be considered through implementation of the objectives and areas of focus below.

Quick progress is essential, so we will need to act across all areas of focus simultaneously.- reducing trips, shifting to active travel, using public transport and zero carbon vehicles. The Climate Strategy objectives will help guide us as we develop our Local Transport Plan, Local Plan, Bus Service Improvement Plans, and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans. Our Local Transport Plan in particular will work out the best mix of transport and travel solutions to help us achieve zero emissions.

Objectives

- To achieve a transport system in Wiltshire that has zero carbon emissions, acknowledging the different solutions for our towns and city versus rural villages

- Creating the infrastructure for increased walking, cycling, shared and public transport and use of alternative fuels, including electric vehicle charging points

- Achieving high-quality public transport and transport hubs that offer a pleasant and convenient way to get around, and seamless combined journeys

- Locating and designing new developments to reduce the need to travel

A zero carbon mobility and transport system will:

Avoid unnecessary travel – reducing the need to travel through digital options, rationalising and combining journeys and locating services, homes and jobs within reach

Shift to more sustainable modes of transport – achieving mobility and accessibility though public transport, and walking and cycling in our towns and city

Improve vehicles and infrastructure – while hydrogen and other alternative fuels are being tested and developed, we know that electric vehicles need to be part of the immediate solution

Our areas of focus

Wiltshire Council will:

! Better understand our carbon baseline and forecast, and the impact of different transport actions

! Develop and implement a new Wiltshire Local Transport Plan, Local Plan and Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy in line with our climate objectives that will set out plans and policies to help achieve the vision for sustainable mobility and transport in Wiltshire

! Explore how the council can best support infrastructure to encourage the uptake of all types of zero carbon vehicles by Wiltshire residents and businesses, through **Wiltshire Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan** and other future plans

! Produce Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for Wiltshire and the major settlements to unlock further Government funding for measures

● Use planning powers and regeneration programmes to increase accessibility to local services and facilities, creating places that enable local living, and explore the potential for '20 minute' neighbourhoods or similar concepts for Wiltshire

● Through Wiltshire's ambitious **Bus Service Improvement Plan** we will unlock grant funding for public transport in the government's National Bus Strategy and deliver a high quality, lower fare, higher frequency, and greener public transport network. We will build upon the existing rural transport network, including through more Demand Responsive (DRT) type operations

● Building on lessons learned in the pandemic and new working patterns, revise and implement the Wiltshire Council travel plan for the council's 4,500 staff

Using our influence and partnerships we will:

! As part of the Local Transport Plan, develop a vision for sustainable mobility and transport in Wiltshire as a basis for the changes needed to achieve zero carbon travel

! Encourage town and parish councils to help develop and deliver infrastructure that links with the wider sustainable transport network, such as Town Cycle Networks as they become updated into Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans

● Work with the rail industry to help enhance train services, deliver required infrastructure, including new stations, and improve rail's inter-connectivity with the wider transport system

● Encourage schools to develop and update nationally accredited green travel plans through the Modeshift STARS scheme. Continue to work with schools to explore and deliver initiatives to support safe walking and cycling

● Develop an active travel network that is inclusive, safe and enjoyable to use, meets the latest design guidance where feasible and embraces new modes such as e-bikes, non-standard cycles, e-scooters and cargo bikes. Routes can coincide with the Rights of Way network, canals, green open spaces and wildlife corridors where appropriate

● Ensure that infrastructure is resilient to the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, extreme heat, storms and power outages

● Make use of available tools, such as government funded initiatives, behaviour change campaigns and community organisations and networks to deliver zero carbon transport in Wiltshire

● Reduce transport emissions through

planning policy, guidance for good design and the next Local Transport Plan

- Work to further increase access to high-speed broadband, to enable digital options including home working, and encourage businesses to embrace these options building on the success of the Wiltshire Online broadband project

- Encourage recovery and ongoing support of the local economy, building on trends to shop local during the pandemic

- Promote local tourism as well as having a 'green travel offer' available for our visitors

- Work with parish and town councils and community groups to support car clubs, car sharing and community and public transport, making use of zero or low emissions vehicles where viable

- Explore the potential for local delivery hubs, and coordinated, low-carbon forms of transport such as cargo bikes for the last mile of deliveries in towns. Support the provision of intermodal and other rail freight terminals in suitable areas

- Work with partners to move to ultra-low emissions vehicles for public transport, and to carbon neutral fuels for heavy fleet vehicles

One thing you can do: reduce your carbon footprint by using the bus or cycling when going on short trips

Photo: Salisbury Reds Bus

Homes and the built environment

Ensuring new development is built to net zero carbon standards as soon as possible is a key theme from all engagement to date, so during the course of the climate strategy consultation we published a set of **frequently asked questions** on our website to answer many of the issues raised in relation to this and other topics. The current review of the Wiltshire Local Plan is one of our main ways as a council to influence the new built environment of Wiltshire, and our new Local Plan is aiming to set out policies for building to net zero carbon standards within the constraints of the national planning system and housing market.

However, it is not just new buildings that need to be net zero because they make up a very small proportion of all buildings in Wiltshire. We also need to retrofit existing buildings so that they are

energy efficient, use low carbon sources of energy and are resilient to climate change. The Committee for Climate Change highlights 'there is broad scope for variation in the overall heat mix, and in the precise mix of technologies deployed'. Research for the strategy (including by the Climate Emergency Task Group) shows that there are different types of retrofit technologies: well-established such as insulation; technologies that are becoming more widely used such as air source heat pumps and emerging but tested newer technologies such as Energiesprong.

Whilst hydrogen is seen as having a role complementing the energy system, in particular in relation to harder to decarbonise industries, the decision on any role it may play in building heating will not be taken until 2026. The **Net Zero Strategy** and the **Heat and Buildings Strategy** do however both show heat pumps having an important role, in particular for the period of this climate strategy, with the government's stated aim to significantly increase the uptake and market for these. The key therefore is that we don't wait for new technologies but move forward with what we can now, learning from others including the council's own work programmes.

Objectives

- New buildings, including homes, to be net zero carbon and adaptable to climate change as soon as possible (including measures such as water efficiency)

- Existing buildings in all sectors to be retrofitted to improve energy efficiency and decrease energy demand through low carbon technology

- New and existing buildings to be adapted to climate change for both heating and cooling, and to include measures of benefit to the wider environment where possible (see diagram on page 19 for some of the potential measures)

In relation to the existing Wiltshire housing stock, 480 homes would need to be retrofitted every week for the next eight years to get to net zero by 2030. This shows the importance of applying for retrofit funding and engaging with residents as an immediate area of focus; and partnership working in all sectors to allow us to build the supply chains and resident confidence to enable high levels of retrofit in later years.

The non-residential sector can raise specific challenges, e.g. liability and ownership issues at schools, or the many typologies of buildings with different

challenges in the industrial and commercial sectors. Access to funding, whether this is in the form of grants or the ability to borrow, will also be key.

Our areas of focus

Wiltshire Council will:

! Continue to implement the ten-year programme to retrofit all council homes to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) B standard. This looks at whole house retrofit and includes both energy saving measures such as insulation and technologies like air source heat pumps

! Aspire for net zero carbon development by the council where viable and possible. Starting with the council's own new build development programme; a pilot project to manufacture 19 zero carbon homes (in use) off-site. Using a fabric-first approach, the homes will be all-electric with PV panels

! Use the Local Plan review as an opportunity for zero carbon standards in new builds; stronger policy on adaptation and mitigation; and improved policies on other aspects such as water use and well-considered site layouts

● Look at the council estate to find an opportunity for a case study on retrofitting a historic building

Using our influence and partnerships we will:

! Help residents to understand and engage in retrofitting their homes by information provision and active promotion

! Continue to help fuel-poor households improve the efficiency of their homes by targeted support

! Work in partnership to bid for retrofit funding

● Disseminate learning from our own programmes to partners locally and nationally. This includes via case studies

● Work in partnership to raise standards in both housing and the wider built environment, such as business and schools, utilising existing and new communication channels. This includes with social housing providers through existing partnerships

Warm and Safe Wiltshire

A fair and just transition is a key principle of the strategy. Warm and Safe Wiltshire provides home energy efficiency advice and grants to fuel-poor households.

Historic Environment

Recent research by Historic England (2019) and others shows how historic buildings can be retrofitted to help meet climate aims.

One thing you can do: reduce your carbon footprint by turning down your thermostat

Photo: Castle Combe

Natural Environment, Food and Farming

A healthy natural environment provides ecosystem services for people, wildlife and the economy, including absorbing carbon dioxide (see diagram on page 27).

Climate change is making it more important than ever to protect and enhance biodiversity, habitats and soil health. We need to reduce pollution and stress on the environment and enable ecosystems and biodiversity to thrive, be more able to adapt to climate change and support human life.

National strategies, the Environment Act and the Glasgow Climate Pact recognise that nature-based solutions and protection of the natural environment must be pursued in tandem with carbon-reduction measures.

Wiltshire Council is responding through its Wiltshire Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, which establishes shared goals and aspirations for climate, biodiversity and health and wellbeing.

The food production system in the UK accounts for around 20% of national greenhouse gas emissions. The **National Food Strategy** looks at solving the problem of producing enough food while simultaneously restoring nature and absorbing carbon.

To respond to the climate and ecological emergency we will develop Wiltshire-specific targets as well as supporting government policy and legislation such as the **Net Zero Strategy**, Environment Act and 25 Year Environment Plan. Together, the Climate Strategy and the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy will shape delivery.

Objectives

- Efficient and environmentally sensitive use of land, providing for the needs of an increasing population and nature: food production, renewable energy generation, housing and transport, alongside woodland creation and nature recovery
- Absorbing carbon, by plants and well-managed soils
- Sustainable, low-carbon food and farming systems
- Protect and extend our network of green spaces and land and water habitats. Make best use of this network of green and blue spaces for biodiversity, active travel, recreation, cooling, shade and absorbing carbon
- Natural water management – improving climate resilience by reducing flood risk and summer droughts, and reducing water use

It will be important to value the historic, cultural and working environment that makes Wiltshire special and gives us a sense of place and identity, while making room for new solutions which may create change in our landscape and settlements.

Our areas of focus

Wiltshire Council will:

! Use the **Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy** for Wiltshire as our framework for partnership working to extend and improve Wiltshire's green and blue infrastructure network, with its key goals of 'adaptation, mitigation and resilience to climate change', 'halting loss of and improving biodiversity', and 'contributing to health and wellbeing'

- Support the roll out of the **Community Environmental Toolkit**

- Plant trees and create other suitable habitats on council land where appropriate

- Develop a Wiltshire Council Tree and Woodland Planting Strategy to establish targets and advice on planting the right tree in the right place

- Continue to implement, review and update the Wiltshire Council **Climate Change Adaptation Plan**

- Improve information on the effects of climate change in Wiltshire and show what residents, business, landowners, farmers and decision-makers can do to be prepared for and resilient to climate change

Using our influence and partnerships we will:

- Work with Wiltshire stakeholders, communities and farmers on ways to reduce emissions from food and farming. Encourage and support landowners and farmers in improving soil health, water quality, woodland and other habitat creation, renewable energy and regenerative practices, including through Local Nature Recovery Strategies and the council's work with farmers on phosphate reduction

- Support landowners and community groups to enhance their green infrastructure, for example by bidding for funding

- Use our communications and networks and work with town and parish councils to support sustainable, local food growing and buying

- Be informed by Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership's research to measure natural capital and use it to inform decision-making

- Recognise the role canal and river trusts play in natural flood management of our river catchments and biodiversity, and explore the potential of the canals for active travel and renewable energy generation
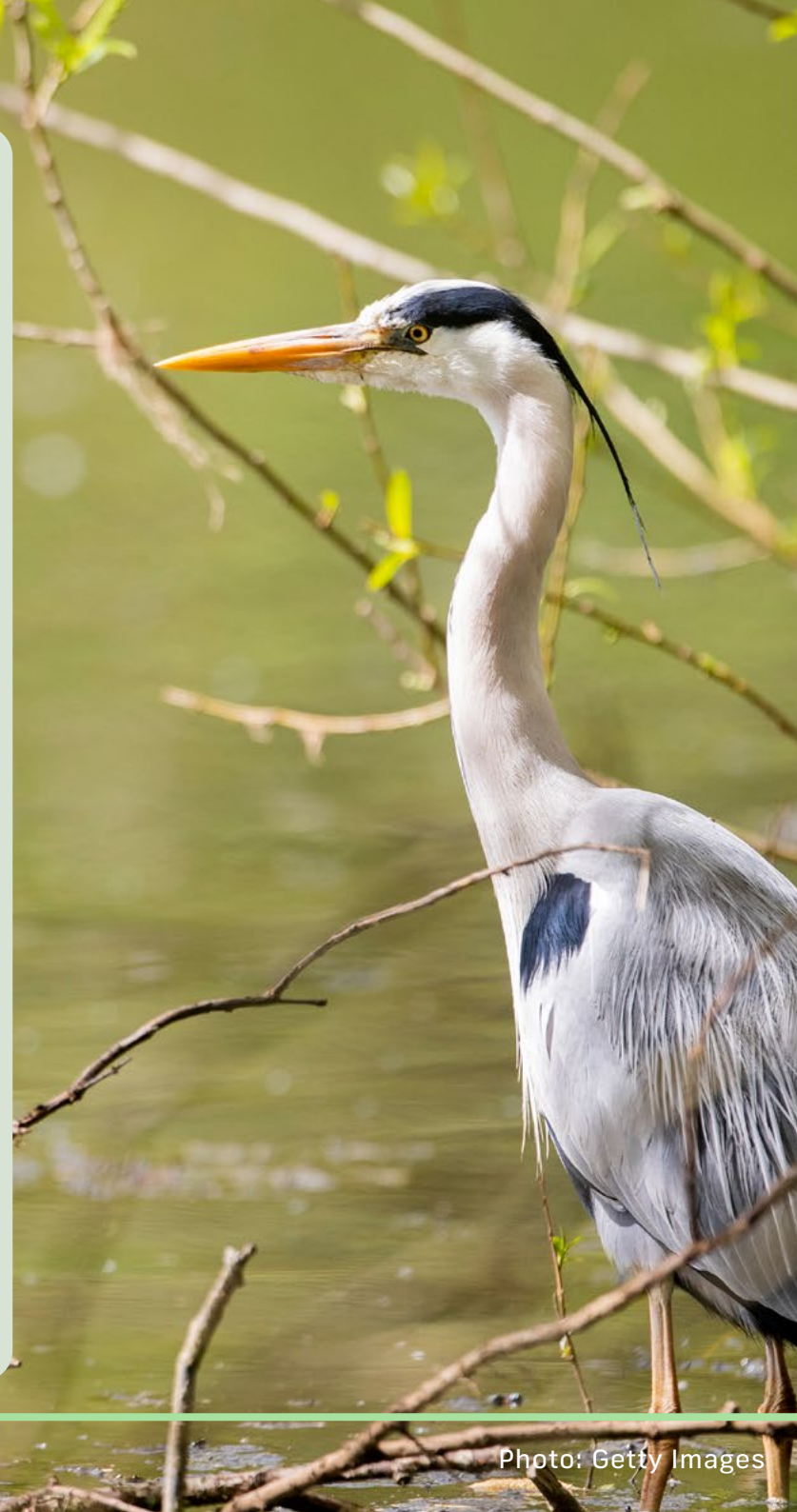
Photo: Getty Images

Ecosystem services

REGULATING SERVICES

Water, Air & Soil Quality

Climate & Hazard Control

Pest & Disease Control

Pollination

Soil Production

Plant Growth

SUPPORTING SERVICES

Food

Fresh Water

Spiritual Enrichment

Cultural Heritage

Nutrient & Water Cycling

Recreation & Tourism

Building Materials

Energy & Fuel

Wellbeing

PROVISIONING SERVICES

CULTURAL SERVICES

One thing you can do: peat acts as a carbon store, but damage to peatlands is leading to loss of carbon and habitat so use peat free compost in your garden, or why not try making your own, using a **food waste composter**?

Photo: Getty Images

Energy

At present the grid supplies energy on demand. Once transport and heating are electrified, there will be a much greater demand. In order to manage this **a flexible and 'smart' grid** will be needed. The UK Net Zero Strategy sets a high level of ambition, stating that all electricity will come from low carbon sources by 2035, subject to security of supply, whilst meeting a 40-60% increase in demand. In order for the grid and renewable energy supply to cope with additional demands from heat and transport, we will also need to reduce our use of energy generally, in line with the 'greenhouse gas hierarchy' (and our principles on page 8): we will need to 'save energy', use 'energy efficiency', as well as 'installing renewables', 'replacing with low emission technology', and then deal with the **unavoidable** emissions by 'compensating (through offsetting)' and 'neutralising (through carbon removals)'.

While progress has been made on decarbonising electricity by using renewable energy to power the grid, the decarbonisation of heat remains a significant challenge and potential opportunity. As we change the fuels that we use for heating, skills and supply chains will also need to adapt to provide non-fossil fuel alternatives.

Page 530

Objectives:

- Existing energy use within Wiltshire to be reduced to allow for decarbonisation

- Heat and electricity to be decarbonised (moving from fossil fuels to alternatives)

Our areas of focus

Wiltshire Council will:

! Continue its multi-million pound programme to install renewable electricity and heat on council operational property and council homes where feasible (see Built Environment section)

! Carry out a Wiltshire-wide assessment of the potential for renewable energy production, using a range of technologies, to inform renewable energy targets and policies

Using our influence and partnerships we will:

! Promote the benefits of green energy tariffs to residents and partners while also encouraging energy reduction

- Raise awareness of the need to start with energy reduction, and the role of flexibility and the smart-grid, to guide changes in behaviour

- Increase renewable electricity generation including microgeneration (and associated technologies such as storage) in Wiltshire by working in partnership with others. The need for energy generation must be balanced against other land uses and this will be reviewed

- Continue to work with partners including grid operators to address grid constraints and enable alternative, new and emerging technologies

- Explore supporting community energy groups to increase local engagement in the development of renewable energy and retain economic benefits in the area

- Encourage the installation of solar energy on existing buildings for example through planning policy, partnership working and bulk buy schemes
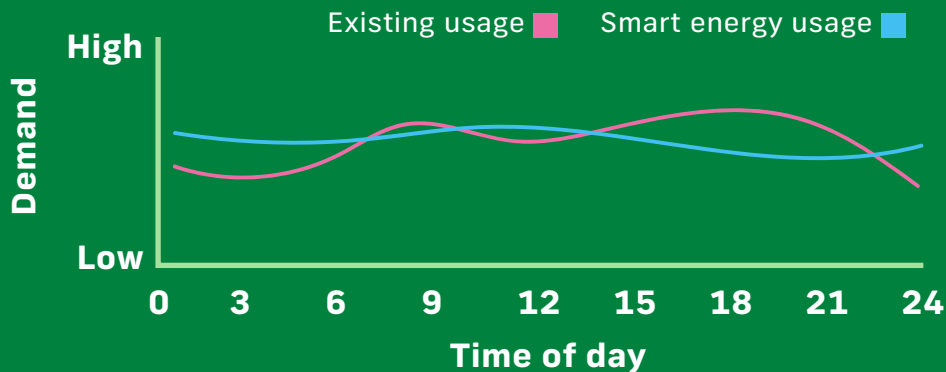
Future technology mix

Future energy scenarios by the National Grid and the 10 Point Plan by central government both show technologies currently only at trial stage playing a large role in the move to net zero. Research by the International Energy Agency (IEA) shows existing technologies being key until 2030 with the emerging technologies starting at pace after 2030.

Using smart technology to balance demand will reduce peak energy requirement

Existing usage ■   Smart energy usage ■

[Line chart: Demand (Low to High) versus Time of day (0 to 24). Two curves showing "Existing usage" (pink) and "Smart energy usage" (blue).]

Demand — High / Low

Time of day — 0 3 6 9 12 15 18 21 24

One thing you can do: switching to a green energy provider can significantly reduce your carbon footprint.

Photo: Getty Images

Green economy

To be 'green' our economic activity must avoid environmental degradation and be efficient, resilient and fair. It encompasses the circular economy (see Resources and Waste) which preserves and recycles resources. It includes investing in sectors that can support a transition to net zero alongside economic recovery as well as reducing the environmental impact of businesses and services.

This future economy will include more jobs in sectors such as renewable energy, electric vehicles and installing low carbon heating in buildings. This is a huge opportunity for Wiltshire not only in supporting our economic resilience, but also encouraging industry and businesses that enable other sectors to decarbonise. In order to ensure a fair transition, care must be taken to ensure those affected by changes in employment have opportunities to upskill and reskill for the green economy.

Objectives:

- To grow the green economy in Wiltshire, increasing capacity and skills in key sectors to meet demand and delivery targets

- Wiltshire businesses take action to be net zero and climate resilient

Our areas of focus

Wiltshire Council will:

- ! Stimulate the green and circular economy and local supply chains by delivering programmes in key sectors such as housing retrofit and investment in renewables

- ! Develop a requirement for suppliers to measure and reduce their environmental impact

- Support the growth of businesses focused on sustainability and zero carbon innovation and attract new ones to invest in the county

- Showcase what leading businesses are doing on this agenda in Wiltshire

- Promote green skills opportunities to young people through the Wiltshire and Swindon Careers Hub and encourage engagement with green jobs and apprenticeships through

Wiltshire Council Employment and Skills programmes

Using our influence and partnerships we will:

- ! Continue to support the social and economic vibrancy of our towns and city, and continue to promote "shop local"

- Work with the Education, Employment and Skills Action Group to identify specific needs for upskilling and reskilling of our workforce

- Work with training providers and employers to increase training for green skills. This depends on generating sufficient demand which our own council programmes will help with

- Work with local networks to support small organisations, from SMEs to local charities, to become climate resilient and sustainable

- Input to government policy and funding programmes, to make sure they are appropriate for Wiltshire residents and businesses

Number of green jobs in Wiltshire:

Number of green jobs in Wiltshire chart (thousands):
- Current (1,800)
- Projected 2030 (6,856)
- Projected 2050 (13,040)

Y-axis: 0, 5,000, 10,000, 15,000
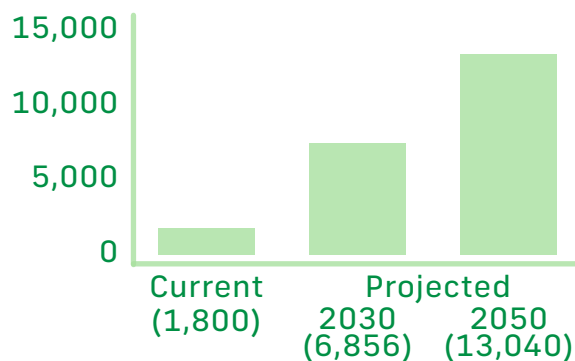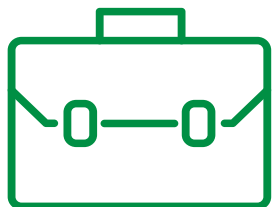
A 2020 survey of 1,000 people aged 18 to 34 found that 50 percent wanted a job in the green economy.

Good Energy Survey, 2020

One thing you can do: by sourcing a **reputable local trader** for your renewable energy or heat pump installation you'll help build local supply chains throughout Wiltshire. It is important to thoroughly insulate your home first.

Photo: Salisbury Cathedral solar panel installation   Credit: Ash Mills

Resources and waste

The council's current **household waste management strategy** follows the waste hierarchy, aiming to reduce and recycle waste as much as possible, while dealing with residual waste in the most sustainable way currently available. National policy supports generating energy from non recyclable waste, and in future is likely to require carbon capture and storage on all energy from waste plants to reduce carbon impact. Ideally we would have a lot less waste because we will be consuming less and using our resources such as metals, water, timber and plastics efficiently and this would all be managed within a circular economy.

A circular economy is one where resources are used as efficiently as possible, changing what was traditionally a linear process – using things and then throwing them away - to a circular process where value is retained and recovered within the system.

Objectives:

- Work towards a circular economy

- Work towards zero avoidable waste in Wiltshire and decarbonising the waste management process

- Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy: reduce overall waste, increase the amount and quality of waste recycled and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill

Our areas of focus

Wiltshire Council will:

! Continue to provide efficient recycling services and review the potential for expanding the range of items collected and maximising the efficiency of collections wherever possible

! Keep our household waste management strategy under review, reflecting carbon assessment of collection and disposal options, including the impact of processing waste locally or abroad, and recognising the requirements of the new Environment Act to potentially extend the scope of recycling collections, to include separated food waste

Using our influence and partnerships we will:

! Prevent waste - provide advice and information to help reduce the amount of waste generated by householders as well as commercial waste

- Repair and re-use - work with local organisations and contractors to maximise opportunity for items to be repaired and reused

- Work with businesses and partners to reduce commercial waste and to conserve resources such as energy, water and timber

- Lobby government in support of the most sustainable options for future national waste management strategy

By recycling and composting household waste rather than sending to landfill, in 2020/21 we saved 38,781 tonnes CO_2e

98% of the waste collected by Wiltshire Council, for recycling, composting or reuse, was managed within the UK and not exported abroad

Wiltshire recycles

As well as reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, recycling helps conserve raw materials and protect natural habitats
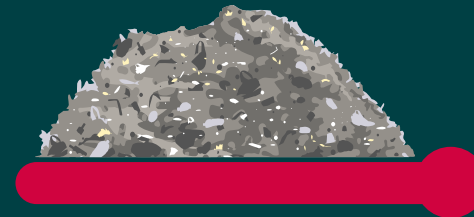
Landfill waste produces 20 times more emissions than recycling

One thing you can do: Waste food **accounts for** 8-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, from rotting food, and through the (wasted) energy used to produce, store, transport and package it. Reduce the amount of food waste that you throw away by utilising your leftovers and meal planning.

Carbon neutral council

Objective:

- To become carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030
- Provide leadership locally and nationally, sharing learning

Our 2030 pledge relates to the council's carbon emissions (or 'carbon footprint') that are within our direct control, i.e. those from our operations and buildings (scopes 1 & 2). In order to fulfil this commitment, the council's carbon footprint will be drastically reduced compared with its current footprint and any residual emissions will be offset.

The council's Business Plan has four main priorities – 'Sustainable Environment', 'Empowered People', 'Resilient Society' and 'Thriving Economy'. All need to be delivered as priorities at the same time.

Our areas of focus

Wiltshire Council will:

- ! Integrate carbon reduction and climate resilience into decision-making and strategic planning based on implementation of the council's Business Plan mission that 'we take responsibility for the environment' and 'we are on the path to carbon neutral'

- ! Embed carbon reduction and climate resilience into council working culture, through staff training, values and reward frameworks

- ! Develop a new Carbon Neutral Council Plan, published in 2022, to include:

- Property / Assets: continue to decarbonise heating, improve energy efficiency and expand renewable electricity generation.

- Fleet: strategy review, move to electric vehicles and identify alternative solutions for larger vehicles. Emissions from council vehicles will be reduced by 25% by December 2022, and fully carbon neutral by 2030

- Set further interim targets, informed by a study setting out the council's roadmap to carbon neutral

- ! Continue to monitor and reduce direct emissions, while working to understand and reduce scope 3 emissions (supply chain and outsourced operations) for wider impact

- ! Work with the council's supply community, to help achieve economic, environmental and social benefits for the public good and the people of Wiltshire (including reduced carbon emissions) when the council buys goods or services

- Ensure council property and infrastructure is resilient to the impacts of climate change

- Ensure all investment considers our climate objectives

- Support the Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee's responsible **investment policy**, Climate Strategy and action plan

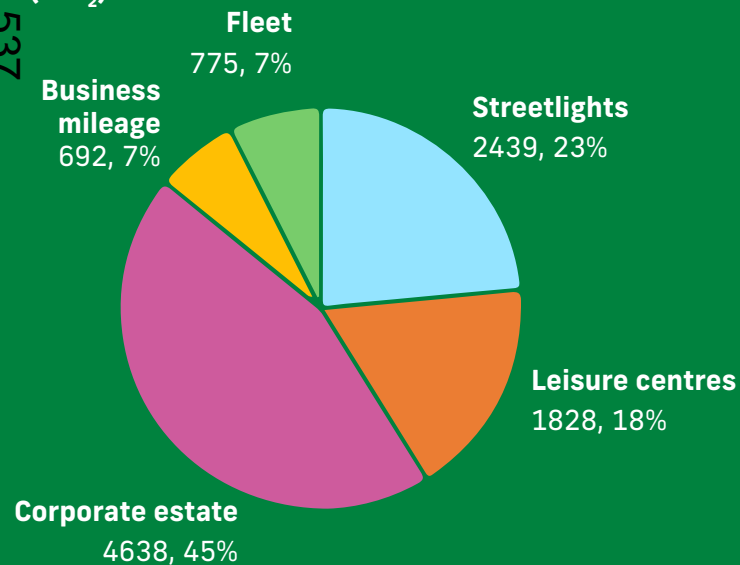## Using our influence and partnerships we will:

! Lobby government for increased funding and powers through groups such as **UK100**/Countryside Climate Network, **ADEPT** and the **County Councils Network**

● Work with public sector partners, voluntary and community sector and over 20,000 businesses across Wiltshire to share knowledge and delivery
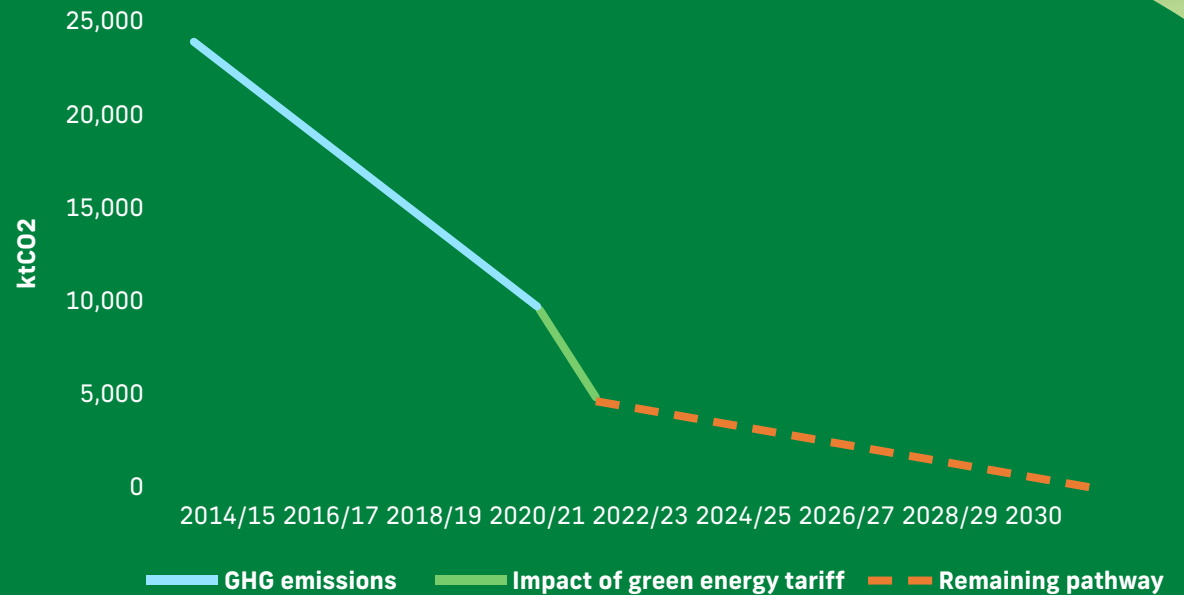
One thing we will do: Develop a carbon literacy programme for staff any councillors wishing to develop their knowledge and apply it in their role.

Wiltshire Council emissions 2020/21 before application of green electricity tarif (tCO₂)

- Fleet 775, 7%
- Business mileage 692, 7%
- Streetlights 2439, 23%
- Leisure centres 1828, 18%
- Corporate estate 4638, 45%

Wiltshire Council greenhouse gas emissions since 2014/15

ktCO2

25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0

2014/15 2016/17 2018/19 2020/21 2022/23 2024/25 2026/27 2028/29 2030

— GHG emissions — Impact of green energy tariff - - Remaining pathway

Photo: Wiltshire countryside

Working together

The climate emergency is a complex problem and there are no easy solutions. Everything is linked, so benefits in one area such as energy efficiency in homes can also mean 'co-benefits' in others such as warmth, health and financial savings.

Delivery within each theme will naturally cross over into other themes and will require working in partnership with organisations, residents, businesses and the entire community of Wiltshire.

Engagement with stakeholders has shown that Wiltshire organisations and businesses are already working on their own pathway to carbon neutral and are keen to work with the council and each other towards this goal.

It is clear that information and awareness will play a central part, and change by individuals as well as organisations, businesses and the council, is critical.

The council has been progressing on carbon reduction for over 10 years. It is now time to increase the scale and pace of action, working with others to achieve this.

'Central government is working on its strategies as is Wiltshire Council. If we wait for each tier to complete its work before we start, it will be too late… we all need to start now.'

(Quote from climate action day for town and parish councils, November 2021)

Photo: Salisbury Community Energy solar panels on Salisbury Cathedral. Credit: Ash Mills

Governance

The council has set up a robust internal governance framework to oversee the climate programme, as set out in our January 2021 **discussion document**. As part of this, six-monthly progress reports are provided to **Cabinet** and Council and **published online**. The Climate Emergency Task Group provides scrutiny for this programme of work.

! A new Climate and Environment Forum will be set up to enable a regular two way dialogue and share ideas with local community representatives

We will continue to deliver through existing partnerships, such as the BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care System, the Wiltshire Public Service Board and the Education Employment and Skills Action Group. Wiltshire Council routinely works with partners such as registered housing providers to look at zero carbon homes. The Public Sector Partners Climate Working Group brings together partners such as the NHS, police, fire service, MOD and colleges with the council, to share their approaches and progress towards net zero. We will support local councils in their efforts to address climate change, building on the workshop held in 2021 with Centre for Sustainable Energy to help town and parish councils develop climate action plans. The council will continue to convene and contribute to working groups as a springboard for collaboration, showcasing, providing leadership and a catalyst for action on climate change.

Photo: County Hall, Trowbridge (pre-COVID-19)

Next steps

This strategy was reviewed during autumn 2021 in light of consultation feedback and relevant changes in national policy.

As our understanding improves we will be able to define net zero pathways for the council and for the county as a whole. Meanwhile we will take immediate action on the 'no regrets' measures. These are highlighted by an exclamation mark throughout the delivery themes section. Research shows that we need these measures, they are not likely to be a mistake, and they are possible using existing technologies. Delivery plans will be produced, informed by technical studies, which will involve a more in-depth analysis of impacts, costs and co-benefits.

Our areas of focus

! The council will continue to deliver carbon reduction work, while working to understand the pathway to carbon neutral and net zero

! By Summer 2022 the council will have the results of studies showing the pathway to carbon neutrality for council operations and for key areas of Wiltshire county emissions

! The council will produce evidence-led delivery plans, identifying targets to deliver this strategy. Priorities will be based on carbon savings, cost, feasibility and co-benefits, in line with the principles of this strategy (see page 8)

! The council is incorporating Climate Strategy objectives into its annual service delivery planning

! An information campaign will help to increase awareness of climate change and provide practical steps to residents

We will continue to monitor progress on our direct emissions and increase measurement and understanding of indirect emissions. We will track progress on our strategic objectives and emissions data and report these to Council and on our **website**. Ultimately our success will be measured through a reduction in emissions for the council and for the county as a whole. However the two year time lag in reporting on government statistics and the wide range of other factors influencing emissions means that other measures will also be reported. These measures will be set out in our delivery plans.

Our approaches will need to develop over time. This overarching strategy is designed to be flexible and will be reviewed as the national context and technology evolve.

Strategies and targets

This diagram shows a range of key National Government and Wiltshire Council strategies and targets including those in the pipeline. As it is important to start as soon as possible, we are also seizing the immediate opportunities.

Government ● **Wiltshire Council** ●

2019

February - Wiltshire Council declares a Climate Emergency

June - Climate Emergency Task Group first meeting

2020

Wiltshire Council climate team in place

October - Wiltshire Council programme to change streetlights to LEDs begins (set to achieve an 83% reduction in carbon emissions by 2023 compared to 2013/14 baseline)

Government publishes Energy White Paper

Part 1 of the independent National Food Strategy published

Wiltshire Council programme to retrofit council homes to Energy Performance Certificate B is agreed

2021

Wiltshire Council zero carbon modular new build council homes pilot starts production

Wiltshire Council upgrades to fully traceable green energy tariff

Government publishes Bus Back Better the National Bus strategy

Wiltshire Council begins work (using Public Sector Decarbonisation funding) to upgrade heating systems and add solar PV to a range of buildings in its own estate (estimated to save 1200 tonnes of CO_2 per year)

Wiltshire Council starts work on Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure plans and receives Bus Back Better funding

Summer/Autumn - National Transport Decarbonisation Plan, Hydrogen Strategy, Heat and Buildings Strategy, Net Zero Strategy and National Food Strategy published

UK Environment Act became law

Wiltshire Council Community Environmental Toolkit produced

2022+

UN

November UN Climate Change Conference (COP) 26 held in the UK

February 2022 - Wiltshire Climate Strategy and Wiltshire Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy adopted

2023 - Wiltshire Local Transport Plan

2022/2023 - Delivery Plans for Climate Strategy

2022 - Government set to publish national EV infrastructure strategy, Aviation Strategy and England Tree Strategy.

2023 - Wiltshire Local Plan

2025 - Government target for fossil fuel boilers to be banned in new builds

2025 - Government's Future Homes Standard and Future Buildings standard to be introduced

2030 - Government target for four operational Carbon Capture and Storage clusters (two in 2020 and to by 2030)

2028 - Government target date to have 600,000 air source heat pump installations per year

2030 - Government set to end the of sale of new petrol and diesel cars

50% 2032 - Government target for public sector to have reduced its direct emissions by 50% compared to a 2017 baseline

2050 - Government UK target for net zero carbon emissions

Carbon foot-printing tools

For individuals: **footprint.wwf.org.uk**

Parish and town councils: impact-tool.org.uk

Neighbourhood-level statistics: www.carbon.place

Photo: Stourhead

Wiltshire Council
Climate Strategy 2022 - 2027

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/climate
#WiltsCanDoThis

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Appendix Three: Area Board Environmental actions – December 21 update

Area Boards	Action/ project/ engagement	Status (complete/ planned)
Stonehenge	Greener Durrington pilot ongoing	Complete
	Development of easy local actions to share with Town & Parishes	Ongoing
	Online / face to face workshop early 2022	Planned
	Photovoltaic Cell and Air Source Heat Pump test case examples from local supplier to the early 2022	Planned
Bradford on Avon	Promotion of Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy consultation	Complete
	Support BoA Climate Festival 'Big Green Week'	Complete
	Invite Climate Friendly BoA as Area Board partner	Complete
	Explore E car club model	Ongoing
Calne	Hold an ECO Fair to promote & celebrate ideas about COP26, living sustainably and encourage positive community conversations/actions.	Complete (6/11/21)
	Re-form Air Quality Management group and progress action plan	Complete and ongoing.
	Exploration of ways to promote and develop the Marden Valley sustainably, offering healthy, active opportunities for the community to engage in an exploration of the biodiversity of this locally important natural habitat.	Ongoing
Chippenham	Chippenham AB Climate & Ecological Emergency Forum Feb 2022	Ongoing
	Climate & Environment Theme Area Board Spring 2022	Ongoing
	Ring fenced funding for Environmental projects (Avon Needs Trees/ Litter Picking/ Recycling/using clothing)	Complete
Corsham	Promotion of Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy consultation	Complete
	Host Corsham area Climate Strategy meeting	Complete
	Set up Corsham Area Climate Group	Complete
	Support development of a Directory of Environmental Action in Corsham	Ongoing
	Promote Transcoco COP26 Talk and 'Big Green Week' festivals in Colerne, Neston and Gastard.	Ongoing
Devizes	Green Travel – Funding new Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for area. Funding agreed 06/12/2021. Atkins to be commissioned	Ongoing
	Green Travel – Developing new cycle routes linking north of Devizes to town centre + Poulshot & Potterne to town centre	Ongoing
	Green Travel – Community cycle rides led by Cycle Friendly Devizes	Complete

Area Boards	Action/ project/ engagement	Status (complete/ planned)
	Green Travel – New rail station: Devizes Gateway. Strategic Outline Business Case submitted to DfT	Ongoing
	Green travel - Audit of cycle parking spaces throughout town carried out by Cycle Friendly Devizes	Complete
	Green travel – new cycle parking spaces created for Devizes marketplace. Funding agreed 06/12/2021. Devizes TC to implement.	Complete
	Improve air quality – Working with PTU to improve town bus service + No. 49 service	Ongoing
	Improve air quality – Wiltshire Council EV Charging strategy: to encourage T&PCs to look at using funding to help provide charging points for residents without off-street parking	Ongoing
	Improve air quality – Wiltshire Council EV Charging strategy: to look at supplementing the number of charging points within town.	Ongoing
	Improve air quality – Carry out assessment of establishing community car club within Devizes	Ongoing
	Promote Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy consultation	Complete
Malmesbury	Green travel – footpaths / bridleways working group initiated to improve local network	Ongoing
	Funding and advice provided (£2,000) towards set up costs for a Community Fridge Freezer in Malmesbury Town Hall	Complete
	Funding provided (£2,500) towards Renew Malmesbury CIC for start up costs towards a green hub / space	Complete
Marlborough	Promote Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy consultation	Complete
	Work alongside & support town council's Environment Working Group	Ongoing
	Establish Air Quality Group (as sub-group Environmental Working Group?)	Ongoing
	Begin to gather data for town on traffic flow and air quality	Ongoing
	Help develop bid to TNL's Together for our Planet grant scheme (submitted but declined)	Complete
	Improve air quality – Carry out assessment of establishing community car club within Marlborough	Ongoing
	Develop E-W cycle path as far as Marleberg Grange based on Old Railway Path route	Ongoing
	Improve infrastructure for cycling within town and nearby villages	Ongoing

Area Boards	Action/ project/ engagement	Status (complete/ planned)
Melksham	Promote Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy consultation	Complete
	Support to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust "Clackers Brook Restoration Plan"	Ongoing
	Public Open Space Network Fund - £10K to resource community action	Ongoing
	Work alongside Town Council Environment and Climate Working Group	Ongoing
	Support for "Priority for People" scheme to promote walking, cycling, public transport and public realm improvements in the town centre	Ongoing
	Grant Funding to Conigre Mead Nature Reserve volunteers for new kit	Complete
Pewsey	Joint local meeting with Tidworth being arranged Feb/March to discuss local initiatives	Planned
RWB & Cricklade	Promote the Wiltshire Council Climate Strategy and COP26.	Complete
	Establish an Area Board wide Environment Group	Planned
	Funding for a Community Orchard in Royal Wootton Bassett	In Development
Salisbury	Milford Hollow Rewilding Project by the Milford Preservation group, funded by the Salisbury Area Board in November 2021 Green Heating for Harnham Hub by Harnham St George and All Saints PCC, funded by the Salisbury Area Board in November 2021	Planned
	Air Quality Management Group meeting in December 2021	Planned
	Salisbury Transition Group and Share Salisbury leading on a Green Directory for businesses in Salisbury	Planned
Southern Wiltshire	Planning an environment themed workshops in Jan / Feb 2022	Planned
	Produced, published and promoted an eco-friendly villages directory in January 2021	completed
	Facilitated the set up of Home Run APP as a green travel tool to assist Laverstock secondary and primary schools where there has been a considerable school run issue for the last 12+years	completed
South West Wiltshire	Developing a Mere E- Car Club project (£11k area board funding)	planned
	Supporting the Tisbury E car club	planned
	Delivered an environment themed workshop in July 2021 and planning a follow up one with Cranborne Chase AONB in early 2022	Completed / planned
Tidworth	Joint local meeting with Pewsey being arranged Feb/March to discuss local initiatives	Planned
	New charging points to be added at new Civic Hall part funded by Area Board	Build starting end 2022

Area Boards	Action/ project/ engagement	Status (complete/ planned)
Trowbridge	Improvements to track and footpaths at Green Lane Woodland supported and funded by Trowbridge Area Board. Official opening weekend of 25th and 26th November to coincide with a mass tree planting project – attendance by some AB Cllrs	Complete
	Trowbridge ECO to present at Area Board in Jan 2022. Presenting on work taken place this year, forthcoming projects, volunteering opportunities and an expected request for financial support	Planned
	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust leading on the improvements to River Biss as part of the Trowbridge Future High Street Fund project	On-going
Westbury	Eco event held in October during Wiltshire Council Environment Strategy Consultation period	Complete
	Bitham Brook wildlife habitat improvement project AB Funded run by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.	Phase 1 complete – phase 2 in development – scheduled spring 2022
	Memorandum of Understanding between parish council's, town council and supported by AB to improve connectivity between villages and town specifically towards Westbury Train Station. Also looking at other environmental themed projects – wildlife corridors etc`	On-going
	Support for Connecting Chapmanslade project to improve cycling connectivity between Westbury Warminster and Frome	Ongoing – project dormant for 2 years – looking to re-initiate

Appendix Four: Active Travel update

Scheme Name	Location	Description	Funding	Status
Hilperton Road, Trowbridge	The Halve to Quarter Way Lane	Cycle Super Highway, Two Toucan Crossing & Shared Use path	Integrated Transport Block (ITB) / Section 106 (S106)	Cabinet Member decision made. Construction commenced 10/01/2022 - Anticipated duration 10 Weeks.
Hilperton Road to Melksham	A361 Hilperton Road, Trowbridge to Melksham via Semington	Cycle path comprising segregated cycle facilities, shared-use paths, point closures and utilisation of a country byway	EATF2 (Emergency Active Travel Fund Tranche 2)	Design is ongoing. Cabinet Member decision to proceed with Byway option approved. Design issues have been raised with surface material and horse riders - Atkins preparing Technical Note. March construction (commencement) is programmed.
Easton Lane	Easton Lane linking Corsham and Chippenham	The route is part of NCN 403 that runs between Corsham and Chippenham. The scheme comprises a point closure and signage improvements at the Corsham end.	EATF2	Cabinet Member report on consultation signed off. Statutory consultation has been completed - Awaiting confirmation on whether objections have been received. Potential Cabinet Member report required. Design work is ongoing. Construction programmed for March 2022.
Winsley to Bradford on Avon		Shared use path linking St Lawrence School & Winsley	ITB	Scheme delayed from Summer 2021 due to A36 Cleveland Bridge works. Planned for summer 2022. Design work ongoing. Addition of street lighting considered to negatively impact bat population, and has been removed from the proposal.
RWB to Swindon SUP	Between Royal Wootton Bassett and Swindon	Shared-use path partly on the highway but mainly across open country. Estimated cost £4.7m.	NH Cycling Designated Funding plus £100k local contribution	A preferred route has been agreed comprising of the western section along local roads and the greenway across fields. National Highways (NH) are managing the land negotiations for the greenway, which are still underway. The feasibility business case was recently updated and £400k of NH designated funds was approved for the detailed design of the scheme in 2022/23.

Scheme Name	Location	Description	Funding	Status
Mill Road	Pear Tree Apartments, Mill Road, Salisbury	Shared-use path on Mill Road from Chrchfields to the rail station.	S106	Constructed in July 2021. Network Rail consents and land dedication needs to be finalised - ongoing and awaiting NR response.
Longhedge to Old Sarum eastern Path	Old Sarum / Longhedge Village	Connecting SUPs between the two housing developments	S106	Land acquisition is complete. Design work being undertaken. Laverstock and Ford PC have agreed to take on unregistered strip that will be adopted by WC. Vegetation removed and topographic survey undertaken. Once the survey results are returned, design work can proceed with a view to constructing in 2022/23.
The Centre	The Centre, Amesbury	Shared-use path from School Lane to the High Street	NH Cycling Designated Funding	Atkins completed design work. Town Council and Councillors support the scheme. Construction anticipated March 2022, but still subject to discussion with WC Tree Officer (ongoing).
Rudloe to Corsham footway	B3109 Rudloe and Corsham (Park Place to Skynet Drive)	Provision of new footway (230m) between Rudloe and Corsham	Active Travel Fund	Design will proceed when the outcome of Active Travel Fund bid is announced.
Green Lane	Bishopsdown to Longhedge	Upgrade of RoW to connect to the Old Sarum development	Active Travel Fund	Topographic survey is complete. Design will proceed when the outcome of Active Travel Fund bid is announced.

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject: **Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Scheme 2023/244**

Cabinet Member: **Cllr Laura Mayes – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills**

Key Decision: **Non Key**

Proposal(s)
To approve the following: -

a)   the proposed scheme for the co-ordination of admission to secondary schools for 2023/24.

b)   the proposed scheme for the co-ordination of admissions to primary schools for 2023/24.

c)   the proposed admission arrangements for Voluntary Controlled & Community Secondary Schools for 2023/24.

d)   the proposed admission arrangements for Voluntary Controlled & Community Primary Schools for 2023/24.

Reason for Proposal(s)

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to have a determined admission policy for 2023/24 in place on or before 28 February 2022.

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Subject:	**Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Scheme 2023/24**
Cabinet Member:	**Cllr Laura Mayes – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills**
Key Decision:	**Non Key**

1. Purpose of Report

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to act in accordance with the School Admissions Code and has a statutory duty to formulate and operate schemes to co-ordinate the admissions to all maintained schools and Academies within its area. We are proposing two co-ordinated schemes; one that covers primary schools (including infants and juniors) and the other is for secondary schools.

There is a legal requirement to have schemes in place for the co-ordination of admission to the schools within Wiltshire.

The Local Authority is also the statutory admission authority for Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools in its area. As such, it is required to formulate admission arrangements which outline how it will admit children to those schools. There are two proposed schemes one for secondary and one for primary (including infant and junior schools).

The report presents the four elements of the Admissions Policy which, following consultation, are required to be determined by Cabinet.

2. Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

The Local Authority has a continued statutory responsibility to provide a school place for all children living in Wiltshire. The four documents have been put in place to ensure that all places are allocated in an open, fair and transparent way.

One of Wiltshire Council's Business Plan outcomes is to achieve inclusive communities where everyone can achieve their potential. Key to this is that everyone has access to high quality education. A functioning, fair admissions policy is required to achieve this.

3. Background

The purpose of co-ordinated arrangements is to make the application process simpler for parents by ensuring that each child gets one offer for one school place.

This requires the School Admissions Team to work with colleagues in Academies, Foundation and Aided schools in Wiltshire and other local authorities.

The co-ordinated process is accepted by schools and the scheme does not need substantial revision. The proposed schemes are substantially the same as those currently being used. All four schemes have been drafted in line with The School Admissions Code which came into force on 1 September 2021.

The LA is the admissions authority for all Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in the county. The governing bodies or Trusts of Academies, Voluntary Aided and Foundation schools are each their own admissions authority.

Each admission authority must determine the arrangements to be used when allocating school places. These proposed arrangements will be used solely for admissions to Wiltshire Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. They incorporate the criteria used to prioritise applications in situations when a school is oversubscribed (i.e. when more applications are received than places available) as well as showing how all admissions will be processed.

4. Main Considerations for the Council

The proposed co-ordinated schemes and admission arrangements have been sent out for consultation to all relevant stakeholders including pre-schools / nurseries, schools, and Dioceses; they have also been placed on the Council's website for parents and the public to view as well as being sent to neighbouring authorities. The consultation began in December 2021 and ended on the 21 January 2022.

The LA received one comment from a member of the public on 6 December 2021 in respect of the proposed schemes which was around the parental responsibly section. We sought clarification on 10 December 2021 as to which part of this section the respondent was referring. However, no response was received. Therefore, no changes have been made to this section and it will remain the same for the 2023/24 academic year. Should a further response be received then it will be considered with regard to the proposed policies for the 2024/25 academic year.

Therefore, as in previous years, it is clear that there is confidence and that with suitable communication systems being in place, the co-operation between the Admissions Team and the Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies which is essential for the smooth operation of a co-ordinated scheme, will be forthcoming.

The proposed timetables for the primary and secondary co-ordinated schemes are based on those used in previous years and so they are familiar to schools and the Admissions Team at Wiltshire Council.

The statutory regulations give clear deadlines for admissions applications, to which the co-ordinated admissions schemes must adhere.

- Secondary Deadline   31 October 2022
- Primary Deadline   15 January 2023
- Secondary Notification Date   1 March 2023

- Primary Notification Date 17 April 2023

The co-ordinated schemes include the provision to co-ordinate all admissions to all schools for the main years of entry. The main years of entry are Reception, Year 3 (Junior) and Year 7. In line with the School Admissions Code, there is no longer the requirement for In Year applications to be co-ordinated within county or cross border. In the attached schemes, however, it is proposed that all In Year applications continue to be made directly to Wiltshire Council for places at Wiltshire schools. This is so that we can monitor which children are potentially out of the school system for safeguarding purposes. We do however currently have 13 schools which have opted out of In Year Co-ordination for this academic year as it is not a legal requirement to co-ordinate in year applications. These schools are still required to inform the LA of all applications that are received as well as the outcome. Should the school not be able to offer a place and if the child is a Wiltshire resident, the LA will make an alternative offer to ensure that the child is not without a school place.

The co-ordinated scheme for main round applications for places at primary schools (Reception intake) mirrors that which operates for secondary schools (Year 7 intake). Wiltshire residents may apply for an out of county school on a Wiltshire form. Out of county residents can apply for a Wiltshire school through their own local authority.

It is clear from previous years, that there is widespread agreement with the proposed admission arrangements for Voluntary Controlled and Community schools which are also considered to be fair and objective as required by the School Admissions Code.

Currently children living within a school's designated area are given priority over children from outside that area. The tie break used if a school is oversubscribed within any criterion is that of distance (straight line) from the school.

The Local Authority is proposing one change to the policies for both Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools which is in regard to the waiting list. In previous years we have automatically placed all children who have been refused a place at their preferred Voluntary Controlled or Community school on the waiting list. However, in the 2023/24 scheme, any parent who has been refused a place at one of these schools will now need to opt to go on the waiting list. This will help us ensure that when places become available that they are offered to children who wish to still attend that school rather than those who are happy with the alternative place that has been offered.

The proposed co-ordinated schemes and admission arrangements have all been drafted in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions Code which came in to force on 1 September 2021.

The admission arrangements for Voluntary Controlled and Community schools will be operated within the appropriate co-ordinated scheme for admissions within Wiltshire and are compatible with the timetables laid down by the co-ordinated schemes.

Following the period of consultation and once determined by Cabinet, the schemes and admission arrangements will be circulated to all schools in Wiltshire and to our nine neighbouring local authorities and published on the Council website. They will be implemented from September 2022 when the process of admitting children to the intake year in 2023 begins.

5. Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

Not applicable

7. Safeguarding Implications

In the interest of safeguarding, the Local Authority continues to co-ordinate all in year applications for children to the majority of Wiltshire schools, this ensures that the School Admissions Team can monitor which children are potentially out of the school system. If a parent is unable to secure a place at their preferred school, the School Admissions Team will ensure that a place is allocated at a reasonable alternative.

As above, we do have some schools which have opted out of in year co-ordination due to there being no legal requirement to co-ordinate in year applications. These schools are still required to inform the LA of all applications that are received as well as the outcome. Should the school not be able to offer a place and if the child is a Wiltshire resident, the LA will make an alternative offer to ensure that the child is not without a school place.

8. Public Health Implications

There are no public health issues arising directly from this report.

9. Procurement Implications

There are no procurement implications directly arising from this report.

10. Equalities Impact of the Proposal

The Admissions Policy and Coordinated Admissions Schemes are put in place to ensure all applications for a school place are treated in fair, open and transparent way. Although not part of the proposed co-ordinated schemes or admission arrangements, it should be noted that all application forms can be produced in different languages on request.

The online system for applications to be made has developed since it was introduced in 2006. Over 95% of applications for September 2021 intakes were received electronically.

Paper copies of the application forms are also still available for parents/carers who do not have online access.

11. Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

The Admission Policy of the local authority is to give local children priority when applying for their local school. This policy of 'local schools for local children' has been maintained for many years and is a way of encouraging parents to consider the environmental impact of long journeys to school.

Should the Admissions Team not be able to offer a place at a child's designated school and the child lives further than the statutory safe walking distance for the child's age, then free transport would be provided to the next nearest school with available places. The percentage of children this currently applies to in Wiltshire is 1%.

12. Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

Were the Local Authority not to determine co-ordinated schemes for its maintained schools, the Secretary of State would impose a scheme on us.

The Office of the Schools Adjudicator has a monitoring role to play in regards to admission arrangements. It is the statutory responsibility of admission authorities to ensure that these are in place by 28 February 2022.

13. Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

There is a small risk that confusion or challenge may occur over the 2023/24 proposed arrangements, however, this is mitigated as the changes in the proposed 2023/24 schemes have been kept to a minimum.

14. Financial Implications

The budget to support the staffing and the co-ordination of admissions is funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) received by the Local Authority. In line with current school funding arrangements, the funding for admission arrangements will form part of the Central Schools Services Block of the DSG from 2022-23 and is therefore determined by Schools Forum as part of the consideration of the overall central schools block. This is finalised at the January 2022 meeting of the Forum and ratified by Council at their February 2022 meeting. There are no plans currently to increase or, decrease the Admissions budget.

15. Legal Implications

The School Admissions Code, issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, imposes mandatory requirements in relation to the discharge of functions relating to admissions to maintained schools. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to act in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Code. This includes a statutory duty to determine schemes for the co-ordination of admissions and admission arrangements for Voluntary Controlled and Community schools. Should the Local Authority fail to do so the Secretary of State may impose schemes. The proposed schemes and scheme changes have been drafted to comply with the requirements of the Schools Admissions Code which came into force on the 1st September 2021.

16. Workforce Implications

There are no workforce implications

17. Options Considered

It is a legal requirement to have these policies in place and therefore no alternative has been considered.

The schemes and arrangements as presented have been sent out to all schools for consultation and no alternative suggestions have been received to date.

Conclusions

Cabinet is asked to approve the appended schemes which will become the determined Admissions Policy for Wiltshire for 2023/24.

Helean Hughes (Director - Education and Skills)

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Appendices

   a) Appendix A - Proposed Scheme for the Co-ordination of Secondary Admissions 2023/24
   b) Appendix B - Proposed Scheme for the Co-ordination of Primary Admissions 2023/24
   c) Appendix C -Proposed Admission Arrangements for Voluntary Controlled & Community Secondary Schools 2023/24
   d) Appendix D -Proposed Admission Arrangements for Voluntary Controlled & Community Primary Schools 2023/24

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SECONDARY

Proposed Co-ordinated Scheme for Secondary School Admissions for 2023/24

Status: Proposed Co-ordinated Scheme 2023/24

Proposed Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for secondary school admissions for year 2023/24

Introduction

1. This scheme for co-ordinated admissions is pursuant to section (89b) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, for co-ordinating the arrangements for the admission of pupils to secondary schools within the LA area. It applies to all secondary schools in Wiltshire with effect from September 2023 intakes. There will be an annual review of the scheme as per the School Admissions Code in force at the time.

Interpretation and Glossary

2. In this scheme –

"the LA" means Wiltshire Council acting in their capacity as a local (education) authority;

"the LA area" means the County of Wiltshire;

The definitions of "primary education", "primary school", "secondary education" and "secondary school" can be found in sections 2 and 5 of the Education Act 1996.

"school" means a community, (C) voluntary controlled, (VC) foundation, (F) or voluntary aided (VA) school or academy (A) school.

"Academy" means a state funded, non-fee paying independent school set up under a Funding Agreement between the Secretary of State and the proprietor of an Academy (most commonly and hereafter referred to as an Academy Trust). Academy Funding Agreements require them to comply with the Code and the law relating to admissions, though the Secretary of State has the power to vary this requirement where there is a demonstrable need;

"admission authority" in relation to a community or voluntary controlled school means the LA and, in relation to an F or VA school or UTC (University Technical College) means the governing body of that school/college and in relation to an Academy it is the governing body / academy trust.

"the specified year" means the school year beginning September 2023;

"admission arrangements" means the determined arrangements which govern the procedures and decision making for the purposes of admitting pupils to a school;

"first round application" means any application for a place in the first year of secondary education that is received before the deadline of 31 October 2022.

"Second and third round application" means any application for a place in the first year of secondary education that is received after the deadline of 31 October 2022.

"eligible for a place" means that a child's name has been placed on a school's ranked list within the school's published admission number (PAN).

The application round for entry into YR7 – 2022 opens on 1 September 2022. The deadline date for applications to be submitted is midnight on 31 October 2022. The home address given for the child must be the address where the child is resident as of the deadline date.

Raising of participation age

Government legislation states that young people have to stay in education or training until their 18th birthday. This will usually be at secondary school until the academic year in which they are 16 (some students may transfer to Further Education or a University Technical College at 14). Students can then choose from one of the following options post-16; full-time education, such as school or college; an apprenticeship; employment or volunteering alongside part-time education or accredited training. It is compulsory that they participate in education or training until their 18th birthday. The only exception is early achievement of level 3 qualifications for example if they take A level exams in year 12.

General information

3.   Parents will be able to make an online application. If an online application has been submitted, a written application is not necessary. The online facility will be available from 1 September 2022 up until the deadline of 31 October 2022.

4.   There will be a standard application form known as the Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF). This form must be used to apply for the admission of pupils, into the first year of secondary education in the specified year, unless an online application has been submitted.

5.   The SCAF <u>must </u>be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences by the parent wishing to apply for a school place for their child (either within or outside the county). The child must live in Wiltshire.

6.   The LA will make arrangements to ensure

    a.   the SCAF is accompanied by written guidance notes

    b.   that copies are available on request from the LA

    c.   that an electronic version of the form is available for parents to make an online application.

7.   The SCAF and accompanying guidance notes will invite the parent to express up to three preferences in rank order and give reasons for their preferences. Preferred schools may be state funded schools inside or outside Wiltshire. They will also explain that the parent will receive no more than one offer of a school place and specify the closing date and the address to which the SCAF must be returned. They will also confirm that;

    a.   a place will be offered at their highest ranked school at which they are eligible to be offered a place; or

b.   if a place cannot be offered at any one of their preferred schools, and the child is living within Wiltshire, a place at an alternative school will be allocated.

8.   Any school which operates criteria for selection by ability or aptitude must ensure that its arrangements for assessing ability or aptitude enable decisions to be made in accordance with the scheme's timescale as set out in the back of this policy.

9.   The governing body of an Academy (A), Foundation (F), or Voluntary Aided (VA) School, can ask parents who have expressed a preference for their school on the SCAF, to provide additional information on a supplementary form, but only if the additional information is required in order to apply their oversubscription criteria to the application.

10.   Where a school receives a supplementary form, it will not be regarded as a valid application unless the parent has also completed a SCAF which expressed a preference for that school. The SCAF or an online application must have been returned to the LA by the deadline date.

11.   The deadline date for applications is **31 October 2022.** All completed SCAFs are to be returned directly to the LA by the deadline date. Any SCAFs which are incorrectly returned to schools, must be forwarded to the LA <u>to be submitted by the deadline</u>. Forms returned to schools and not received by the LA by 31 October 2022 will be treated as late applications.

12.   The LA will send out an acknowledgement of receipt for each SCAF and all online applications. Applicants will be advised to contact the LA if they have not received an acknowledgement with 15 school days of posting their paper application.

Address

13.   The child's address provided on the application form should be that of the child's normal place of residence. Only one address can be considered for application purposes. The address provided will be used to determine the child's priority for a school place. The Local Authority reserves the right to confirm the address provided by the applicant using the council tax reference number which is provided as part of the application.

For YR 7 September 2023 entry, the address used to determine priority of school places for on time applications submitted in the main round, will be the child's normal place of residence as at deadline date of 31 October 2022. A future address from an applicant who is moving can be considered if the Local Authority receives evidence in the form of an exchange of contracts or a tenancy agreement of a minimum of six months by the 16 December 2022.

Where children spend time with parents at more than one address then the address given on the form should be the one at which they are normally and habitually resident, i.e. sleep at, for the majority of term-time school nights (Sunday night to Thursday night). If children spend time equally at different addresses, then the address which will be used for admissions purposes will be the one registered for child benefit. The Local Authority may request proof of the registered address, which must pre-date the application.

Future addresses from applicants who currently own a property that is unoccupied or rented out, for which they plan to return to, will not be used when allocating places, unless a formal notice to terminate the rental agreement has been received by the deadline date/ exceptional circumstances date. Such applications will be checked to confirm the applicants have returned to the property. If the applicant has not returned to the address, it will be considered a fraudulent application and the place will be taken away, even if the child has already started school. If no proof is provided, the current address will be used to determine the child priority of a school place.

For in year transfer applications the current address at the time of application will be used.

Designated Area (if applicable)

14.   A designated area is a discrete geographical zone served by a school. The address that determines a child's designated area is the place where the child is ordinarily resident with their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for the majority of the school week. Most schools have a discrete designated area but some addresses fall within areas shared by two or more schools. Children who live outside the designated area for the school may still express a preference for the school.

In the case of children from the boating community (Boaters) proof of mooring will be required. Those without a permanent mooring, must provide details/proof of their sorting office, post office/poste restante address and this will be used for admissions criteria and allocation purposes.

Applicants will only be considered from the address as of the deadline date (for applications into YR7, unless proof of future address is provided) and this will be used to determine the child's priority for a school place. For in year transfer applications the current address at the time of application will be used.

If there is a tie-break situation, then the criteria of the relevant admissions authority will be applied.

Shared Parental Responsibility

15.   Where two (or more) adults have parental responsibility for a child, it is preferable that they should agree which school(s) to name as their preference(s) schools before submitting an application form. In cases of dispute, or where two application forms are submitted, the LA will process the application received from the adult who has a residence order. If no such order has been made, preference will be given to the parent with whom the child is normally living with for the majority of the school week.

If both parents are in dispute as to whom the child lives with the majority of the school week, the LA will process the application received from the adult who is in receipt of the child benefit, if this is not available then the address used on the NHS card will be used.

In the event of a further dispute regarding the application, parents may wish to take independent legal advice on whether they should seek a specific issue order from the court to decide on where the child is schooled. For an in-year transfer application,

the placement will continue in the best interests of securing educational provision for the child, with a minimum of disruption, until any such order is made.

For year of entry, where possible, a place will be offered in accordance with the preferences to the parent who can provide evidence that they are in receipt of child benefit.

Where children spend time with parents at more than one address then the address given on the form should be the one at which they are normally and habitually resident, i.e. sleep at, for the majority of term-time school nights (Sunday night to Thursday night). If children spend time equally at different addresses, then the address which will be used for admissions purposes will be the one registered for child benefit. The Local Authority may request proof of the registered address, which must pre-date the application.

Applications for children of UK Service Personnel (UK Armed Forces)

16.   Applications for children of service personnel with a confirmed posting to the county, will be considered in advance of the family moving into the county. Where possible, an application must be included in the normal admissions round.

17.   An official letter, such as a posting note or letter of support from the commanding officer should be sent to the LA as soon as possible. This should include the relocation date and unit postal address or quartering area address.

18.   Until a fixed address is available, the unit postal address will be used and a school place allocated accordingly. For service personnel moving back to a property that they own and this is currently rented out, then this address can be considered providing a signed letter from the Commanding Officer or a formal notice to terminate the rental agreement is received stating the future address.

19.   The LA will not refuse a child of UK service personnel a school place because the family does not currently live in the area. It is also not permitted to reserve places for these children. If a place is not secured at the preferred school and the applicant has provided proof of a Wiltshire address, then an alternative place will be allocated. This will be at the next nearest school to the unit postal address or quartering address with available places.

20.   Children will be considered to be siblings if any brother or sister (including step siblings living at the same address) has been formally offered a place at the school which has been accepted. The sibling link will not apply if the child on roll is in Yr11, YR12 or YR13 for VC & C's schools. Parents should view individual admissions policies for VA, F and A schools for information about sibling priority/YR11, YR12 and YR13 pupils. Their position on any waiting list will be set accordingly.

Applications for a Child from overseas (Not UK Armed Forces)

21.   All applications for a child from overseas will be considered in accordance with the relevant legislation at the time of application.

22.   Applications on behalf of a child currently living outside the UK will be considered, but until the child is resident in the UK, their home address outside the UK, will be

considered as being their place of residence. Exceptions to this would be instances where the child of a parent(s) returning from foreign postings, such as UK service personnel and other crown servants who have been posted abroad on a fixed term contract and who are returning to live within the UK or if an exchange of contract or signed tenancy is received to support the application. Proof of the future UK residency will be required.

Future addresses from applicants who currently own a property that is unoccupied or rented out, for which they plan to return to, will not be used when allocating places, unless a formal notice to terminate the rental agreement has been received by the deadline date/ exceptional circumstances date. Such applications will be checked to confirm the applicants have returned to the property. If the applicant has not returned to the address, it will be considered a fraudulent application and the place will be taken away, even if the child has already started school. If no proof is provided, the current address will be used to determine the child priority of a school place.

Selection test for Grammar Schools

23. Where a selection test of any kind is part of the school's admission arrangements, the admission authority is required to allow the child to sit the entrance exam and inform parents of the outcome prior to preferences being made.

The Application Process

First Round Applications for Secondary YR7 2023 Intake (applications submitted by the deadline of 31 October 2022)

24. The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the SCAFs. The LA will only make a decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the SCAF :-

   a.   it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority, or

   b.   an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school, or

   c.   an applicant is not eligible for a place at any of the schools for which a preference was expressed.

25. The process by which the LA will allocate places is explained at paragraphs 27-37.

26. **31 October 2022 - closing date for all SCAF to be submitted to the School Admissions Team at County Hall. Applications submitted by this date will be classed as first round/on time applications.**

27. **By 16 November 2022** where parents have nominated a secondary school outside the LA area, the LA will notify the relevant LA.

28. **By 23 November 2022** the LA will notify all A, F and VA schools of every preference that has been expressed for that school.

29. **16 December 2022: Exceptional circumstances deadline.**

Only in exceptional circumstances such as those listed here will a late application be considered at the same time as applications received by the deadline of 31 October 2022.

   a.   where there has been a change of family circumstances after the deadline date which has a significant effect on the preferences given on the original application. (If this is a house move, this must have been completed with an exchange of contracts before 16 December 2022).

   b.   a move into Wiltshire from outside the county after the deadline date but before 16 December 2022. Confirmation of the new address (in the form of an exchange of contracts or a tenancy agreement of a minimum of six months) must be provided before 16 December 2022.

   c.   service personnel moving to a Wiltshire address after the deadline date. A posting notice must be provided before 16 December 2022.

Documentary evidence should be provided with the application (or at the latest by 16 December 2022) to verify the circumstances which caused the late application to be made. If evidence cannot be provided, the application will not be treated as an exception.

Change of preference order for applications received by deadline date 31 October 2022

Prior to deadline date, if a change of preference is required applicants must log back into the online system and update the order of their preference or submit a new paper application.

Following the deadline date, any applicant who has submitted an on-time application may change the order of their preferences by informing the admissions team in writing. This must be received by 13th January 2023.

The order of the preferences can only be changed. No additional preferences can be added after the deadline date.

30.   **By 6 January 2023** the LA will provide a final list to all admissions authorities of every preference that has been expressed for their school(s) including those considered as exceptional as outlined in paragraph 29 and those residents in other LA areas.

31.   **By 13 January 2023** all A, F and VA schools must have considered all the preferences for their school and provided the LA with a ranked list of all applicants in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

32.   The LA will then match this ranked list against all other ranked lists and:

   •   Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the preferred schools, a place at the school will be offered to the child.

   •   Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the nominated schools, they will be offered a place at whichever school was their highest available preference.

- Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools and they live in Wiltshire, a place will be allocated at the next nearest school to the home address with available places.

- Should this place subsequently be declined then it is the parent's responsibility to apply for an alternative school place.

33. By **3 February 2023** the LA will inform other LAs of any places in Wiltshire schools which will be offered to their residents.

34. By **24 February 2023** the LA will inform Wiltshire schools of the pupils to be offered places at their schools.

35. On **1 March 2023 (National Offer Date)** letters will be despatched to all parents who submitted an application form by 31 October 2022 offering a place at one school.

36. These offer letters will give the following information:

a.   the name of the school at which a place is offered;

b.   the reason why the child is not being offered a place at any of the other schools nominated on the SCAF;

c.   information about their statutory right of appeal against any decision to refuse places at other preferred schools;

37. **15 March 2023** the deadline for parents to accept the place offered. Parents should confirm their acceptance online if they have applied online, or if they have applied by paper return the acceptance/decline slip directly to the Local Authority.

If the parent does not respond to the Local Authority to confirm if they wish to accept or decline the offer by 15 March 2023, the Local Authority will send a second letter to the parent informing them that they have seven days in which to accept or decline the place which has been offered. They will also be advised in this letter that failure to respond could result in the offer of the place being withdrawn. If there is still no response a third letter will be sent to the applicant informing them that the offer of a place has been withdrawn. It will then be the parent's responsibility to apply for an alternative school place.

Second Round Applications for Secondary YR 7, 2023 Intake (applications received between 1 November 2022 and 09 March 2023)

38.   Second round applications, i.e. those received between 1 November 2022 and 9 March 2023 (except those covered by paragraph 29) for the YR 7 Intake round will not be considered until after all first round on time applications have been processed. Second round applications will be considered together with any applicant previously refused a place in the first round and if necessary will be prioritised using the oversubscription policy in place at the time.

Additional applications:
Only one offer of a school place for each child can be held at any one time. If the Local Authority receives a further application for a child who has already

secured a place in an earlier round, the new stated preferences will automatically supersede any earlier preferences stated.

During the second round of applications parents should note that the school initially allocated will be retained for their child pending the outcome of the later application and that there is no guarantee of gaining a place at the preferred school named on the new application.

Parents can only hold one offer. Therefore, if an offer is made to a child during the second round of allocations any offer made in the first round will automatically be withdrawn.

The LA will contact all Foundation, Aided Schools and Academies named as a preference on the application form, to determine whether or not a place is available. An offer will be made for the school named as the highest preference where there is an identified place. Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, and the child lives in Wiltshire, the child will be allocated a place at their designated school if possible, unless an alternative place is available within a safe statutory walking distance from their home address.

39. **21 March 2023** details of second round applications received between the 1 November 2022 and 9 March 2023 to be sent to, Academies, Foundation and Voluntary Aided Schools.

40. **31 March 2023** Academies, Foundation and Voluntary Aided Schools to provide the LA with a ranked list of second round applications.

    On receipt the LA will match the returns from all schools and will make an allocation of one place for each applicant:

    - Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the preferred schools, a place at the school will be offered to the child.

    - Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the nominated schools, they will be offered a place at whichever school was their highest available preference.

    - Should this place subsequently be declined then it is the parent's responsibility to apply for an alternative school place.

    - LA to send schools a list of late applicants being offered a place on 27 April 2028.

41. **28 April 2023** the LA will send out the second round offers to schools for applications received between 1 November 2022 and 9 March 2023.

42. **12 May 2023** is the last date for second round offers to be accepted by parents. Parents should complete the slip attached to the decision letter and return it to the Local Authority to confirm if they wish to accept or decline the place.

    If the parent does not respond to the Local Authority to confirm if they wish to accept or decline the offer by the date stated in the letter, the Local Authority will send a second letter to the parent informing them that they have seven days in which to accept or decline the place which has been offered. They will also be advised in this

letter that failure to respond could result in the offer of the place being withdrawn. If there is still no response a third letter will be sent to the applicant informing them that the offer of a place has been withdrawn. It will then be the parent's responsibility to apply for an alternative school place.

Third Round Applications for Secondary YR 7, 2023 Intake (applications received after 9 March 2023)

43. Third round applications, i.e. those received after 9 March 2023 for the YR7 Intake round will not be considered until after all the second round applications have been processed. Third round applications will be considered together with any applicant previously refused a place and if necessary will be prioritised using the oversubscription policy in place at the time.

    Only one offer of a school place for each child can be held at any one time. If the Local Authority receives a further application for a child who has already secured a place in an earlier round, the new stated preferences will automatically supersede any earlier preferences stated.

    During the third round of applications parents should note that the school initially allocated will be retained for their child pending the outcome of the later application and that there is no guarantee of gaining a place at the preferred school named on the new application.

    Parents can only hold one offer. Therefore, if an offer is made to a child during the third round of allocations any offer made in the first or second round will automatically be withdrawn.

    The LA will contact all Foundation, Aided schools and Academies named as a preference on the application form to determine whether or not a place is available. An offer will be made for the school named as the highest preference where there is an identified place. Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, and the child lives in Wiltshire, the child will be allocated a place at their designated school if possible, unless an alternative place is available within the safe statutory walking distance from their home address.

44. Applications received after the 9 March 2023 will be considered in date order of receipt and will be looked at after 18 May 2023 (i.e. once the second round of applications have been processed).

45. Any applications received by the LA after 9 March 2023 will be dealt with as soon as possible with allocations to a single school being made and offer letters sent out from the LA as soon as is practicably possible.

    Parents should return the acceptance slip attached to the letter to the LA to inform them if they are accepting or declining the place.

    If the parent does not respond to the Local Authority to confirm if they wish to accept or decline the offer by the date stated in the letter, the Local Authority will send a second letter to the parent informing them that they have seven days in which to accept or decline the place which has been offered. They will also be advised in this letter that failure to respond could result in the offer of the place being withdrawn. If there is still no response a third letter will be sent to the applicant informing them that

the offer of a place has been withdrawn. It will then be the parent's responsibility to apply for an alternative school place.

46.   Any applications received by any school should be forwarded to the LA within five days of receipt.

Applications for Secondary YR7, 2023 Intake (applications received after 25 July 2023 – end of term)

47.   Any applications received by the LA after 25 July 2023 which express a preference for an Aided, Foundation School or an Academy will be forwarded to the school/college within two school days of receipt at which time the process for in year applications will apply.

Right of Appeal – Main round applications

48.   Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent Admission Appeal panel. All appeals will be heard in accordance with the timescales which have been determined and are explained in the School Admissions Appeals Code.

The deadline dates for lodging appeals for VC & C Schools for the main round entry is:

First round appeals
For applications received from 1 September 2022 – 31 October 2022 and for offers made on National Offer Date, appeals must be received by the Local Authority no later than 30 March 2023.

Second round appeals
For applications received from 1 November 2022 – 9 March 2023 and for offers made on 28 April 2023, appeals will be heard as soon as possible

Third round appeals
For applications received after the 9 March 2023 and for offers made as soon as possible after 18 May 2023, appeals will be heard as soon as possible.

Own admission authority appeal timetables will be provided within the individual school's admissions policy or on the schools website.

All appeals will be heard in accordance with the timescales which have been determined and are explained in the School Admissions Appeals Code.

Final List of expected Secondary Yr7 pupils to schools

49.   On or before 31 August 2023 the LA will send out a list to all maintained schools in Wiltshire showing those pupils expected to start in the school at the beginning of the 2023/24 school year.

Admitting in area children above Published Admissions Number (PAN)

50.   Wiltshire Council will always try and allocate a space at a child's designated school whenever this is possible. It must be noted we cannot reserve places at any school nor can we guarantee that a space will be available at the designated school. Having enough spaces in schools for local children is a service priority for the School Buildings and Places team.

51.   The LA has the responsibility for the strategic management of school places across the county and has to ensure admissions do not compromise its ability to provide efficient and effective use of resources. It is often more economic to admit local children to their designated school because this does not incorporate any additional transport costs which would be required, were an alternative school to be allocated.

52.   For some schools, the next nearest school does not provide a reasonable alternative because it is beyond the statutory walking distance or the route to it is unsafe or there may not be available transport. Any children who move into these areas might have to be admitted to the designated school despite any existing pressures upon it.

53.   It may not always be possible to find a space at the designated school if this is already oversubscribed. If a school is oversubscribed, then Looked After Children will be given the highest priority on any waiting list. Following this in area children will be given priority on any waiting list over out of area children at all VC & C schools. If the designated area school is unable to accommodate any more children within the year group, then the LA will allocate an alternative school which will be the next nearest school which has places available.

54.   Transport would be made available for any children who had to be allocated a school because their designated school was full and the school that has been allocated is outside of the statutory safe walking distance for the age of the child.

In-Year Transfer Applications for year groups other than Yr7 Secondary 2023 intake

Details of where to submit an application for your preferred school can be found on the Wiltshire Council website.

All applications received by Wiltshire Council via post or email will be date stamped on the date they are received by the school admissions team, unless the application is received over the weekend in these cases the form will be stamped as being received on the next working day.

For in-year transfer applications co-ordinated by Wiltshire Council, the following process applies.

55.   The LA will make available copies of the 'Finding a School Place Guide' online and hard copies on request from County Hall.

56.   All applicants who wish to apply for a school place must complete an application form which should be returned to the LA. The applicant may or may not live in Wiltshire.

57.   Should a parent living in Wiltshire wish to apply for a school in another authority, they must contact that authority directly for details on how to apply.

58.   Should any Wiltshire school receive an in-year application form expressing a preference for that school the form should be forwarded to the LA within two school days of receipt.

59.   Where the LA receives an in-year application form expressing a preference for a VC or C school the application will be forwarded to the school within three school days of receipt. The school is then required to advise the LA if a place can be offered within two school days or receipt.

60.   Where the LA receives an in-year application form expressing a preference for an Academy, F or VA school the application will be forwarded to the school within three school days of receipt.

61.   For an Academy, F or VA school, the school's governing body is responsible for deciding the outcome of the application and advising the LA accordingly within two school days of the date of which the information was received by the school.

62.   In all cases, a decision letter will be sent out by the Local Authority within 15 school days of receiving the application form and this will provide information, if appropriate, about the statutory right of appeal.

63.   If an application has been passed on to a selective school, it is recognised that such a school will not be able to make a response to the LA until after the result of an appropriate selection test has been received. The selective school will inform the LA of the outcome of the application as soon as practicable after the result of any selection test is known. A decision letter will be sent out by the LA and will provide information, if appropriate about the statutory right of appeal.

64.   Waiting lists for schools must be kept and will be managed as per the admission arrangements for the particular school involved. Waiting lists will be kept in order of the relevant oversubscription criteria and not in date order of receipt.

65.   The Local Authority will maintain waiting lists for all year groups for VC & C schools.

66.   The school/academy will maintain waiting lists for all year groups for A, F & VA schools.

If an own admission authority school does not wish the LA to co-ordinate its in year, applications, the admission authority must officially confirm this to the LA by 31 August. It will then be the responsibility of that admissions authority to ensure that applications are processed in line with the School Admissions Code.

The admissions authority will then have to process the application and inform the parent of the outcome and where necessary their statutory right of appeal. In all cases, it also required to forward a copy of the application, along with the decision, to the LA within two school days.

Where a school has opted in to the in-year co-ordination process, then all places offered at one of these schools must be taken up within 28 working days of the date stated on the initial application form, unless the school has an alternative timescale for this on their website. If the place has not been taken up with 28 working days, then the offer could be withdrawn.

Right of Appeal for In-Year Transfer Applications

67.   Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent Admission Appeal panel. All appeals will be heard

in accordance with the timescales which have been determined and are explained in the School Admissions Appeals Code.

Applications for transfer at a future date

68. Applications for transfer for VC and C schools will be considered no more than a maximum of one term in advance. All requests for admissions to VC and C Schools will be processed in line with the timetable below.

    This table gives the earliest date that applications can be sent and when they are considered. Decision letters should be posted within 15 school days of either the date in the last column or, if your application is later than this, our receipt of your form.

Date admission being sought	Earliest application should be submitted	Applications will be processed from
January to March	1 September	31 October
April to July	1 January	15 February
September to December	1 April	31 May

69. Applications for transfer for VA and F schools and Academies will be forwarded when received directly to the schools named for consideration in accordance with the schools own admissions policy.

Sixth Form Admissions

70. Parents or students wishing to enrol for sixth form courses should contact the school and ask for a copy of the sixth form prospectus. This will detail the courses offered at the school and any specific entry requirements for any of those courses. The school will require an application form to be completed should the parent or student wish to make a formal application to join the school's sixth form.

Proof of address

71. The LA reserves the right to ask parents for proof of their address. If the parents' current address is different to that held on the LA's computerised system, the LA may ask parents to provide proof of the new address. Acceptable proof of address includes:

    - A formal exchange of contracts, a signed solicitor's letter or email stating contracts have been exchanged and specifying a completion date.
    - A signed and dated tenancy agreement plus proof of residency (e.g. copy of a recent utility bill)

    If parents fail to provide proof of a new address, the LA will use the old address for admission purposes. If parents notify the LA that they will be moving house, even if they provide the relevant proof of that address, they must move into that property by

no later than the end of the first term following the notification. The LA reserves the right to check that parents are living in the address indicated within that timescale. If parents are not living there, the applications will be investigated and the allocated place may be withdrawn. The parent will then have the statutory right of appeal.

In-Year Fair Access Protocol

72.   All Wiltshire Schools will act in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol which has been adopted to give access to educational provisions for hard to place children. Further information on the In-Year Fair Access Protocol, as well as a copy of the protocol, can be viewed at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Early or Delayed Transfer

73.   a.   **Early transfer**

Children may only transfer early to a secondary school if it can be shown that not to do so would be detrimental to their academic progress or social wellbeing. Each such request involves consultation with the current school, the school to which the child wishes to transfer and where appropriate, the Authority's professional adviser(s). The application will not be agreed if one or more parties consider that the transfer would be inappropriate. Agreement to such a request would be considered exceptional.

b.   **Delayed transfer**

All requests must be submitted to the Local Authority by 31 October 2021, the year in which the child would have chronologically transferred to secondary school.

Children may remain for a further year in a primary school if it can be shown that not to do so would be detrimental to their academic progress or social wellbeing, The presence of special educational needs or underachievement are not in themselves sufficient reasons to delay transfer.

Children for whom a delayed entry to school or year group retention has already been agreed by the relevant parties, will continue in the lower year group unless it can be shown that it is in their best interests to rejoin their chronological year group. The continuation of this arrangement will continue on transfer to secondary school unless the parent/carer, the current school, the school to which the child would otherwise wish to transfer and, where appropriate, the LA's professional adviser, consider it in the child's best interest to rejoin the chronological year group. An application for transfer to secondary school must still be made in the same way as expected of other children in the year group in which they are working (rather than their chronological age group).

If a child is currently on a roll at a school and a delayed entry is submitted and cannot be agreed, then no alternative school will be offered.

Applications for delayed entry to out of county schools

Parents who wish to apply for a main round delayed entry to an out of county school should submit the request to Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council will pass this on to the other Local Authority for consideration. Wiltshire Council will then inform the parent of the decision of the request.

Parents who wish to apply for a delayed entry as an in-year transfer should contact the Local Authority where the preferred school is situated for details of how to apply.

Right of Appeal for the Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent Admission Appeal panel. They do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like. However, if parents are dissatisfied with the outcome of the request for delayed entry, they have the right to complain against the decision through the Council's complaints procedure for decisions made by council officers. Where the school is its own admissions authority, parents can complain using the school's complaints procedure.

Appendix: 1 (2023/24)   **Timetable for Secondary Co-ordination (Wiltshire)**

31 October 2022:   **Closing date for all Common Application Forms to be received by the School Admissions Team at County Hall. Applications received by this date will be classed as first round applications.**

16 November 2023:   Details of applications which include preferences for school in other LAs to be sent to those LAs.

23 November 2023:   Details of applications to be sent to F, VA schools, Academies of all first round applicants.

16 December 2023:   **Last date for any exceptional applications to be considered.**

6 January 2023:   Final list sent out from LA to all admission authorities, including all applications which have been considered as falling under the exceptional circumstances criteria.

13 January 2023:   Academies, Foundation and VA schools to provide the LA with ranked list of all first round applications.

Between 16 January and 1 February, the LA will match the ranked list of all the schools and allocate places.

3 February 2023:   The LA will inform other LAs of any offers of places at Wiltshire schools to be made to applicants resident in their areas.

24 February 2023:   By this date the LA will provide schools with details of those children to be offered places at the school.

1 March 2023:   **Notification letters for first round applicants will be despatched and sent to parents.**

9 March 2023:   Deadline for second round applications

15 March 2023:   Last date for first round offers to be accepted by parents. Parents should confirm their acceptance online if they have applied online, or if they have applied by paper return the acceptance/decline slip directly to the Local Authority.

21 March 2023:   Details of second round applications received after deadline and before 9 March to be sent to Academies, Foundation and VA schools.

31 March 2023:   Academies, Foundation and VA schools to provide the LA with ranked list of late applications.

27 April 2023:   LA to send all schools a list of second round applicants being offered a place.

28 April 2023:   **Notification letters sent out by the LA for all second round applications received between the deadline 1 November 2022 and 9 March 2023.**

12 May 2023: Last date for second round offers to be accepted by parents. Parents should confirm their acceptance or decline directly to the Local Authority.

18 May 2023: Applications received after the 9 March will be considered in date order of receipt and will be looked at from today. Applications will be dealt with as soon as possible with allocations to a single school being made and offers being sent out by the LA as soon as practically possible.

31 August 2023: On or before the 31 August the LA will send out a list to all schools showing the pupils expected to join the school at the beginning of 2023/24 school year.

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PRIMARY

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

Proposed Co-ordinated Scheme for Primary School Admissions for 2023/24

Status: Proposed Primary Co-ordinated Scheme 2022/23

Proposed Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Primary & Junior schools within Wiltshire for year 2023/24

Introduction

1. This scheme for co-ordinated admissions is pursuant to section 89(b) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, for co-ordinating the arrangements for the admission of pupils to primary schools within the LA area. It applies to all primary schools in Wiltshire with effect from September 2023 intakes. There will be an annual review of the scheme as per the School Admissions Code in force at the time.

Interpretation and Glossary

2. In this scheme –

    "the LA" means Wiltshire Council acting in their capacity as a local (education) authority;

    "the LA area" means the County of Wiltshire;

    The definitions of "primary education", "Primary education", "primary school" and "Primary school" can be found in sections 2 and 5 of the Education Act 1996.

    "school" means a community, (C) voluntary controlled, (VC) foundation (F), voluntary aided (VA) or Academy (A) school.

    "Academy" means a state funded, non fee paying independent school set up under a Funding Agreement between the Secretary of State and the proprietor of an Academy (most commonly, and hereafter, referred to as an Academy Trust). Academy Funding Agreements require them to comply with the Code and the law relating to admissions, though the Secretary of State has the power to vary this requirement where there is a demonstrable need.

    "admission authority" in relation to a community (C) or voluntary controlled (VC) school means the LA and, in relation to an academy, foundation or voluntary aided school means the governing body / academy trust of that school;

    "the specified year" means the school year beginning in September 2023.

    "admission arrangements" means the determined arrangements which govern the procedures and decision making for the purposes of admitting pupils to a school;

    "first round application" means any application for a place in the first year of primary or infant education or the first year of junior education that is received before the deadline of 15 January 2023.

    "second or third round application" means any application for a place in the first year of primary or infant education or the first year of junior education that is received after the 15 January 2023.

    "In – Year application" means any application for any other year group in the school up to and including Yr 6;

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"eligible for a place" means that a child's name has been placed on a school's ranked list within the school's published admission number.

The application round for entry into Reception and Junior YR3 2023 opens on 1 September 2022. The deadline date for applications to be received is midnight on 15 January 2023. The home address given for the child must be the address where the child is resident as of the deadline date.

Starting School

3.   There is a legal entitlement for all three and four year olds to have access to 15 hours free early education per week – available from registered childminders, school-based childcare, pre-schools, day nurseries, playgroups, or as part of a Children's Centre. Working parents of children aged three and four years of age will be able to access 30 hours for Free Entitlement, certain criteria will need to be met.

A school place will be made available for children from the September following their 4th birthday. Full-time education is available to all reception pupils.

Parents have the right to ask that their child attends part-time and this will be provided by arrangement with the school governors. Part-time provision has been determined as either five mornings or five afternoons a week.

Schools will be responsible for informing parents of the induction arrangements for new entrants to the reception class(es). These may involve a short period of part-time provision or a phased entry at the beginning of Term 1, which will normally be a fortnight. Individual children(s) cases for induction should be discussed by the parents(s) with the school directly.

General Information

4.   Parents will be able to make an online application. If an online application has been submitted, a written application is not necessary. The online facility will be available from 1 September 2022 up until the deadline of 15 January 2022.

5.   There will be a standard form for applications known as the Primary Common Application form (PCAF) used for the admission of pupils into the first year of primary education in the specified year.

6.   The PCAF <u>must</u> be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences by a parent wishing to apply for a school place for their child (either within or outside the county). The child must live in Wiltshire.

7.   The LA will make arrangements to ensure

a.   the PCAF is accompanied by written guidance notes

b.   that copies are available on request from the LA

c.   that an electronic version of the form is available for parents to make an online application.

8.	The PCAF and accompanying guidance notes will invite the parent to express up to three preferences in rank order. Preferred schools may be state-funded schools inside or outside Wiltshire. They will also explain that the parent will receive no more than one offer of a school place and specify the closing date and the address to which the PCAF must be returned. They will also confirm that;

a.	a place will be offered at their highest ranked school at which they are eligible to be offered a place; or

b.	if a place cannot be offered at any one of their preferred schools, and the child is living in Wiltshire, a place at an alternative school will be allocated.

9.	Split Site Schools – where a school operates from separate bases and each base provides for the full primary age range (i.e. Both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2), the two sites will be treated as separate schools for admissions purposes, as they have their own discrete catchment area. This means that an application must name the site preferred. An applicant can use two preferences to name both sites.

10.	The governing body of a Foundation (F) or Voluntary Aided school (VA) or an Academy (A) can ask parents who have expressed a preference for their school on the PCAF, to provide additional information on a supplementary form, but only if the additional information is required in order to apply their oversubscription criteria to the application.

11.	Where a school receives a supplementary form, it will not be regarded as a valid application unless the parent has also completed a PCAF which expressed a preference for that school. The application must have been returned to the LA by the deadline date.

12.	The closing date for applications is **15 January 2023.** All completed PCAFs are to be returned directly to the LA. Any PCAFs which are incorrectly returned to schools must be forwarded to the LA to be received by the deadline. Forms returned to schools and not received by the LA by 15 January 2023 will be treated as late applications.

13.	The LA will send out an acknowledgement of receipt for each PCAF and all online applications. Applicants will be advised to contact the LA if they have not received an acknowledgement within 15 school days of posting their applications.

Address

14.	The child's address provided on the application form should be that of the child's normal place of residence. Only one address can be considered for application purposes. The address provided will be used to determine the child's priority for a school place. The Local Authority reserves the right to confirm the address provided by the applicant using the council tax reference number which is provided as part of the application.

For Yr R and Junior YR3 September 2023 entry, the address used to determine priority of school places for on time applications submitted in the main round, will be the child's normal place of residence as at deadline date of 15 January 2023. A future address from an applicant who is moving can be considered if the Local Authority receives evidence in the form of an exchange of contracts or a tenancy agreement of a minimum of six months by the 8 February 2023.

Where children spend time with parents at more than one address then the address given on the form should be the one at which they are normally and habitually

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resident, i.e. sleep at, for the majority of term-time school nights (Sunday night to Thursday night). If children spend time equally at different addresses, then the address which will be used for admissions purposes will be the one registered for child benefit. The Local Authority may request proof of the registered address, which must pre-date the application.

Future addresses from applicants who currently own a property that is unoccupied or rented out, for which they plan to return to, will not be used when allocating places, unless a formal notice to terminate the rental agreement has been received by the deadline date/ exceptional circumstances date. Such applications will be checked to confirm the applicants have returned to the property. If the applicant has not returned to the address, it will be considered a fraudulent application and the place will be taken away, even if the child has already started school. If no proof is provided, the current address will be used to determine the child priority of a school place.

For in-year transfer applications the current address at the time of application will be used.

Designated Area (if applicable)

15.   A designated area is a discrete geographical zone served by a school. The address that determines a child's designated area is the place where the child is ordinarily resident with their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for the majority of the school week. Most schools have a discrete designated area. Some addresses may fall within areas shared by two or more schools. Children who live outside the designated area for the school may still express a preference for the school.

In the case of children from the boating community (Boaters) proof of mooring will be required. Those without a permanent mooring, must provide details/proof of their sorting office, post office/poste restante address and this will be used for admissions criteria and allocation purposes.

Applicants will only be considered from the address as of the deadline date (for applications into YR and YR3, unless proof of future address is provided) and this will be used to determine the child's priority for a school place. For in year transfer applications the current address at the time of application will be used.

If there is a tie-break situation, then the criteria of the relevant admissions authority will be applied.

Shared Parental Responsibility

16.   Where two (or more) adults have parental responsibility for a child it is preferable that they should agree which school(s) to name as their preference(s) before submitting an application form. In cases of dispute, or where two application forms are submitted, the LA will process the application received from the adult who has a residence order. If no such order has been made, preference will be given to the parent with whom the child is living for the majority of the school week.

If both parents are in dispute as to whom the child lives with the majority of the school week, the LA will process the application received from the adult who is in receipt of the child benefit, if this is not available then the address used on the NHS card will be used.

In the event of a further dispute regarding the application used, parents may wish to take independent legal advice on whether they should seek a specific issue order from the court to decide on where the child is schooled. For an in-year transfer application, the placement will continue in the best interest of securing educational provision for the child, with a minimum of disruption, until any such order is made.

For year of entry, where possible, a place will be offered in accordance with the preferences to the parent who can provide evidence that they are in receipt of child benefit.

Where children spend time with parents at more than one address then the address given on the form should be the one at which they are normally and habitually resident, i.e. sleep at, for the majority of term-time school nights (Sunday night to Thursday night). If children spend time equally at different addresses, then the address which will be used for admissions purposes will be the one registered for child benefit. The Local Authority may request proof of the registered address, which must pre-date the application.

Applications for children of UK Service Personnel

(UK Armed Forces)

17. Applications for children of service personnel with a confirmed posting to the county will be considered in advance of the family moving into the county. Where possible, an application must be included in the normal admission round.

18. An official letter, such as a posting note or letter of support from the Commanding Officer should be sent to the LA as soon as possible. This should include the relocation date and the unit postal address or quartering area address.

19. Until a fixed address is available, the unit postal address will be used and a school place allocated accordingly. For service personnel moving back to a property that they own and that is currently rented out, then this address can be considered provided a signed letter from the Commanding Officer is received or a formal notice to terminate the rental agreement stating the future address. This should be received by the deadline / exceptional circumstances deadline.

20. The LA will not refuse a child of UK service personnel a school place because the family does not currently live in the area. It is also not permitted to reserve places for these children. If a place is not secured at the preferred school and the applicant has provided proof of a Wiltshire address, then an alternative place will be allocated. This will be at the next nearest school to the unit postal address or quartering address with available places.

21. Children will be considered to be siblings if any brother or sister (including step siblings living at the same address) have been formally offered and have accepted a place at the school. The sibling link will not apply if the child on roll is in Yr 6 for VC & C's schools. Parents should view individual admissions policies for VA, F and A schools for information about YR6 pupils. Their position on any waiting list will be set accordingly.

22. All applications will be dealt with in accordance with these admission arrangements. If a reasonable alternative cannot be offered, the child may be admitted as an 'excepted pupil' under the School Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations.

Applications for a child from overseas (Not UK Armed Forces)

23.   All applications for a child from overseas will be considered in accordance with the relevant legislation at the time of application.

24.   Applications on behalf of a child currently living outside the UK will be considered, but until the child is resident in the UK, their home address outside the UK, will be considered as being their place of residence. Exceptions to this would be instances where the child of a parent(s) returning from foreign postings, such as UK service personnel and other crown servants who have been posted abroad on a fixed term contract and who are returning to live within the UK or if an exchange of contract or signed tenancy is received to support the application. Proof of the future UK residency will be required.

Future addresses from applicants who currently own a property that is unoccupied or rented out, for which they plan to return to, will not be used when allocating places, unless a formal notice to terminate the rental agreement has been received by the deadline date/ exceptional circumstances date. Such applications will be checked to confirm the applicants have returned to the property. If the applicant has not returned to the address, it will be considered a fraudulent application and the place will be taken away, even if the child has already started school. If no proof is provided, the current address will be used to determine the child priority of a school place.

The Application Process

First Round Applications for Reception and Junior YR3 - 2023 Intake (applications received before the deadline of 15 January 2023)

25.   The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admissions authorities in response to the PCAFs. The LA will only make a decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the PCAF where-

    a.   it is acting in its separate capacity as an admission authority, or

    b.   an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school, or

    c.   an applicant is not eligible for a place at any of the schools for which a preference was expressed.

26.   The process by which the LA will allocate places is explained at paragraphs 28- 35.

27.   **15 January 2023, closing date for all common application forms to be received by the School Admissions Team at County Hall. Applications received by this date will be classed as first round applications.**

8 February 2023: Exceptional circumstances deadline.

Only in exceptional circumstances such as those listed here will a late application be considered at the same time as applications received by the deadline of 15 January 2023.

- where there has been a change of family circumstances after the deadline date which has a significant effect on the preferences given on the original application. (If this is a house move, this must have been completed with an exchange of contracts before 8 February 2023).
- a move into Wiltshire from outside the county after the deadline date but before 8 February 2022. Confirmation of the new address (in the form of an exchange of contracts or a tenancy agreement of a minimum of six months) must be provided before 8 February 2023.
- service personnel moving to a Wiltshire address after the deadline date. A posting notice must be provided before 8 February 2023.

Documentary evidence should be provided with the application (or at the latest by 8 February 2023) to verify the circumstances which caused the late application to be made. If evidence cannot be provided, the application will not be treated as an exception.

Change of preference order for applications received by deadline date 15 January 2023.

Prior to deadline date, if a change of preference is required applicants must log back into the online system and update the order of their preference or submit a new paper application.

Following deadline date, any applicant who has submitted an on-time application may change the order of their preferences by informing the admissions team in writing. This must be received by 1 March 2023.

The order of the preferences can only be changed. No additional preferences can be added after the deadline date.

28. **By 08 February 2023** where parents have nominated a primary school outside the LA area, the LA will notify the relevant LA.

29. **By 10 February 2023** the LA will notify all F and VA schools and Academies of every preference that has been expressed for that school.

30. **By 8 March 2023** all F and VA schools and Academies must have considered all of the preferences for their school and provide the LA with a ranked list of all applicants in accordance with the oversubscription criteria.

31. The LA will then match this ranked list against all other ranked lists and:

- Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the preferred schools, a place at the school will be offered to the child.

- Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the nominated schools, they will be offered a place at whichever school was their highest available preference.
- Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools and they live in Wiltshire, a place will be allocated at the next nearest school to the home address with available places.

- Should this place subsequently be declined then it is the parent's responsibility to apply for an alternative school place.

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32. Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools and the child lives in Wiltshire, they will be allocated a place at a school. This will be their designated school if places are available or at another school (to which there would be an entitlement to free school transport if it were outside the statutory safe walking distance from the home). Should this place subsequently be declined then it is the parent's responsibility to apply for an alternative school place.

33. By **23 March 2023** the LA will inform other LAs of any places in Wiltshire schools which will be offered to their residents.

34. By **12 April 2023** the LA will inform Wiltshire schools of the pupils to be offered places at their schools.

35. On **17 April 2023 (National Offer Date)** letters will be despatched to all parents who submitted an application by 15 January 2023 offering a place at one school.

36. These offer letters will give the following information:

   a.   the name of the school at which a place is offered;

   b.   the reason why the child is not being offered a place at any of the other schools nominated on the PCAF;

   c.   information about their statutory right of appeal against any decisions to refuse places at other preferred schools;

37. **3 May 2023** is the deadline for parents to accept the place offered. Parents should confirm their acceptance online if they have applied online, or if they have applied by paper return the acceptance/decline slip directly to the Local Authority.

   If the parent does not respond to the Local Authority to confirm if they wish to accept or decline the offer by 3 May 2023, the Local Authority will send a second letter to the parent informing them that they have seven days in which to accept or decline the place which has been offered. They will also be advised in this letter that failure to respond could result in the offer of the place being withdrawn. If there is still no response a third letter will be sent to the applicant informing them that the offer of a place has been withdrawn. It will then be the parent's responsibility to apply for an alternative school place.

Second Round Applications for Reception and Junior YR 3 2023 Intake (applications received between 16 January 2023 and 26 April 2023)

38. Second round applications, i.e. those received between 16 January 2023 and 26 April 2023 for the Reception Intake round will not be considered until after all first round on time applications have been processed. Second round applications will be considered together with any applicant previously refused a place in the first round and if necessary, will be prioritised using the oversubscription policy in place at the time.

   Additional applications:

Only one offer of a school place for each child can be held at any one time. If the Local Authority receives a further application for a child who has already secured a place in an earlier round, the new stated preferences will automatically supersede any earlier preferences stated.

During the second round of applications parents should note that the school initially allocated will be retained for their child pending the outcome of that application and that there is no guarantee of gaining a place at the preferred school named on the new application.

Parents can only hold one offer. Therefore, if an offer is made to a child during the second round of allocations any offer made in the first round will automatically be withdrawn.

Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, and the child lives in Wiltshire, the child will be allocated a place at their designated school if possible, unless an alternative place is available within a safe statutory walking distance from their home address.

The LA will contact all Foundation, Aided schools and Academies named as a preference on the application form to determine whether or not a place is available. An offer will be made for the school named as the highest preference where there is an identified place.

39. By **5 May 2023** details of second round applications received between the 16 January 2023 and 26 April 2023 to be sent to Academies, Foundation and Voluntary Aided Schools.

40. By **12 May 2023** Academies, Foundation and Voluntary Aided Schools should provide the LA with a ranked list of second round applications.

    On receipt, the LA will match the returns from all schools and will make an allocation of one place for each applicant:

    • Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the preferred schools, a place at the school will be offered to the child.

    • Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the nominated schools, they will be offered a place at whichever school was their highest available preference.

41. **By 26 May 2023** the LA will send out the second round offers for applications received between 16 January 2023 and 26 April 2023.

42. **09 June 2023** is the last date for second round offers to be accepted by parents. Parents should return their acceptance/decline slips back to the LA.

    If the parent does not respond to the Local Authority to confirm if they wish to accept or decline the offer by the date stated in the letter, the Local Authority will send a second letter to the parent informing them that they have seven days in which to accept or decline the place which has been offered. They will also be advised in this letter that failure to respond could result in the offer of the place being withdrawn. If there is still no response a third letter will be sent to the applicant informing them that

the offer of a place has been withdrawn. It will then be the parent's responsibility to apply for an alternative school place.

Third Round Applications for Reception 2023 Intake (applications received after 26 April 2023)

43. Third round applications, i.e. those received after 26 April 2023 for the Reception Intake round will not be considered until after all the second round applications have been processed. Third round applications will be considered together with any applicant previously refused a place and if necessary, will be prioritised using the oversubscription policy in place at the time.

    Only one offer of a school place for each child can be held at any one time. If the Local Authority receives a further application for a child who has already secured a place in an earlier round, the new stated preferences will automatically supersede any earlier preferences stated.

    During the third round of applications parents should note that the school initially allocated will be retained for their child pending the outcome of that application and that there is no guarantee of gaining a place at the preferred school named on the new application.

    Parents can only hold one offer. Therefore, if an offer is made to a child during the third round of allocations any offer made in the first or second round will automatically be withdrawn.

    The LA will contact all Foundation, Aided schools and Academies named as a preference on the application form to determine whether or not a place is available. An offer will be made for the school named as the highest preference where there is an identified place. Where the child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, and the child lives in Wiltshire, the child will be allocated a place at their designated school if a place is available, unless an alternative place is available within the safe statutory walking distance from their home address.

44. Applications received after the 26 April 2023 will be considered in date order of receipt and will be looked at after 29 June 2023 (i.e. once the second round of applications have been processed).

45. If the parent does not respond to the Local Authority to confirm if they wish to accept or decline the offer by the date stated in the letter, the Local Authority will send a second letter to the parent informing them that they have seven days in which to accept or decline the place which has been offered. They will also be advised in this letter that failure to respond could result in the offer of the place being withdrawn. If there is still no response a third letter will be sent to the applicant informing them that the offer of a place has been withdrawn. It will then be the parent's responsibility to apply for an alternative school place.

Applications for Reception 2023 Intake (applications received after 25 July 2023 – end of term)

46. Any applications received by the LA after 25 July 2023 which expresses a preference for an Aided, Foundation School or an Academy will be forwarded to the school within two school days of receipt at which time the process for in-year applications will apply.

Right of Appeal – main round applications

47. Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent Admission Appeal panel.

The deadline dates for lodging appeals for VC & C Schools for the main round entry is:

First round appeals
For applications received from 1 September 2022 – 15 January 2023 and for offers made on National Offer Date appeals must be received by the Local Authority no later than 17 May 2023.

Second round appeals
For applications received from 16 January 2023 – 26 April 2023 and for offers made on 26 May 2023 appeals will be heard as soon as possible.

Third round appeals
For applications received after the 26 April 2023 and for offers made after 29 June 2023, appeals will be heard as soon as possible.

Own admission authority appeal timetables will be provided within the individual school's admissions policy or on the school's website.

All appeals will be heard in accordance with the timescales which have been determined and are explained in the School Admissions Appeals Code.

If a child is offered a place at appeal for a VC or C school, it must be taken up within 28 working days of the required admissions date stated on the original application form unless the child is not of statutory school age.

Final List of expected reception pupils to schools

48. On or before 31 August 2023 the LA will send out a list to all maintained schools in Wiltshire showing those pupils expected to start in the school at the beginning of the 2023/24 school year.

Admitting in - area children above Published Admissions Number (PAN)

49. Wiltshire Council will always try and allocate a space at a child's designated school whenever this is possible. We cannot reserve places at any school, nor can we guarantee that a space will be available at the designated school. Having enough spaces in schools for local children is a service priority for the School Buildings and Places team.

50. The LA has responsibility for the strategic management of school places across the county and has to ensure admissions do not compromise its ability to provide efficient and effective use of resources. It is often more economic to admit children to their

designated school because this does not incorporate an additional transport cost which would be required were an alternative school be allocated.

51. For some schools, the next nearest school does not provide a reasonable alternative because it is beyond the statutory walking distance or the route is unsafe or there is no available transport. Any children who move into these areas might have to be admitted to the designated school despite any existing pressures upon it.

52. It may not always be possible to find a space at the designated school if this is already oversubscribed. If a school is over-subscribed, then Looked After Children will be given the highest priority on any waiting list. Following this in area children will be given priority on any waiting list over out of area children at all VC & C schools. If the designated area school is unable to accommodate any more children within the year group, then the LA will allocate an alternative school which will be the next nearest school which has places available.

53. Transport would be made available for any children who had to be allocated a school because their designated school was full and the school that has been allocated is outside of the statutory safe walking distance for the age of the child. All other entitlements will be dealt with by the Passenger Transport Team.

The In-year Transfer Application Process

Details of where to submit an application for your preferred school can be found on the Wiltshire Council website.

All applications received by Wiltshire Council via post or email will be date stamped on the date they are received by the school admissions team, unless the application is received over the weekend in these cases the form will be stamped as being received on the next working day.

For in-year transfer applications co-ordinated by Wiltshire Council, the following process applies.

All applications received by post or email will be date stamped on the date they are received by the school admissions team, unless the application is received over the weekend in these cases the form will be stamped as being received on the next working day.

54. The LA will make available copies of the Admissions Guide and PCAF through all primary and secondary schools and on request from County Hall.

55. All applicants who wish to apply for a school place must complete an application form which should be returned to the LA, once completed by the current school. The applicant may or may not live in Wiltshire.

56. Should a parent living in Wiltshire wish to apply for a school in another authority; they must contact that authority directly for details on how to apply.

57. Should any Wiltshire school receive an in-year application form expressing a preference for that school the form should be forwarded to the LA within two school days of receipt.

58. Where the LA receives an in-year application form expressing a preference for a VC or C school the application will be forwarded to the school within three school days of

receipt. The school is then required to advise the LA if a place can be offered within two school days or receipt.

59. Where the LA receives an in-year application form expressing a preference for an Academy, F or VA school the application will be forwarded to the school within three school days of receipt.

60. For an Academy, F or VA school, the school's governing body is responsible for deciding the outcome of the application and should advise the LA accordingly within two <u>school</u> days of the date of which the information was received by the school.

61. In all cases, Wiltshire Council will aim to send a decision letter out within 15 school days of receiving the application form and this will provide information, if appropriate, about the statutory right of appeal.

62. Waiting lists for schools must be kept and will be managed as per the admission arrangements for the particular school involved. Waiting lists will be kept in order of the relevant oversubscription criteria and not in date order of receipt.

63. The Local Authority will maintain waiting lists for all year groups for VC & C schools.

64. The school/academy will maintain waiting lists for all year groups for A, F & VA schools.

65. If an own admission authority school does not wish the LA to co-ordinate its in year, applications, the admission authority must officially confirm this to the LA by 30th September.
It will then be the responsibility of that admissions authority to ensure that applications are processed in line with the School Admissions Code.

The admissions authority will then have to process the application and inform the parent of the outcome and where necessary their statutory right of appeal. In all cases, it also required to forward a copy of the application, along with the decision, to the LA within two school days.

Where a school has opted in to the in-year co-ordination process, then all places offered at one of these schools must be taken up within 28 working days of the date stated on the initial application form, unless the school has an alternative timescale for this on their website. If the place has not been taken up with 28 working days, then the offer could be withdrawn.

Applications for transfer at a future date

66. Applications for transfer for VC and C schools will be considered no more than a maximum of one term in advance. All requests for admissions to VC and C Schools will be processed in line with the timetable below.

This table gives the earliest date that applications can be sent and when they are considered. Decision letters should be posted within 20 school days of either the date in the last column or, if your application is later than this, our receipt of your form.

Date admission being sought	Earliest application should be submitted	Applications will be processed from
January to March	1 September	31 October
April to July	1 January	15 February

| September to December | 1 April | 31 May |

67. Applications for transfer for VA and F schools and Academies will be forwarded when received directly to the schools named for consideration in accordance with the school's own admissions policy.

Right of Appeal – In Year Transfer Applications

68. Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent Admission Appeal panel.

   All appeals will be heard in accordance with the timescales which have been determined and are explained in the School Admissions Appeals Code.

   If a child is offered a place at appeal for a VC or C school, it must be taken up within 28 working days of the required admissions date stated on the original application form.

Proof of address

69. The LA reserves the right to ask parents for proof of their address. If the parents' current address is different to that held on the LA's computerised system, the LA may ask parents to provide proof of the new address if one is indicated. Acceptable proof of address includes:

   - A solicitor's letter stating contracts have been exchanged and specifying a completion date
   - A signed and dated tenancy agreement plus proof of residency (e.g. copy of a recent utility bill)

   If parents fail to provide proof of a new address, the LA will use the old address for admission purposes. If parents notify the LA that they will be moving to a new house, even if they provide the relevant proof of that address, they must move into that property by no later than the end of the first term following the notification. The LA reserves the right to check that parents are living in the address indicated within that timescale. If parents are not living there, the applications will be investigated, and the allocated place may be withdrawn. The application will then have the statutory right of appeal.

In year Fair Access Protocol

70. All Wiltshire Schools will act in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol which has been adopted to give access to educational provisions for hard to place children. Further information on the In Year Fair Access Protocol, as well as a copy of the protocol, can be viewed at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Early, deferred or delayed admission

71. a. **Early admission**

Admissions to school earlier than the term following the child's 4th birthday may be agreed in exceptional circumstances, such as medical or social factors that have an adverse effect on the child. The request must have the approval of the LA's professional adviser and there must be no suitable alternative pre-school provision available. Early admission will be agreed for a maximum of one traditional term before the next available normal entry date.

b.   **Deferred admission until later in the academic year**

Parents do not have to ensure their child receives full time education until the start of the term following their fifth birthday. However, parents have the right to start their child in school in the September of the academic year following their fourth birthday. In such circumstances, parents also have the option to start their child on a part–time basis or defer their child's entry until later in that academic year.

If a parent decides to defer their child's entry to the school that they have been offered until later in the academic year, that place will be held for the child and will not be offered to another child. However, please note that entry cannot be deferred beyond the point at which their child reaches compulsory school age (for the avoidance of doubt the law states that a child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his or her fifth birthday [or on his or her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day]. The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August). For children born between 1 April and 31 August, parents cannot defer entry beyond the beginning of the April term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Please note also that children who attend part-time until later in the school year cannot do so beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

 If the parent decides that they no longer wish to take up their child's place, they should inform the school and the Local Authority that the place is no longer required. The place will then be withdrawn and reallocated to the child who is top of the waiting list at that time. The parent must then submit a fresh application for a place in year one for the following academic year. The application can be submitted from April 2023 but will not be considered until June 2023.

Any request to defer or attend part-time should be made to the school as soon as an offer is received.

c.   **Delayed Admission**

All applications will be dealt with in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2.17, 2.18, 2.19,2.20 which came into force on 1 September 2021:

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child (born from 1 April to 31 August) may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1.

All requests should be made from the September following the child's third birthday, in order to give sufficient time for the case to be considered by the admissions authority prior to the deadline for applications of 15 January 2023.

Parents of a summer born child may choose not to send their child to a school until the September following their fifth birthday and they may request that they are admitted outside their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. All admission authorities are required to make clear in their admission arrangements the process for requesting admission outside of the normal age group.

The decisions on requests for applications outside the child's normal age group are made by the admission authority, which in the case of voluntary controlled and community schools is the LA. For voluntary aided, foundation schools or academies the admissions authority is the governing body of the school concerned. The decision to admit outside of their normal age group is made on the basis of the circumstances of each case. All parents who wish to apply for delayed entry into reception for any Wiltshire school must first submit a formal application to the LA.

If parents are applying for a voluntary controlled or community school, they will also need to make a written request at the time of application to the local authority's admissions co-ordinator, providing reasons for the request along with any supporting documentation they wish to include.

If parents are applying for a delayed entry at a voluntary aided, foundation school or an academy, as well as submitting a formal application to the local authority they should also contact their preferred school directly to discuss the request.

All admission authorities must make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

In the case of voluntary controlled and community schools, the Local Authority will look at the following factors when an application for admission outside the normal ages group:

- the parent's views

- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;

- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;

- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;

- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely

- the views of the head teacher of the school

The Local Authority will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

If the parental request for delayed admission into reception is agreed, a separate application for a place in the next cohort would have to be made in the following September. This application would be considered along with all the other applicants for admission in that year at the preferred school. There would be no guarantee that a place would be able to be offered in the preferred school. If the preferred school is over-subscribed and a place is not offered, the local authority will make an alternative offer. However, please note that delayed admission in to reception in the alternative school may not be possible.

If the parental request for delayed admission into reception is refused, the formal application which has already been submitted will be processed, unless the Local Authority receives a request from the parent to withdraw the application. If no request to withdraw the application is received, after the offer of a school place had been made the parent can then inform the Local Authority and the school that they want to defer entry until later in the academic year as outlined above.

When informing a parent of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the admission authority **must** set out clearly the reasons for their decision.

If a child is currently on a roll at a school and a delayed entry is submitted and cannot be agreed, then no alternative school will be offered.

Applications for delayed entry to out of county schools

Parents who wish to apply for a main round delayed entry to an out of county school should submit the request to Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council will pass this on to the other Local Authority for consideration. Wiltshire Council will then inform the parent of the decision of the request.

Parents who wish to apply for a delayed entry as an in-year transfer should contact the Local Authority where the preferred school is situated for details of how to apply.

Right of Appeal for admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the statutory right of appeal to an independent Admission Appeal panel. They do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like. However, if parents are dissatisfied with the outcome of the request for delayed entry into reception, they have the right to complain against the decision through the Council's complaints procedure for decisions made by council officers or under the school's complaints procedure where the school is the admissions authority.

Appendix: 2023/24 Timetable for Primary Co-ordination (Wiltshire)

15 January 2023:   **Closing date for all Common Application Forms to be received by the School Admissions Team at County Hall.   Applications received by this date will be classed as first round applications.**

8 February 2023:   Details of applications which include preferences for schools in other LAs to be sent to those LAs.

10 February 2023:   Details of applications to be sent to F, VA schools and Academies of all first round applicants.

8 March 2023:   F, VA schools and Academies to provide the LA with ranked lists of all first round applicants.

     Between 8 March and 23 March, the LA will match the ranked list from all schools and allocate places.

23 March 2023:   The LA will inform other LAs of any offers of places at Wiltshire schools to be made to applicants resident in their areas.

12 April 2023:   By this date the LA will provide schools with details of those children to be offered places at the school.

17 April 2023:   **Notification letters despatched and sent to parents for all first round applicants. Online applicants also able to view the outcome online.**

26 April 2023:   Deadline for second round applications.

3 May 2023:   Deadline for parents to accept the place offered.

5 May 2023:   Details of second round applications to be sent to F, VA schools and Academies of all second round applicants.

12 May 2023:   F, VA schools and Academies to provide the LA with ranked lists of all second round applicants.

26 May 2023:   **Notification letters despatched and sent to parents for all second round applicants.**

09 June 2023:   Last date for second round offers to be accepted by parents. Parents should return their acceptance/decline slips back to the LA.

29 June 2023:   Applications received after the 26 April will be considered in date order of receipt and will be looked at from today. Applications will be dealt with as soon as possible with allocations to a single school being made and offers being sent out by the LA as soon as practically possible.

31 August 2023:   On or before the 31 August the LA will send out a list to all schools showing the pupils expected to join the school at the beginning of the 2023/24 school year.

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Proposed Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools for 2023/24

Status: Proposed Admissions Arrangements 2023/24

PROPOSED SECONDARY ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Wiltshire Council's proposed admission arrangements for admission to Voluntary Controlled and Community (VC and C) Secondary Schools for the 2023/24 academic year

1. General Information

This policy applies solely to applications for places at Voluntary Controlled (VC) and Community (C) Secondary Schools in Wiltshire. Foundation (F) Voluntary Aided (VA) Schools and Academies (A) are their own admission authorities and the governing bodies are responsible for determining their own procedures and policies.

Proposed arrangements for the co-ordination of secondary admissions are made within the co-ordinated admissions scheme 2023/24.

The application round for entry into Year 7 - 2023 opens on 1 September 2022. The deadline date for applications to be received is midnight on 31 October 2022. The home address given for the child must be the address where the child is resident as of the deadline date.

a. Designated Area

A designated area is a discrete geographical zone served by a school. The address that determines a child's designated area is the place where he or she is ordinarily resident with his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for the majority of the school week. Most schools have a discrete designated area but some addresses fall within areas shared by two or more schools. Children who live outside the designated area for the school may still express a preference for the school.

In the case of children from the boating community (Boaters) proof of mooring will be required. Those without a permanent mooring, must provide details/proof of their sorting office, post office/poste restante address and this will be used for admissions criteria and allocation purposes.

b. Preferences

Parents will be invited to state up to three ranked preferences. Each preference will be considered equally. This means that Wiltshire Council will consider all applications against the published admissions criteria without reference to how the school applied for has been ranked on the application form. As far as possible applicants will be offered a place at a school to which they have expressed a preference. Where the applicant has made more than one preference, the Local Authority (LA) will make an offer for the highest ranked preferred school possible with available places in accordance with the standard admission criteria. Where it is not possible to offer a place at a preferred school, and the applicant lives in Wiltshire, the LA will allocate a place. Allocations will be made after all expressed preferences have been considered. An alternative school may be allocated in cases where the designated school is full and the alternative school is within the safe statutory 3 mile walking distance and has places available or it is a school to which free home to school transport would be provided.

In the case where there are more children living within an area, than there are places available and the parent has not named the designated school(s) as one of their preferences, the remaining places will be randomly allocated.

c. **Children with an education, health and care plan**

All children whose education, health and care plan that names a school, must be admitted.

d. **Published Admission Number**

A Published Admission Number (PAN) is agreed for each school annually and defines the number of places available for the year of entry. All applications must be agreed until the PAN has been reached and this figure will not be exceeded other than in exceptional circumstances. For example, a child living within a school's designated area and for whom no reasonable alternative school place is available, may be allocated a place at the designated school even if this exceeds the PAN. In this circumstance, reasonable is defined as a school within the statutory three mile safe walking distance from the child's home address or a school to which free home to school transport would be provided.

A list of PAN's for Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools can be found at the back of this policy document.

e. **Address**

The child's address provided on the application form should be that of the child's normal place of residence. Only one address can be considered for application purposes. The address provided will be used to determine the child's priority for a school place. The Local Authority reserves the right to confirm the address provided by the applicant using the council tax reference number which is provided as part of the application.

For YR 7 September entry, the address used to determine priority of school for on time applications submitted in the main round, will be the child's normal place of residence as at deadline date of 31 October 2022. A future address from an applicant who is moving can be considered if the Local Authority receives evidence in the form of an exchange of contracts or a tenancy agreement of a minimum of six months by the 16 December 2022.

Where children spend time with parents at more than one address then the address given on the form should be the one at which they are normally and habitually resident, i.e. sleep at, for the majority of term-time school nights (Sunday night to Thursday night). If children spend time equally at different addresses, then the address which will be used for admissions purposes will be the one registered for child benefit. The Local Authority may request proof of the registered address, which must pre-date the application.

Future addresses from applicants who currently own a property that is unoccupied or rented out, for which they plan to return to, will not be used when allocating places, unless a formal notice to terminate the rental agreement has been received by the deadline date or exceptional circumstances date. Such applications will be checked to confirm the applicants have returned to the property. If the applicant has not returned to the address, it will be considered a fraudulent application and the place will be taken away, even if the child has already started school. If no proof is provided, the current address will be used to determine the child's priority of a school place.

For in year transfer applications the current address at the time of application will be used.

f. **Shared Parental Responsibility**

Where two (or more) adults have parental responsibility for a child it is preferable that they should agree before submitting an application form which school(s) to name as their

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preference(s). In cases of dispute, or where two application forms are submitted, the LA will process the application received from the adult who has a residence order. If no such order has been made, preference will be given to the parent with whom the child is living for the majority of the school week.

If both parents are in dispute as to whom the child lives with the majority of the school week, the LA will process the application received from the adult who is in receipt of the child benefit, if this is not available then the address used on the NHS card will be used.

In the event of a further dispute regarding the address used, parents may wish to take independent legal advice on whether they should seek a specific issue order from the court to decide on where the child is schooled. For an in-year transfer application, the placement will continue in the best interest of securing educational provision for the child, with a minimum of disruption until any such order is made.

For year of entry, a place will be offered in accordance with the preferences to the parent who can provide evidence that they are in receipt of child benefit.

g.   **Multiple Births**

The LA will endeavour to place siblings (e.g. twins, triplets etc) in the same school. If necessary schools will be required to admit over PAN to accommodate such children.

h.   **Children of UK Service Personnel (UK Armed Forces)**

Applications for children of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to the county will be considered in advance of the family moving into the county. Where possible, an application must be included in the normal admission round.

An official letter, such as a posting note or letter of support from the commanding officer should be sent to the LA as soon as possible. This should include the relocation date and unit postal address or quartering area address.

Until a fixed address is available, the unit postal address will be used and a school place allocated accordingly. For service personnel moving back to a property that they own and this is currently rented out, then this address can be considered providing a signed letter from the Commanding Officer or a formal notice to terminate the rental agreement is received stating the future address.

If there is a tie-break situation then the criteria of the relevant admissions authority will be applied.

The LA will not refuse a child of UK service personnel a place because the family does not currently live in the area. It is also not permitted to reserve places for these children. If a place is not secured at the preferred school and the applicant has provided proof of a Wiltshire address then an alternative place will be allocated. This will be at the next nearest school to the unit postal address or quartering address with available places.

Children will be considered to be siblings if any brother or sister (including step siblings living at the same address) has been formally offered a place at the school which has been accepted. The sibling link will not apply if the child on roll is in Yr11, YR12 or YR13 for VC & C's schools.

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2. Early or Delayed Transfer

a. Early transfer

Children may only transfer early to a secondary school if it can be shown that not to do so would be detrimental to their academic progress or social wellbeing. Each such request involves consultation with the current school, the school to which the child wishes to transfer and where appropriate, the Authority's professional adviser(s). The application will not be agreed if one or more parties consider that the transfer would be inappropriate. Agreement to such a request would be considered exceptional.

b. Delayed transfer

All requests must be submitted to the Local Authority by 31 October 2022, the year in which the child would have chronologically transferred to secondary school.

Children may remain for a further year in a primary school if it can be shown that not to do so would be detrimental to their academic progress or social wellbeing, The presence of special educational needs or underachievement are not in themselves sufficient reasons to delay transfer.

Children for whom a delayed entry to school or year group retention has already been agreed by the relevant parties will continue in the lower year group unless it can be shown that it is in their best interests to rejoin their chronological year group, to enable the child to transfer back to their chronological year group then, a place must be available in the relevant year group. The continuation of this arrangement will continue on transfer to secondary school unless the parent/carer, current school, the school to which the child would otherwise wish to transfer and, where appropriate, the LA's professional adviser consider it in the child's best interest to re-join the chronological year group. An application for delayed transfer to secondary school must still be made in the same way as expected of other children in the year group in which they are working (rather than their chronological age group).

3. Deadline – applications received by the deadline date of 31 October 2022 will be considered as first round applications

The closing date for main round applications (i.e. applications for entry into Secondary Yr7 2022) is 31 October 2022.

All applications received after the deadline of 31 October 2022, including those directed incorrectly to schools and not forwarded to the LA before the deadline, will be treated as late applications and considered only after those applications received before the deadline have been determined. Applications may be considered as being received on time if they meet the exceptional circumstances criteria as detailed in the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme 2023/24.

4. Oversubscription Criteria for Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools

Where a secondary school is over-subscribed, places are allocated to children in order of the ranked criteria listed below:

a. **Looked After Children/Previously Looked After Children**

The definition of Looked After Children - A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear [to the admission authority] to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). Proof will be required and must be submitted by the deadline date.

b. **Vulnerable Children**

Children from families registered with the National Asylum Support Service; children or families with a serious medical, physical or psychological condition where written evidence is provided at the time of application from a senior clinical medical officer, general practitioner or specialist showing that it would be detrimental to the child or family not to admit to the preferred school.

For the purpose of the above criteria the word 'families' is determined as living at the same address at the time of application and also living at the same address on a permanent basis. Proof will be required and must be submitted by the deadline date.

c. **Designated Area Siblings and Shared Area Siblings**

A child is considered under this criterion if a sibling is attending the school as at the deadline date and where the child lives within the designated area or shared area at the same address as the sibling. The sibling must not be in year 11, 12 or 13 of the school at the deadline date. Step, half and foster siblings are included in this category;

d. **Other Children from the Designated Area or Shared Area**

Children resident within the designated area or shared area who do not qualify under one of the criteria above.

e. **Other Siblings**

A child is considered under this criterion if a sibling is attending the school as at the deadline date and where the child lives at the same address as the sibling. The sibling must not be in years 11, 12 or 13 at the school as of the deadline date. Step, half and foster siblings are also included in this category;

f. **Children of staff at the school**

A child is considered under this criterion:

i) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or

ii)   the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

If applicants wish to be considered under this criterion then a letter or email from the Headteacher confirming the paragraph i) or ii) applies to the applicant must be provided at the time of application.

h.   **Other children**

Children to whom none of the above criteria apply.

If the school is oversubscribed within any of the above categories, the straight-line distance from the child's home address to the school will be used as the determining factor. Distances will be measured according to the Ordnance Survey eastings and northings for the child's home address and the school. Those living closer to the school will be given priority*.*

Tie Break

If two or more children with the same priority for admission live an indistinguishable distance from the preferred school, but cannot all be admitted, then the available places will be decided by means of casting lots.

The random allocation will be conducted independently by Democratic Services, Wiltshire Council.

5.   Waiting Lists for all year groups

Waiting lists for VC & C Schools will be maintained for all year groups. Parents must request that their child is added to the waiting list, children will not automatically be added to them. All applicants have the right of appeal against any refusal of a place. The existence of a waiting list does not remove this right from any unsuccessful applicant.

The position on the waiting list will be determined by applying the published over-subscription criteria and not by date order of receipt. This will mean a position will change if a later application is received from someone with higher priority according to the oversubscription criteria.

Waiting lists for all year groups will close on the last day of the summer term in July 2024.

Parents may submit a fresh application for the next academic year group which will be considered from 31 May 2024 onwards.

Places that become available will not be offered to pupils who are not on the waiting list.
If a child is offered a place from the waiting list for any VC or C school, then the place must be accepted or declined within 10 working days of the date of offer.   The child must start at the school within date specified in the letter.

Notes:

- Names will only be removed from a waiting list, if a written request is received or if the offer of a place that becomes available is declined.

- Registration of interest on a school's pre-admission list will not be considered as an application for a school place.

- Parents must contact any VA, F school or the Academy concerned to obtain information on of a waiting list and or maintenance of a waiting list.

  - Except for Service Families, children will be considered to be living within the designated area for a school on receipt of an exchange of contracts or a signed tenancy agreement of a minimum of six months.

  - Except for Service Families, children will not be considered to be a sibling unless their brother or sister is attending the school and is expected to still be in attendance at the chosen start date.

6. Applications for Secondary Yr7 Intake – applications received after 31 October 2022

Applications received between the 1 November 2022 and 9 March 2023 will be treated as second round applications.

Applications received after the 9 March 2023 will be treated as third round applications.

7. Appeal Process – Main round applications

Parents have a right of appeal to an independent panel against any decision made by or on behalf of the Authority.

The deadline dates for lodging appeals for the main round entry is:

First round appeals
For applications received from 1 September 2022 – 31 October 2022 and for offers made on National Offer Date, appeals must be received by the Local Authority no later than 30 March 2023.

Second round appeals
For applications received from 1 November 2022 – 9 March 2023 and for offers made on 28 April 2023, appeals will be heard as soon as possible.

Third round appeals
For applications received after the 9 March 2023 and for offers made after 18 May 2023, appeals will be heard as soon as possible.

All appeals will be heard in accordance with the timescales which have been determined and are explained in the School Admissions Appeals Code.

Parents who have appealed unsuccessfully can reapply for a place at the same school in a later academic year and have a right of appeal if unsuccessful.

Where there have been material changes in circumstances in the same academic year and a repeat application is considered and again refused, the parents will have the right to a fresh appeal.

If a child is offered a place at appeal for a VC or C school, it must be taken up within 28 working days of the required admissions date stated on the original application form.

8.   In Year Transfer Applications for year groups other than Secondary Yr7 2023 Intake

Applications received after the 25 July 2023 for the year of entry and any applications received for other year groups are classed as transfer applications.

All applications will be considered together with any applications that have already been refused and the child's name will be placed on the waiting list accordingly.

Applications for transfer for VC and C schools will be considered no more than a maximum of one term in advance. All requests for admissions to VC and C Schools will be processed in line with the timetable below. All applications will be considered together and are ranked using the oversubscription criteria listed in this policy.

Where the LA receives an in-year application form expressing a preference for a VC or C school the application will be forwarded to the school within three school days of receipt. The school is then required to advise the LA if a place can be offered within two school days or receipt.

The following table gives the earliest date that applications can be sent and when they are considered. Decision letters should be posted within 15 school days of either the date in the last column or, if your application is later than this, our receipt of your form.

Date admission being sought	Earliest application should be submitted	Applications will be processed from
January to March	1 September	31 October
April to July	1 January	15 February
September to December	1 April	31 May

Applications received requesting more immediate admission are considered in the order that the School Admissions Team receives them. If more than one additional application for a particular school is received on the same date, places are allocated to children in order of the oversubscription criteria as listed in this policy.

In all cases parent(s)/guardian(s) will be invited to state up to a maximum of three secondary ranked preferences. An offer will be made at the school listed as highest preference possible which has an available place.

If a child is offered a place at any VC or C school, then the place must accepted or declined within 10 working days of the date of offer.

If a child is offered a place at any VC or C school and the parent(s)/guardian(s) accept the place, it must be taken up within 28 working days of the required admissions date stated on the original application form. Should the place not be taken up within the 28 working days the LA will then write to the parents informing them that the place has been withdrawn.

Requests for places in year groups other than the one relating to the child's chronological age will only be agreed if supported by the LA's relevant professional adviser(s) and the school.

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9.   Appeals Procedure – In Year Transfer Applications

Parents have a right of appeal to an independent panel against any decision made by or on behalf of the Admissions Authority as to the school which education is to be provided for their child.

All appeals will be heard in accordance with the timescales which have been determined and are explained in the School Admissions Appeals Code.

Information about the appeal procedure will be provided where a place at one or more of the preferred schools has been refused. Parents should visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk or contact the Customer Services Team (01225 713010) to obtain an appeals form which should be returned to the Democratic and Members Service team (D&M) at County Hall, Trowbridge. The clerk to the appeals panel will be provided by the D&M Service team.

Parents who have appealed unsuccessfully can reapply for a place at the same school in a later academic year and have a right of appeal if unsuccessful.

Where there have been material changes in circumstances in the same academic year and a repeat application is considered and again refused, the parents will have the right to a fresh appeal.

If a child is offered a place at appeal for a VC or C school, it must be taken up within 28 working days of the required admissions date stated on the original application form.

Please note appeals are only heard in term time.

10.   Proof of address

The LA reserves the right to ask parents for proof of their address. If the parents' current address is different to that held on the LA's computerised system, the LA may ask parents to provide proof of the new address if one is indicated. Acceptable proof of address includes:

A formal exchange of contracts or a signed solicitor's letter email stating contracts have been exchanged and specifying a completion date or a signed and dated tenancy agreement of a minimum of 6 months.

If parents fail to provide proof of a new address, the LA will use the old address for admission purposes. The LA reserves the right to check that parents are living in the address indicated on the applications form. If parents are not living there, the applications will be investigated and the allocated place may be withdrawn.

11.   Fair Access Protocol

All Wiltshire Schools will act in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol.

Further information on the In Year Fair Access Protocol including further criterions for referral, and a copy of the protocol, can be viewed at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

12. Sixth Form Admissions

Parents or students wishing to enrol for sixth form courses at Voluntary Controlled or Community Secondary Schools should contact the school and ask for a copy of the sixth form prospectus. This will detail the courses offered at the school and any specific entry requirements for any of those courses. The school will require an application form to be completed should the parent or student wish to make a formal application to join the school's sixth form.

Published Admission Numbers (PAN's) for VC & C Schools

DfES	School	2023 PAN
4000	Abbeyfield School, Chippenham	180
4070	The Stonehenge School, Amesbury	224

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PRIMARY

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Proposed Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools for 2023/24

Status: Proposed Admissions Arrangements 2023/24

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Proposed Primary Admission Arrangements

Wiltshire Council Determined Admission Arrangements for Admissions to Voluntary Controlled (VC) and Community (C) Primary, Infant and Junior Schools for the 2023/24 Academic Year

1. General Information

This policy applies solely to applications for places at Voluntary Controlled (VC) and Community (C) Primary, Infant and Junior Schools. Foundation (F), Voluntary Aided schools (VA) and Academies (A) are their own admissions authorities and the governing bodies are responsible for determining their own procedures and policies.

Determined arrangements for the co-ordination of primary admissions are drafted with the determined co-ordinated admissions scheme 2023/24.

The application round for entry into Reception and Junior Year 3 2023, opens on 1 September 2022. The deadline date for applications to be received is midnight on 15 January 2023. The home address given for the child must be the address where the child is resident as of the deadline date.

a. **Designated Area**

A designated area is a discrete geographical zone served by a school. The address that determines a child's designated area is the place where he or she is ordinarily resident with his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for the majority of the school week. Most schools have a discrete designated area, but some addresses fall within areas shared by two or more schools. Children living outside the county boundary are treated as if the children live within Wiltshire but outside the designated area for the school(s) in question.

In the case of children from the boating community (Boaters) proof of mooring will be required. Those without a permanent mooring, must provide details/proof of their sorting office, post office/poste restante address and this will be used for admissions criteria and allocation purposes.

b. **Preferences**

Parents will be invited to state up to three ranked preferences. Each preference will be considered equally. This means that Wiltshire Council will consider all applications against the published admissions criteria without reference to how the school applied for has been ranked on the application form. As far as possible applicants will be offered a place at a school to which they have expressed a preference. Where the applicant has made more than one preference the LA will make an offer for the highest ranked preference school possible with available places in accordance with the standard admission criteria. Where it is not possible to offer a place at a preferred school, and the applicant lives in Wiltshire, the LA will allocate a place at an alternative school. Allocations will be made after all expressed preferences have been considered. An applicant will normally be offered a place at the designated school for their home address. An alternative school may be allocated in cases where the designated school is full and the alternative school is within the safe statutory walking

distance and has places available or it is a school to which free home to school transport would be provided.

In the case where there are more children living within an area, than there are places available and the parent has not named the designated school(s) as one of their preferences, the remaining places will be randomly allocated.

c.   **Children with an education, health and care plans**

All children whose education, health and care plan names a school must be admitted.

d.   **Published Admission Number**

A Published Admission Number (PAN) is agreed for each school annually and defines the number of places available for the year of entry. All applications must be agreed until the PAN has been reached and this figure will not be exceeded other than in exceptional circumstances, for example, a child living in the designated area for who there is no reasonable alternative place available. In this circumstance, reasonable is defined as a school within the statutory safe walking distance from the applicant's home address of two miles for children aged under eight and three miles for children aged eight or over, or it is a school to which free home to school transport would be provided.

A list of PAN's for Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools can be found at the back of this policy document.

e.   **Address**

The child's address provided on the application form should be that of the child's normal place of residence. Only one address can be considered for application purposes. The address provided will be used to determine the child's priority for a school place. The Local Authority reserves the right to confirm the address provided by the applicant using the council tax reference number which is provided as part of the application.

For Yr R and Junior Yr 3 September 2023 entry, the address used to determine priority of school places for on time applications submitted in the main round, will be the child's normal place of residence as at deadline date of 15 January 2023. A future address from an applicant who is moving can be considered if the Local Authority receives evidence in the form of an exchange of contracts or a tenancy agreement of a minimum of six months by the 8 February 2023.

Where children spend time with parents at more than one address then the address given on the form should be the one at which they are normally and habitually resident, i.e. sleep at, for the majority of term-time school nights (Sunday night to Thursday night). If children spend time equally at different addresses, then the address which will be used for admissions purposes will be the one registered for child benefit. The Local Authority may request proof of the registered address, which must pre-date the application.

Future addresses from applicants who currently own a property that is unoccupied or rented out, for which they plan to return to, will not be used when allocating places, unless a formal notice to terminate the rental agreement has been received by the deadline date/ exceptional circumstances date. Such applications will be checked to confirm the applicants have returned to the property. If the applicant has not returned to the address, it will be considered a fraudulent application and the place will be

taken away, even if the child has already started school. If no proof is provided, the current address will be used to determine the child priority of a school place.

For in year transfer applications the current address at the time of application will be used.

f. **Shared Parental Responsibility**

Where two (or more) adults have parental responsibility for a child it is preferable that they should agree before submitting an application form which school(s) to name as their preference(s). In cases of dispute, or where two application forms are submitted, the LA will process the application received from the adult who has a residence order. If no such order has been made, preference will be given to the parent with whom the child is living for the majority of the school week.

If both parents are in dispute as to whom the child lives with the majority of the school week, the LA will process the application received from the adult who is in receipt of the child benefit, if this is not available then the address used on the NHS card will be used.

In the event of a further dispute regarding the application used, parents may wish to take independent legal advice on whether they should seek a specific issue order from the court to decide on where the child is schooled. For in year transfer applications, until any such order is made, the placement will continue in the best interests of securing educational provision for the child with a minimum of disruption.

For year of entry, where possible, a place will be offered in accordance with the preferences to the parent who can provide evidence that they are in receipt of child benefit.

g. **Multiple Births**

The LA will endeavour to place siblings born at the same time (eg. twins, triplets etc) in the same school. If necessary, schools will be required to admit over PAN to accommodate such children. In accordance with paragraph 2.16 of the School Admissions Code 2021, twins and multiple births will be classed as permitted exceptions to the Infant Class Size Regulations. This will only be the case when one of the siblings is the 30th or the 60th child admitted.

h. **Children of UK Service Personnel (UK Armed Forces)**

Applications for children of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to the county will be considered in advance of the family moving into the county if necessary. Where possible, an application must be included in the normal admission round.

An official letter, such as a posting note or letter of support from the Commanding Officer should be sent to the LA as soon as possible. This should include the relocation date and unit postal address or quartering area address.

Until a fixed address is available, the unit postal address will be used and a school place allocated accordingly. For service personnel moving back to a property that they own and that is currently rented out, then this address can be considered provided a signed letter from the Commanding Officer is received stating the future address or a formal notice to terminate the rental agreement. This should be received by the deadline / exceptional circumstances deadline.

If there is a tie-break situation then the criteria of the relevant admissions authority will be applied.

The LA will not refuse a child of UK service personnel a place because the family does not currently live in the area. It is also not permitted to reserve places for these children. If a place is not secured at the preferred school and the applicant has provided proof of a Wiltshire address, then an alternative place will be allocated. This will be at the next nearest school to the unit postal address or quartering address with available places.

Children will be considered to be siblings if any brother or sister (including step siblings living at the same address) have been formally offered and have accepted a place at the school. The sibling link will not apply if the child on roll is in Yr 6 for VC & C's schools. Their position on any waiting list will be set accordingly.

All applications will be dealt with in accordance with these admission arrangements. If a reasonable alternative cannot be offered, the child may be admitted as an 'excepted pupil' under the School Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations.

2. Starting School

There is a legal entitlement for all three and four year olds to have access to 15 hours free early education per week – available from registered childminders, school-based childcare, pre-schools, day nurseries, playgroups, or as part of a Children's Centre. Working parents of children aged three and four years of age will be able to access 30 hours for Free Entitlement, certain criteria will need to be met.

A school place will be made available for children from the September following their 4th birthday. Full-time education is available to all reception pupils.

Parents have the right to ask that their child attends part-time and this will be provided by arrangement with the school governors. Part-time provision has been determined as either five mornings or five afternoons a week.

Schools will be responsible for informing parents of the induction arrangements for new entrants to the reception class(es). These may involve a short period of part-time provision or a phased entry at the beginning of Term 1, which will normally be a fortnight. Individual children(s) cases for induction should be discussed by the parents(s) with the school directly.

3. Joint admission arrangements with pre-schools

A small number of schools enter into a formal joint arrangement with a pre-school or nursery to provide education jointly to children before they reach statutory school age. Such an arrangement usually involves each child attending school for some sessions each week, however, attending the pre-school or nursery school does not give priority for admission to the partner school.

The date on which a child can be admitted to a joint arrangement must be no earlier than the start of the term following his or her 4th birthday but can be later than this.

Registration at any nursery or pre-school unit will not be considered as an application for a school place. Attending a nursery / pre-school does not guarantee any child a

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place at a school. Applications can only be considered in line with the school's individual over-subscription criteria.

4. Early, deferred or delayed admission

a.   **Early admission**
Admissions earlier than the term following the child's 4th birthday may only be agreed in exceptional circumstances, such as medical or social factors that have an adverse effect on the child. The request must have the approval of the LA's professional adviser and there must be no suitable alternative pre-school provision available. Early admission will be agreed for a maximum of one traditional term before the next available normal entry date.

b.   **Deferred admission until later in the academic year**

Parents do not have to ensure their child receives full time education until the start of the term following their fifth birthday. However, parents have the right to start their child in school in the September of the academic year following their fourth birthday. In such circumstances, parents also have the option to start their child on a part–time basis or defer their child's entry until later in that academic year.

If a parent decides to defer their child's entry to the school that they have been offered until later in the academic year, that place will be held for the child and will not be offered to another child. However, please note that entry cannot be deferred beyond the point at which their child reaches compulsory school age (for the avoidance of doubt the law states that a child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his or her fifth birthday [or on his or her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day]. The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August). For children born between 1 April and 31 August, parents cannot defer entry beyond the beginning of the April term of the school year for which the offer was made.

Please note also that children who attend part-time until later in the school year cannot do so beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

If the parent decides that they no longer wish to take up their child's place, they should inform the school and the Local Authority that the place is no longer required. The offer of a place will then be withdrawn and reallocated to the child who is top of the waiting list at that time. The parent must then submit a fresh application for a place in year one for the following academic year. The application can be submitted from April 2023 but will not be considered until at least June 2023.

Any request to defer or attend part-time should be made to the school as soon as an offer is received.

c. **Delayed Admission**

All applications will be dealt with in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2.17, 2.17a, 2.17b, which came into force on 19 December 2014:

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if a child has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child (born from 1 April to 31 August) may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1.

All requests must be submitted to the Local Authority by 15 January 2023 for entry in to September 2023.

Requests should be made from the September following the child's third birthday, in order to give sufficient time for the case to be considered by the admissions authority prior to the deadline for applications of 15 January 2023.

Parents of a summer born child may choose not to send their child to a school until the September following their fifth birthday and they may request that they are admitted outside their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. All admission authorities are required to make clear in their admission arrangements the process for requesting admission outside of the normal age group.

The decisions on requests for applications outside the child's normal age group are made by the admission authority for each particular school, which in the case of voluntary controlled and community schools is the LA. For voluntary aided, foundation schools or academies the admissions authority is the governing body of the school concerned. The decision to admit outside of their normal age group is made on the basis of the circumstances of each case. All parents who wish to apply for delayed entry into reception for any Wiltshire school, must first submit a formal application to the LA.

If parents are applying for a voluntary controlled or community school, they will also need to make a written request at the time of application to the local authority's admissions co-ordinator, providing reasons for the request along with any supporting documentation they wish to include.

If parents are applying for a delayed entry at a voluntary aided, foundation school or an academy, as well as submitting a formal application to the local authority they should also contact their preferred school directly to discuss the request.

In the case of voluntary controlled and community schools, the Local Authority will look at the following factors when an application for admission outside the normal ages group:

- the parent's views

- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;

- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;

- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;

- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely

- the views of the head teacher of the school

The Local Authority will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

If the parental request for delayed admission into reception is agreed, a separate application for a place in the next cohort would have to be made in the following September. This application would be considered along with all the other applicants for admission in that year at the preferred school. There would be no guarantee that a place would be able to be offered in the preferred school. If the preferred school is over-subscribed and a place is not offered, the local authority will make an alternative offer. However, please note that delayed admission in to reception in the alternative school may not be possible.

If the parental request for delayed admission into reception is refused, the formal application which has already been submitted will be processed, unless the Local Authority receives a request from the parent to withdraw the application. If no request to withdraw the application is received, after the offer of a school place had been made the parent can then inform the Local Authority and the school that they want to defer entry until later in the academic year as outlined above.

When informing a parent of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the admission authority **must** set out clearly the reasons for their decision.

Applications for delayed entry to out of county schools

Parents who wish to apply for a main round delayed entry to an out of county school should submit the request to Wiltshire Council. Wiltshire Council will pass this on to the other Local Authority for consideration. Wiltshire Council will then inform the parent of the decision of the request.

Parents who wish to apply for a delayed entry as an in-year transfer should contact the Local Authority where the preferred school is situated for details of how to apply.

Right of Appeal for admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the statutory right of appeal to an independent Admission Appeal panel. They do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like. However, if parents are dissatisfied with the outcome of the request for delayed entry into reception they have the right to complain against the decision through the Council's complaints procedure for

decisions made by council officers or under the school's complaints procedure where the school is the admissions authority.

5. Deadline – applications received by the deadline date of midnight 15 January 2023 will be considered as first round applications

The closing date for main round applications (i.e. applications for entry into Reception and year 3 - 2023) is 15 January 2023.

All applications received after the deadline of 15 January 2023, including those directed incorrectly to schools and not forwarded to the LA before the deadline, will be treated as late applications and considered only after those applications received before the deadline have been determined.

6. Oversubscription criteria for Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools

Where a school is oversubscribed, places are allocated to children in order of the ranked criteria listed below:

a. **Looked After Children/Previously Looked After Children**

The definition of Looked After Children - A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear [to the admission authority] to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). Proof will be required and must be submitted by the deadline date.

b. **Vulnerable Children**

Children from families registered with the National Asylum Support Service; Children or families with a serious medical, physical or psychological condition where written evidence is provided at the time of application from a senior clinical medical officer, general practitioner or specialist showing that it would be detrimental to the child or family not to be admitted to the preferred school.

For the purpose of the above criteria the word 'family' is determined as living at the same address at the time of the application and also living at the same address on a permanent basis. Proof will be required and must be submitted by the deadline date.

c. **Linked Infants School (this criterion applies to infant-to-junior YR2 applications only)**

Children who are pupils attending year 2 at the linked infant school as at the deadline date, irrespective of the status of the school, i.e. F, A, C or VC.

d. **Designated area siblings and shared area siblings**

A child is considered under this criterion if a sibling is attending the school (or the linked junior school in the case of applications to an infant school) as at the deadline date and will continue to attend the school at the time of entry, and where the child lives within the designated area or shared area at the same address as the sibling. Step, half and foster siblings are included in this category.

e. **Other children from the designated area or shared area**

Children resident within the designated area or shared area who do not qualify under one of the criteria above.

f. **Other Siblings**

A child is considered under this criterion if a sibling is attending the school (or the linked junior school in the case of applications to an infant's school) at the deadline date and will continue to attend the school at the time of entry, and where the child lives at the same address as the sibling. Step, half and foster siblings are included in this category.

g. **Children of staff at the school**

A child is considered to fall under this criterion

i. where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or

ii. the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

If applicants wish to be considered under this criterion then a letter or email from the Headteacher confirming the above applies to the applicant must be provided at the time of application.

i. **Other Children**

Children to whom none of the above criteria apply.

If the school is oversubscribed within any of the listed categories, the straight-line distance from the child's home address to the school will be used as the determining factor. Distances will be measured according to the Ordnance Survey eastings and northings for the child's home address and the school. Those living closer to the school will be given priority.

Tie Break

If two or more children with the same priority for admission live an indistinguishable distance from the preferred school but cannot all be admitted, then the available places will be decided by means of casting lots.

The random allocation will be conducted independently by Democratic Services, Wiltshire Council.

7. Waiting lists for all year groups

Waiting lists for VC & C Schools will be maintained for all year groups. Parents must request that their child is added to the waiting list, children will not automatically be added to them. All applicants have the right of appeal against any refusal of a place. The existence of a waiting list does not remove this right from any unsuccessful applicant.

The position on the waiting list will be determined by applying the published over-subscription criteria and not by date order of receipt. This will mean a position will change if a later application is received from someone with higher priority according to the oversubscription criteria.

Waiting lists for all year groups will close on the last day of the summer term in July 2024.

Parents may submit a fresh application for the next academic year group which will be considered from 31 May 2024 onwards.

Places that become available will not be offered to pupils who are not on the waiting list.
If a child is offered a place from the waiting list for any VC or C school, then the place must be accepted or declined within 10 working days of the date of offer.   The child must start at the school within date specified in the letter.

Notes:

- Names will only be removed from a waiting list, if a written request is received or if the offer of a place that becomes available is declined.

- Registration of interest on a school's pre-admission list will not be considered as an application for a school place.

- Parents must contact any VA, F school or the Academy concerned to obtain information on of a waiting list and or maintenance of a waiting list.

- Except for service families, children will not be considered to be living within the designated area for a school until the LA receives an exchange of contracts or a signed tenancy agreement of a minimum of six months.

- Except for service families, children will not be considered to be a sibling unless their brother or sister is attending the school and is expected to still be in attendance at the chosen start date.

8. Applications for Reception and YR 3 Junior 2023 Intake – applications received after 15 January 2023

Applications received between the 16 January 2023 and 26 April 2023 will be treated as second round applications.

Applications received after the 26 April 2023 will be treated as third round applications.

9. Appeals Procedure – Main Round Applications

Parents have a right of appeal to an independent panel against any decision made by or on behalf of the Admissions Authority as to the school which education is to be provided for their child.

First round appeals
For applications received from 1 September 2022 – 15 January 2023 and for offers made on National Offer Date, appeals must be received by the Local Authority no later than 17 May 2023.

Second round appeals
For applications received from 16 January 2023 – 26 April 2023 and for offers made on 26 May 2023, appeals will be heard as soon as possible.

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Third round appeals
For applications received after the 26 April 2023 and for offers made after 29 June 2023, appeals will be heard as soon as possible.

All appeals will be heard in accordance with the timescales which have been determined and are explained in the School Admissions Appeals Code.

Parents who have appealed unsuccessfully can reapply for a place at the same school in a later academic year and have a right of appeal if unsuccessful.

Where there have been material changes in circumstances in the same academic year and a repeat application is considered and again refused, the parents will have the right to a fresh appeal.

If a child is offered a place at appeal for a VC or C school, it must be taken up within 28 working days of the required admissions date stated on the original application form unless the child is not of statutory school age.

Please note appeals are only heard in term time.

10. In Year Transfer Applications for year groups other than Reception and YR 3 Junior 2023 Intake

Applications received after the 25 July 2023 for the year of entry and any applications received for other year groups are classed as in-year transfer applications.

All applications will be considered together with any applications that have already been refused and the child's name will be placed on the waiting list accordingly.

Applications for transfer for VC and C schools will be considered no more than a maximum of one term in advance. All requests for admissions to VC and C Schools will be processed in line with the timetable below. Applications will be considered together and are ranked using the oversubscription criteria listed in this policy.

Where the LA receives an in-year application form expressing a preference for a VC or C school the application will be forwarded to the school within three school days of receipt. The school is then required to advise the LA if a place can be offered within two school days or receipt.

The following table gives the earliest date that applications can be sent and when they are considered. Decision letters should be posted within 15 school days of either the date in the last column or, if your application is later than this, our receipt of your form.

Date admission being sought	Earliest application should be submitted	Applications will be processed from
January to March	1 September	31 October
April to July	1 January	15 February
September to December	1 April	31 May

Applications received requesting more immediate admission are considered in the order that the School Admissions Team receives them. If more than one application for a particular school is received on the same date, places are allocated to children in order of the oversubscription criteria as listed in this policy.

In all cases parent(s)/guardian(s) will be invited to state up to a maximum of three preferences. An offer will be made at the school listed as highest preference possible which has an available place.

If a child is offered a place at any VC or C school, then the place must accepted or declined within 10 working days of the date of offer.

If a child is offered a place at any VC or C school and the parent(s)/guardian(s) accept the place, it must be taken up within 28 working days of the required admissions date stated on the original application form. Should the place not be taken up within the 28 working days, the LA will then write to the parents informing them that the place has been withdrawn.

11. Appeals Procedure – In-Year Transfer Applications

Parents have a right of appeal to an independent panel against any decision made by or on behalf of the Admissions Authority as to the school which education is to be provided for their child.

All appeals will be heard in accordance with the timescales which have been determined and are explained in the School Admissions Appeals Code.

Information about the appeal procedure will be provided where a place at one or more of the preferred schools has been refused. Parents should visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk or contact the Customer Services Team (01225 713010) to obtain an appeals form

which should be returned to the Democratic and Members Service team (D&M) at County Hall, Trowbridge. The clerk to the appeals panel will be provided by the D&M Service team.

Parents who have appealed unsuccessfully can reapply for a place at the same school in a later academic year and have a right of appeal if unsuccessful.

Where there have been material changes in circumstances in the same academic year and a repeat application is considered and again refused, the parents will have the right to a fresh appeal.

Please note appeals are only heard in term time.

12. Proof of address

The LA reserves the right to ask parents for proof of their address. If the parents' current address is different to that held on the Local Authority's Council Tax system, the LA may ask parents to provide proof of the new address if one is indicated. Acceptable proof of address includes;

A formal exchange of contracts or a signed solicitor's letter or email stating contracts have been exchanged and specifying a completion date or a signed and dated tenancy agreement of a minimum of six months.

If parents fail to provide proof of a new address, the LA will use the old address for admission purposes. The LA reserves the right to check that parents are living in the address indicated on the application form. If parents are not living there, the application will be investigated and the allocated place may be withdrawn.

13. Fair Access Protocol

All Wiltshire Schools will act in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol.

Further information on the In Year Fair Access Protocol including further can be viewed at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Published Admission Numbers (PANs)

The Local Authority is consulting on publishing a PAN lower than the net capacity of the school, for the following schools.

School Name	Agreed 2023 PAN
Newtown Community Primary School	**30**
Oaksey CE Primary School	**13**
Staverton CEVC Primary School	**30**

Published Admission Numbers (PANs)
for VC & C Schools

Voluntary Controlled Schools	Agreed 2023 PAN
Amesbury CEVC Primary School	*60*
Ashton Keynes CE Primary School	*30*
Bellefield Primary & Nursery School, Trowbridge	*45*
Box CE Primary School	*25*
Brinkworth Earl Danby's CE Primary School	*30*
Broad Hinton CE Primary School	*17*
Broad Town CE Primary School	*12*
Christ Church CE Controlled Primary School	*60*
Churchfields, The Village School	*25*
Colerne CE Primary School	*38*
Collingbourne CE Primary School	*17*
Crudwell CE Primary School	*18*
Dinton CEVC Primary School	*17*
Durrington CE Cont. Junior School	*58*
Five Lanes Primary	*12*
Harnham CE Cont. Junior School, Salisbury	*90*
Hilperton CEVC Primary School	*25*
Holt VC Primary School	*29*
Hullavington CE School	*21*
Kington St. Michael CE Primary School	*21*
Lacock CE Primary School	*12*
Langley Fitzurse CE Primary School	*16*

Lea & Garsdon CE Primary School	*30*
Longford CE (VC) Primary School	*12*
Marlborough St. Mary's CEVC Primary School	*60*
Minety CE Primary School	*21*
Newton Tony CEVC Primary School	*12*
North Bradley CE Primary School	*30*
Oaksey CE Primary School	*13*
Preshute CE Primary School	*30*
Shalbourne CE Primary School	*8*
Sherston CE Primary School	*30*
Southwick CE Primary School	*30*
St. Barnabas CE School, Market Lavington	*20*
St. John's CE Primary School, Tisbury	*20*
St. Mary's CE Primary School, Purton	*60*
St. Nicholas CEVC Primary School, Bromham	*12*
St. Sampson's CE Primary School	*60*
Stratford sub Castle CEVC Primary School	*21*
Sutton Veny CEVC School	*27*
The Minster CE Primary School	*30*
Urchfont CE Primary School	*16*
Warminster Sambourne CEVC Primary School	*21*
Westbury CE Junior School	*90*
Westbury Leigh CE Primary School	*60*
Winterbourne Earls CE Primary School	*30*

Community Schools	**Agreed 2023 PAN**
Bitham Brook Primary School	*60*
Bratton Primary School	*30*
Charter Primary School	*45*
Fitzmaurice Primary School	*45*
Fynamore Primary School	*60*
Gomeldon Primary School	*21*
Grove Primary School	*60*
Harnham Infants School	*90*
Hilmarton Primary School	*16*
Holbrook Primary School	*45*
Horningsham Primary School	*12*

Kings Lodge School	*60*
Kiwi School	*60*
Luckington Community School	*10*
Manor Fields Primary School	*30*
Mere School	*45*
Monkton Park Primary School	*38*
Neston Primary School	*30*
Newtown Community Primary School	*30*
Nursteed Community Primary School	*30*
Old Sarum Primary School	*60*
Priestley Primary School	*45*
Princecroft Primary School	*30*
Ramsbury Primary School	*30*
Redland Primary School	*45*
Royal Wootton Bassett Infants School	*60*
St. Paul's Primary School, Chippenham	*41*
Stanton St. Quintin Primary School	*17*
Walwayne Court School	*42*
Westbury Infants School	*90*
Westwood-with-Iford School	*17*
Woodlands Primary School	*30*

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