

Council Plan 2020 - 2024

Promoting sustainable inclusive communities, infrastructure, and growth

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COUNCIL PLAN 2020–2024

Action Plan 12

Council Plan Priority 3

Promoting sustainable inclusive communities, infrastructure, and growth

Our commitment to you

We will clean streets and maintain roads effectively

Background

Street cleanliness

Keeping streets and open spaces clean and well maintained has a major influence on the way people act and behave. Well managed and clean streets bring local pride and satisfaction in their area. Recent surveys show satisfaction with street cleansing services remain stable but some of our indicators have shown slight downward trends or are not as good as we would like. We've therefore looked at how we can improve what we do whilst recognising the financial pressures the council faces.

- We're looking at our mechanical sweeping and road gully emptying routines to see if we can be more efficient and effective with the resource we have, making better use of vehicles and reducing 'dead time', specifically targeting areas where we can make greatest difference.
- We have restructured our teams to enable more collaborative working between our cleansing teams and our waste contractor, SUEZ.
- We are creating additional capacity by installing state of the art compactor bins which need less attendance
- We will look to deploy mechanical electrical sweepers, freeing up pedestrian operatives
- We will use additional maintenance funding to increase our gully emptying routines.
- We monitor feedback from local people on our services and we are responsive in acting on concerns, increasing bin emptying frequencies and providing new bins in rubbish hotspots.

Environmental Enforcement

Following an internal restructure, we have created a new environmental enforcement team, whose role is to:

- Encourage a sense of ownership and pride in our communities.
- Build relationships within communities, so we have eyes and ears on the street.
- Rigorously enforce action against individuals whose actions harm the beauty of our environment.
- Educate and engage – by persuading people to change their behaviour.
- Identify where an alternative approach is likely to return better results, including helping people to help themselves.
- Intervene early to save the cost and complexities of engagement at a later stage where a problem has intensified.

With Covid-19 we have seen a spike in fly-tipping - in the first quarter of this year we cleared 784 fly tips compared to 345 last year. At the same time, we have been constrained in how we can investigate cases, but the team is now proactively working through investigations.

To support the team's work, we will be deploying CCTV cameras to monitor areas subject to problems with fly tipping, when educational approaches have not resolved the issue. We are currently carrying out an audit of hotspot locations to see if they are suitable for CCTV to be installed.

To reduce fly-tipping, we are promoting our bulky waste collection service via social media. We are also placing posters on litter bins to deter fly-tipping of bulky waste and where evidence is available, we are contacting residents to offer advice and help.

Road maintenance

We assess our roads in line with the national road condition index and direct resources to reflect the relative priorities within our district. Roads are regularly assessed through a combination of mechanical surveys and visual inspections and rated red, amber or green.

We focus attention on roads classified as amber to prevent significant deterioration, with our forward strategy to shift spend onto the lower road class levels (unclassified or hierarchy 6-8).

Covid-19 has restricted our work on estate roads, but we have diverted resources towards maintenance and repair of other roads. We have also directed resources on our rural network with an additional £500k going specifically on the rural lanes from the additional 'Challenge Fund' allocations. This will be aided by an increased surface dressing programme during summer 2021. Other areas of focus will be parts of the network that service industrial estates, which are crucial in supporting economic recovery.

Cleaner streets and road maintenance within the context of climate change

We have identified opportunities to reduce the council's environmental footprint through adopting more environmental measures within our work in StreetCare.

The council's transport fleet

We have completed a review of our fleet and we are increasing the proportion of zero emission vehicles by replacing petrol and diesel vehicles with electric ones as they near the end of their useful life.

We also continue to explore further options to expand the number of fully electric zero emission vehicles into larger fleet vehicles as and when the relevant technology develops. This will in turn see reduction in carbon associated with the work we do with street cleaning and highway.

Green Infrastructure

Our development of a Green Space Strategy will support the work we do in keeping our streets clean.

Flood and Water Management

Climate change will increase our exposure to flooding. We are therefore updating our Flood Risk Strategy and developing local flood risk plans for Thornbury and Yate. At the same time, working with developers and utility companies we have been proactive in reducing flood risk by planning drainage infrastructure into new developments. The completion and adoption of the Sustainable Urban Drainage will reinforce sustainability and environmental requirements for new systems and therefore extend the life of roads.

Highways

Building and maintaining highways has a significant negative impact on the environment. We are currently working with national partners and other authority bodies to baseline the impact our current practices have on the environment and carbon outputs. However, maintenance must be undertaken otherwise our network will decline quickly. Our focus therefore is to develop whole life strategies which minimise our impact.

Waste

We are directly investing in waste management infrastructure, notably in Mangotsfield and the New North Fringe site. Waste management has strong links with the cleanliness of streets and so we will continue working with residents to reduce disposal in landfill and prioritise reuse and recycling. The new 'Resource and Waste Strategy: 2020 and beyond' sets out our long-term direction to build on our success and bring together waste management, environmental crime, and street cleansing to support our ambition to be the best performing authority.

The strategy highlights our work to reduce consumption, especially of single-use items. We have a new ambitious target in place to achieve zero waste to landfill by 2030. Updated reviews of this strategy will be published in 2023, 2026 and 2029. We will therefore drive forward the actions of the new strategy, working with residents and communities to reduce consumption and divert to more appropriate destinations and recovery options. Much of the on-the-ground work in this area is undertaken by partner organisations, but the council has a key role in supporting those partners to ensure local people live their lives safe from harm.

How we will measure our success

Action	Delivery date
<p>We are working to ensure our streets are clean and provide a pleasant environment to live and work. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emptying bins on a regular basis maintaining effective cyclic manual street cleaning picking up litter in a timely manner 	Annual measure
<p>To use the Envirocrime Team to proactively enforce against environmental offences e.g. littering & fly tipping. We will also provide education and communication to raise awareness and impact of people's action on the environment.</p>	Spring 2022
<p>To tackle outstanding road maintenance programmes in targeted areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue our strategy of investment into minor road estate road network improving the street outside of our residents' front doors ensuring the remaining network remains at acceptable levels of maintenance 	Annual measure
<p>Invest in waste management infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tackle congestion and accessibility issues at the Mangotsfield Sort-it-Centre through land acquisition and highways improvement package. develop New North Fringe site 	2023

Key Performance Indicators		Current Performance		Target
		2018/19	2019/20	
<p>Percentage of land with unacceptable levels of graffiti, detritus, litter etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measured against benchmarks in Land Audit Management System Monitored by individual inspections Reported annually <p>All of these work areas have outputs or outcomes in terms of performance. Some targets are set as clear objectives others (in brackets) are much harder to be specific about and have external influences not within the Council's control</p>	Litter	8.02%	10.11%	9%
	Detritus		24.93%	22%
	Litter & Detritus (combined)	15.27%	16.5%	15%
	Graffiti		1.08%	1%
	Fly posting		0.65%	1%
	Bins overflowing		4.2%	4%
	Bin condition (structural)	2.88%	1.52%	2%

	Bin condition (cleanliness)	11.43%	9.16%	10%
	Dog fouling	1.11%	0.51%	1%
	Staining/gum		2.71%	2%
Response time to remove fly tips within target time (tips removed within 3 days)			88%	95%
Net customer satisfaction score and year on year change (measured through annual customer survey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30% indicates 30% of people have a negative perception +28% indicates 28% have a positive perception 	Condition of roads		-30%	improvement
	Action the council is taking to carry out urgent repairs to local roads		-21%	improvement
	Action the council is taking to resurface local roads		-30%	improvement
	Cleanliness of local roads and open spaces		+28%	improvement
Roads in need of maintenance (classified as Red/Amber/Green) (This is machine measured and we will report red rated road conditions (A, B & C in Council Plan performance)	A Roads (Red)	2.0%	2.4%	2.0%
	A Roads (Amber)	20%	19.2%	19%
	B Roads (Red)	3%	3%	3%
	B Roads (Amber)	22.5%	22.2%	22%
	C Roads (Red)	8%	9%	8%
	C Roads (Amber)	34.5%	34.5%	33%
	Unclassified Roads (Red)	20%	22%	20%
Unclassified Roads (Amber)	26%	N/A	24%	

The KPIs highlighted in yellow are those of significant public interest which will be given priority attention through the reporting process for the Council Plan.

Ensuring this Action Plan remains relevant

This Action Plan and Council Plan have been prepared at a time of significant change and uncertainty for local people, businesses, the council and the partner organisations we work with. Recognising this uncertainty, this is a 'living document', which we will continue to develop to ensure the plans and our accompanying work and targets remain relevant in response to external factors.

COUNCIL PLAN 2020–2024

Action Plan 13

Council Plan Priority 3

Promoting sustainable inclusive communities, infrastructure, and growth

Our commitment to you

We will lead the response to the climate emergency and deliver on our commitments

Background

Last year, the council declared a Climate Emergency. In declaring an Emergency, we are recognising that the global climate is in a state of breakdown and that we all need to take urgent steps to address this situation by reducing our carbon emissions and preparing for the local impacts of climate change.

The council has pledged to provide the leadership to enable South Gloucestershire to become carbon neutral by 2030 and signed up to the UK100 pledge to ensure 100% renewable energy across the area by 2050.

Our starting point is:

- 1,048,500 tonnes Co2 emissions are emitted each year from the District (for context an average UK individual is responsible for 8.3 tonnes Co2e per year)
- Only 4.8% of the District's total fuel demand is supplied by local renewable energy generation
- Emissions from road transport contribute 383,400 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents and are increasing (Tco2E)
- While there have been reductions in emissions from domestic properties (22% since 2005 per capita), they still contribute 342,000 tCO2e, from 115,000 dwellings with 84% being heated by fossil fuelled gas and 49% have an Energy Performance Certificate graded as D or lower.
- Since 2005, non-domestic emissions have reduced by 65%, while total gross value added (GVA) has increased by 63% but energy consumption from non-domestic properties still contributes around 308,500 tCO2e from 5,750 buildings.
- Energy consumption from the agricultural sector emits around 15,000 tCO2e.

Work to tackle the Climate Emergency will involve:

- Reducing carbon emissions
- Building local climate resilience
- Restoring nature.

To reduce our carbon emissions requires behavioural change amongst all of us. In taking on a leadership role locally, the council recognises the role we have both through our direct activities and our influence in the planning system, as well as in supporting individuals to make simple changes in their lives. We have set out our priorities in our Climate Emergency Action Plan, which are also embedded within this Council Plan commitment.

Fewer, less carbon intensive journeys

- Identifying and prioritising walking and cycling schemes to encourage people to switch journeys of less than five miles to bike, public transport or walking

- Reducing mileage in all vehicles through effective land use planning and proactive regeneration activity that reimagines our town centres to focus on minimising the need to travel.
- Where journeys cannot be made on foot, by bike or public transport, enhancing charging infrastructure to encourage people to switch from diesel and petrol to electric vehicles.

Using less energy in the home

- Change the way we heat and power our homes by improving their fabric then replacing gas, oil and solid fuel heating with heat pumps or heat supplied from a low carbon heat network. We will work to build capacity in local supply chains and installer networks as well as early support to activate a critical mass and inspire investor confidence.
- Build housing to standards that meet our climate emergency targets. We will work with developers to ensure new housing is built to deliver at least zero carbon in all regulated, unregulated emissions and embodied carbon.
- Investing in retrofitting existing buildings to meet high energy efficiency standards.

Encouraging renewable energy projects

- Investing in decarbonising the energy source by supporting renewable energy projects, especially at a community level and on the consumer side of the meter.
- Changing how we heat and power our businesses by switching to renewable heat or heat supplied from a low carbon heat network and locally generated renewable electricity. Significant investment is needed to develop local heat networks in our key commercial areas and to innovate in local generation and supply.

We recognise that along with other factors, climate change is having a significant impact on the health of ecosystems and some councils are separately declaring an ecological emergency. Our approach is to embed tackling the ecological emergency within and alongside the broad Climate Emergency agenda as it is a critical aspect of the wider environmental crisis and to make it clear that we need to act holistically.

To build local climate resilience and enhancing Natural Capital and Nature Recovery, will require our support to:

- Improve how we work by bringing together those organisations involved in enhancing natural capital with those involved in nature recovery.
- Reduce flood risk through managing landscapes, planting trees and vegetation and slowing the rate at which rainfall runs from higher ground into streams and rivers.
- Ensure services are not disrupted during extreme weather events.
- Design new buildings so they can withstand heatwaves without the need for energy intensive air conditioning and adjusting existing buildings and the way we use them to withstand extremes of temperature.
- Ensure new highways for walking, cycling and vehicles are designed to withstand extreme weather, particularly flooding and heat.

- Protect, improve, increase and join up areas of woodland, grassland and wetland to help nature thrive and withstand new pressures.
- Reduce waste and work towards zero biogenic waste to landfill by 2030.
- Prepare for new pests and diseases triggered by a warmer climate.

Tackling the Climate Emergency is a significant undertaking and this plan should be read in conjunction with the suite of Strategy and Action Plan work which can be found at <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/environment/climate-change/climate-change-strategy/>

Measuring Performance

To reach our carbon neutral target by 2030, we need to demonstrate a saving of 1,186 ktCo2e by 2032. The 2032 timetable is a reflection of the way climate data is collected and presented nationally (the data being two years old by publication on account of the science in collection and reporting). At this relatively early stage in our strategic response to the Climate Emergency, we have identified a linear progression of reduction, but recognise that the scale and pace of change is unlikely to meet that linear pathway. We are putting in place the commitment, the evidence base and the structures and we are identifying the critical actions to take us on this pathway; but in real terms, getting these measures in place now will have a greater impact 5-10 years down the line than in the immediate 4-5 years of this Council Plan. We need to set ambitious targets to meet the scale of this challenge and strive for interventions with a genuinely long-term impact.

As our response to the Climate Emergency develops we will explore new KPIs that can be reported against this action plan as new data-gathering tools become available, particularly as we develop new green infrastructure and look to monitor impacts on the likes of biodiversity and resilience.

How we will measure our success

Action	Measure of success	Delivery date
<p>Buildings</p> <p>Through our own operations, lead the reduction in energy demand in our existing buildings and ensure we build to high energy efficiency standards on new schemes. Enable homes and businesses to reduce their energy needs and inspire more to do the same.</p>	<p>Annual reduction in Co2 emissions from homes and business.</p> <p>Annual reduction in Co2 emissions from SGC estate.</p>	<p>Annual December 2020</p>
<p>Transport</p> <p>Prioritise walking and cycling schemes that can be brought forward quickly. Reduce mileage in all vehicles through effective land use planning and proactive regeneration activity that reimagines our town centres to focus on minimising the need to travel.</p> <p>Enhancing charging infrastructure across both urban and rural communities ensuring coverage for both origin and destination charging.</p>	<p>Annual reduction in Co2 emissions from SGC own feet including RCVs.</p> <p>New charge points installed.</p>	<p>Annual December 2020</p>
<p>Renewable Energy</p> <p>Assess the potential to increase renewable generation within the District and provide a supportive policy context to enable individuals and communities to fulfil their generation potential.</p>	<p>Percentage of Districts energy needs met from renewable sources</p> <p>Percentage of SGC energy needs met from renewable sources (purchased and self-generated)</p>	<p>Annual December 2020</p>
<p>Green infrastructure and Nature Recovery</p> <p>We will complete, consult on and adopt the South Gloucestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan, to optimise GI asset management for climate change, nature recovery, health and community adaptation, mitigation and resilience.</p>	<p>Adoption of the strategy and action plan</p>	<p>November 2020</p>
<p>Waste</p> <p>Deliver the South Gloucestershire 'Resource and Waste Strategy 2020 and Beyond' with ambitious targets to build on existing success and drive recycling to 70% with zero biogenic waste to landfill by 2030.</p>	<p>Reduction in per capita tonnage.</p> <p>Percentage recycled.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>Adaptation and Resilience We will work with the Carbon Trust Pathfinder Programme to develop a systematic approach to Adaptation and Resilience in South Gloucestershire to ensure that the Council is taking necessary steps across all service areas to adapt and make South Gloucestershire resilient to the local impacts of climate change.</p>	The completion of the programme	April 2021
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Key Performance Indicators	Current Performance	Target												
<p>South Gloucestershire District CO2 Emissions</p>	<p>2020 baseline value of ktCo2e</p> <p>(n.b. official data is collected nationally and is from 2 years before the released data)</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Saving Required</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>29.675</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>47.48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023</td> <td>94.96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024</td> <td>166.18</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>1186 ktCo2e by 2032</p>	Year	Saving Required	2020	0	2021	29.675	2022	47.48	2023	94.96	2024	166.18
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2020	0													
2021	29.675													
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<p>Co2e Emissions from the Council's own operations.</p>	<p>11153.18 Tonnes CO2e 2018/19</p>	<p>Zero by 2030 (10% year-on-year)</p>												
<p>Renewable energy generation from within the District</p>	<p>4.8% of local energy consumption is from local renewable energy generation</p>	<p>Year on year increase in renewable energy generating capacity to support 100% renewable energy consumption by 2030</p>												

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COUNCIL PLAN 2020–2024

Action Plan 14

Council Plan Priority 3

Promoting sustainable inclusive communities, infrastructure, and growth

Our commitment to you

We will promote clean, affordable, high quality design of new and existing communities

Background

Our vision is that South Gloucestershire be a great place to live, work and visit. We want all our residents and communities, existing and new, rural and urban to share in this vision, and know that people's chances of having a long, healthy and rewarding life depend on getting a few basic things right, including:

- having a decent home which meets their needs,
- having access to rewarding employment, and
- living in an environment that is clean and provides opportunities for activities which promote wellbeing and social engagement.

We also recognise the wide-ranging benefits high quality housing and well-designed communities can have and will align our work to ensure we support the other commitments set out in the Council Plan to help us reduce child poverty and enable people to live fulfilled and independent lives.

The council already works to deliver on these objectives, for example through our spatial plan-making as we identify the housing, employment and leisure and wellbeing needs of our growing populations and plan how this development can best be delivered. The planning policies of the council aim to ensure that the development proposals take account of the wider public interest in creating places that people can live and work sustainably.

The council has a strong track-record in ensuring that development is plan-led following public engagement and consultation, and we will maintain this commitment to delivering a comprehensive suite of policy documents to inform decision making and guide the location and quality of development.

Our housing teams work to ensure the needs of our community are met by working with and influencing the housing market, and in partnership with Registered Providers to secure the delivery, allocation and quality of Affordable Housing. We have promoted the strength and diversity of South Gloucestershire's employment base through three Enterprise Areas, and have invested in, and supported communities to enjoy our natural and historic environments.

More recently we have increased our focus on the strategic regeneration of older urban communities. At the same time, we have developed tools to further raise standards in the design of new development, which support the climate change and environmental ambitions which residents have told us are of increasing importance to them. The council's approach will continue to be multi-faceted, working directly where we are best placed to lead, working in partnership where this will increase our impact, and using our involvement in the planning process to influence the actions of others.

We now need a transformational programme to pivot from a largely incremental and reactive approach to how our communities grow, to one where we have a clearer and

shared understanding of the opportunities that growth can deliver. We are predicted to be the second fastest growing unitary authority in England over the next 25 years with a 25% increase in our population to 354,300. We will need to provide at least 1,400 new homes every year, and possibly as many as 2,500, to play our part in addressing the housing shortfall, and meet the needs of our growing population, At the same time we will see a 44% increase in the number of residents aged 65 or older.

As we take account of population growth and the changing needs of our communities, and take steps to address the challenges and opportunities of the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, Covid-19, digital transformation and significant reforms to our spatial planning system, we will prioritise a response which is plan-led, delivers high quality, sustainable homes and places, and ensures all in our communities, old and new, benefit.

The Local Plan is central to delivering this ambition and is monitored through the Local Plan Delivery Programme (LPDP) which is refreshed every year, and covers a rolling three-year period, currently 2020-2023. The Plan is also heavily influenced by the progress of the West of England Spatial Development Strategy which is being project-managed by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA). At the point of publishing this action plan there are 12 separate projects in hand through the LPDP, delivering new or refreshed spatial policy and supplementary guidance, including;

- new Local Plan: to replace the Core Strategy (Target December 2023)
- Community Infrastructure Levy: to review the current approach and charging schedule
- Statement of Community Involvement: to review our approach to public engagement in the development of spatial policy and planning decisions
- Supplementary Planning Documents: the current programme is bringing forward SPDs on the following topics:
 - Biodiversity
 - Trees
 - Sustainable Drainage
 - CIL
 - Affordable Housing and Extra Care
 - Household Extensions
 - Barn conversions
 - Self- build and Custom Build
 - Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)
 - Residential Annexes.

How we will measure our success

Action	Measure of success	Delivery date
Review impacts of Covid-19 and Planning White Paper on the Planning service including consideration of 'dispersed' working pattern and CTSP proposed income and operational structure of the Planning service to ensure it meets the needs of the Council and our customers now and in the future	Completion of Review, Impact of review on core targets (performance and income)	Income Q1 2021/22 Structure Q3 2021/22 Performance from Q1 2022/23
Deliver plan-led housing and employment growth, working on our own initiative and with partners such as WECA, ensuring the needs and views of our communities are built into our sustainable vision for the future of the district	Reduction or absence of successful appeals for speculative planning proposals Housing and employment growth trajectories maintained and monitored Community engagement delivered in accordance with our Statement of Community Engagement (SCI) including digital platforms	Appeals -Quarterly and annual monitoring Local Plan (LPDP) dates met Housing Trajectory published Q3 Community measures from Q3 2020/21
Provide housing in South Gloucestershire that meets people's lifetime needs through the range of housing provided by the market and specialist providers, s106 contributions, maximising government funding opportunities and the use of council assets	Housing delivery targets met, including Affordable Housing targets, and reducing expenditure per head on supported housing and emergency accommodation. Increasing the range and supply of housing to meet needs (e.g .Extra care)	Quarterly and annual reporting
Adopt ambitious design standards for new housing and employment development, and place making to deliver sustainable new communities	High satisfaction rates of the residents of new communities Design Panel metric (no of sites reviewed) Carbon emissions from new dwellings statistic to be devised	New measures from Q1 2021

	Quality code measure to be devised	
Optimise the density, efficient use of land and mix of uses through co-ordinating regeneration, investment, new uses and development within and around our urban town centres and high streets, to ensure that they remain vibrant, viable and serve local community's needs, now and into the future focusing on the Bristol North Fringe, Kingswood High Street, Yate and Thornbury.	Local Plan Delivery Programme in collaboration with Infrastructure Master Planning initiatives	Local Plan (LPDP) dates met
Ensure new homes, workplaces, streets provide high quality residential amenity, private space and internal layouts that are adaptable to cater for households whose needs may change over time and for our ageing population, Refocus on the value of high-quality green infrastructure, nature rich habitat and open spaces (rediscovered during lockdown). Deliver local regeneration, employment and education opportunities which contribute to reducing health inequalities	Local Plan Delivery Programme	Local Plan (LPDP) dates met
Where this is consistent with our ambition of creating great places to live and work bring forward a suite of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) to support our existing adopted Development Plan focusing on supporting the council's climate change emergency and design quality objectives.	Local Plan Delivery Programme	Local Plan (LPDP) dates met
New Housing Strategy to be developed to set the vision for housing in South Gloucestershire and comprise high-level objectives alongside a summary and suite of relevant documents. It is proposed to be a dynamic resource which can be updated and evolve as required.	Adoption of Housing Strategy	Autumn 2021

Key Performance Indicators	Current Performance	Target
Local Plan Delivery Programme (LPDP)	Suite of projects reported on annually in the Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR)	LPDP programme milestones
Housing Strategy objectives met	New Housing Strategy to be developed	Pending Strategy development
No of developments assessed by the West of England Design Panel	New initiative for 2019/20	To be developed
Residents' survey of new development - levels of satisfaction	New initiative: survey to be developed	To be developed
Housing delivery (no and type) trajectory and targets met	1518 new homes in 2019/20, incl. 565 Affordable Homes (with the mix aligned to local need priorities)	Housing delivery test currently: Affordable housing target set annually
Employment development targets	Measure to be developed	To be developed
Reduction in expenditure per head on supported housing and emergency accommodation	Measure to be developed	To be developed

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COUNCIL PLAN 2020–2024

Action Plan 15

Council Plan Priority 3

Promoting sustainable inclusive communities, infrastructure, and growth

Our commitment to you

We will plan to join up housing and the appropriate infrastructure such as schools and transport networks that make it easier for people to get around, prioritising sustainable and low carbon travel choices

Background

Our vision is for a South Gloucestershire which remains a great place to live, work and visit for both existing and new communities. Our District has experienced significant growth over recent years, but residents tell us that we need to continue to plan for and invest in the infrastructure which will sustain social, economic, and environmental well-being. This means making sure that the council's resources and those of our public and private sector partners are invested to maximum effect to provide and link up the facilities needed to support our communities now and into the future.

To respond effectively to these changes, we need a new growth strategy. Connecting housing, jobs, transport and other key infrastructure requires a joined up regional approach. Our strategy must therefore be aligned with the Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) currently being prepared by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and the planned new Joint Local Transport Plan.

The council has a good track record of working with developers to incorporate Affordable Housing into developments. Additionally, we have successfully secured contributions for infrastructure and community facilities, from those bringing forward new housing and employment development in the District. The funding from S106 agreements and more recently the Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) have been combined with the council's own capital resources and other funding to secure significant sustained investment in new and renewed schools and community buildings, as well as enhancements to open spaces and transportation. We will work to maximise future funding and allocate spending to ensure the benefits are felt by all in our communities.

Engaging with local people and working in partnership with communities, developers, utilities providers and key interest groups, we need to make choices and decisions about the location and quality of development that needs to come forward over the short, medium and long term. These choices may divide opinions, but our role is to take an impartial role, deciding how development can be planned to deliver a high quality, well connected natural and built environment. To fulfil these objectives, we will prioritise:

- Our commitment to a green economic recovery, which puts restoring and enhancing the natural environment at the heart of our planning when identifying sites and areas of growth for new homes and jobs.
- Delivering affordable homes and providing choice for homebuyers across a wide range of locations and site sizes. We will ensure housing is delivered when it is needed.
- Increasing digital connectivity.
- Linking up housing development with jobs and essential infrastructure. We will build into our planning effective transportation choices, including safe, convenient and attractive walking and cycling and public transport options to decarbonise transport and encourage more sustainable travel choices.

- Improving the long-term health, well-being and sustainability of our communities by ensuring that new and existing places offer a balance of new homes and jobs, built around a. We will work to connect local people with the natural environment, opening up opportunities for physical activity, including children’s play, walking and cycling, access to formal and informal community meeting spaces and green spaces.

To further support delivery of this critical infrastructure, the council will increasingly play a more direct role, either through acquiring land and property in strategic locations, or by forging partnerships with providers and potential commercial partners to exploit development opportunities. We will explore funding opportunities through the West of England Combined Authority which has established a Land Acquisition Fund and through national Government initiatives such as the Future High Streets Fund. The Council has also identified a commercial investment vehicle to support regeneration initiatives and we will consider where this can promote delivery, especially where Covid-19 pressures may limit private sector investment.



How we will measure our success

Action	Measure of success	Delivery date
Revise our CIL arrangements to maximise CIL and S106 contributions whilst ensuring development remains viable	CIL income meets trajectory targets	Dependent on Government's Planning For the Future reform programme
Produce and maintain the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS)	IFS produced	December 2020
Identify through our new Local Plan the infrastructure necessary to support our new and existing communities through development	Local Plan Delivery Programme	Local Plan (LPDP) dates met
Work in partnership with WECA, neighbouring local authorities and delivery partners to develop and deliver strategic infrastructure projects (e.g. Metrobus, rail stations and increased frequency), road, cycling and walking infrastructure	WECA & WoE Investment Programme in Strategic Transport	ongoing
Develop a 'whole place' approach to renewing some of our towns and places developing bespoke Masterplans to proactively influence development and investment	Adoption of Masterplans for key strategic locations (e.g. Kingswood, North Fringe, Yate)	Nov 2020 consultation onwards
Undertake commercial appraisals to determine the commercial and / or regeneration value to communities and Masterplan delivery of the Council directly investing in acquiring land and buildings	Number of Masterplan development sites acquired	Commercial assessments from June 2020 onwards
Deliver and Renew the Commissioning of Places (Schools) Strategy 2018 - 2022	Provision of school places	2022

Key Performance Indicators	Current Performance	Target
Local Plan Delivery Programme (LPDP)	Suite of projects, Reported through the Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR) each year.	As set out in the LPDP
CiL and S106 receipts	We can report Cil receipts each year, but since s106 comprise a mix of financial and 'in kind' contributions: the financial value can only be guesstimated	CIL target (Greg Evans) S106 ??
Infrastructure Funding Statement completed and published annually	First one due Dec 2020	Annually
Master Planning of Kingswood, Yate and Bristol North Fringe	New projects	As set out in PIDs

The KPIs highlighted in yellow are those of significant public interest which will be given priority attention through the reporting process for the Council Plan.

Ensuring this Action Plan remains relevant

This Action Plan and Council Plan have been prepared at a time of significant change and uncertainty for local people, businesses, the council and the partner organisations we work with. Recognising this uncertainty, this is a 'living document', which we will continue to develop to ensure the plans and our accompanying work and targets remain relevant in response to external factors.

COUNCIL PLAN 2020–2024

Action Plan 16

Council Plan Priority 3

Promoting sustainable inclusive communities, infrastructure, and growth

Our commitment to you

We will enable people and business to recover and thrive within cohesive communities that value diversity

Background

South Gloucestershire has a strong economy - in 2018, our GDP of £12.865m ranked us in the top 7% of areas in the country, only one place behind Cardiff. It is this enviable position that we must strive to maintain and build upon moving forward through the life of the Council Plan and beyond.

The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic will significantly challenge this continued growth - our economy is predicted to contract by over 7% this year and some of this damage may be long term. The effects will be felt differently across demographic groups and will be unevenly split across our urban and rural communities and between different businesses and industry sectors.

Our role is to work with business and other partners to act decisively to mitigate negative impacts and ensure individual groups within the community are not disproportionately affected. Inclusivity must therefore be at the heart of our response.

We are still in unpredictable and unprecedented times, but we continue to provide emergency support to local businesses and communities:

- As at 30 September, we had allocated £39.9m to 3,527 businesses.
- We have provided timely advice and guidance to keep local businesses and communities informed.
- We have stepped up our investment in innovation and in the physical and digital infrastructure that enables our business community to grow.

However, one certainty is that the future impact will evolve and change, and we will increase our focus on data gathering and engagement to effectively implement the Council Plan and recovery workstreams.

We recognise the interdependencies between regional economies and will continue to work closely with our partners in the West of England Combined Authority which hosts the West of England Growth Hub. Specifically, we stand ready to support the work of The West of England Economic Recovery Board and work with Unitary Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership Partners in the delivery of our Regional Recovery Plan.

Economic recovery in South Gloucestershire and the wider West of England must be founded on a programme of inclusive skills development, targeting support where it will have greatest impact and where it works to improve equality of opportunity. Again, we will work with partners and through the Combined Authority to improve access to a range of recently launched schemes

At the hyper-local level we have seen communities increasingly dependent on their local services and their high streets. We have initiated a series of 'Thrive' campaigns on our



high streets, promoting local businesses and the community value of the high street, and co-ordinating business and community groups so that we can work with them over the coming years to develop the right investments for each of our varied high streets and town centres.

Alongside the economy we want to see our places continue to be recognised as safe and welcoming environments for all of our residents and visitors. We have an increasingly diverse population and our VCSE partners and our town and parish councils have delivered some incredible work supporting the Council and in places leading the growth of community cohesion.

Action Plan 10 sets out the basis for a new relationship with our Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector and our town and parish councils. This relationship is critical to the way we develop our ambition for cohesive communities that value diversity. We have knowledgeable and influential equalities partners and an active equalities network which will be engaged in shaping priorities for our community actions. There are therefore some duplicate actions from Action Plan 10 and we will continue to work across departments to co-ordinate an enhanced community conversation and identify the actions for individual communities working particularly closely with the VCSE sector through our 'Keep it Local' pledge.

Appendix: projections of the impact of Covid on our economy

Oxford Economics (June 2020) highlight that the baseline forecast for the South Gloucestershire economy indicates a recession during 2020 (GVA predicted to contract by 7.3%), with an 'upside' scenario predicting recovery during 2022, while the 'downside' scenario predicting that the economy would not return to pre-crisis levels until 2027.

The Oxford Economics Report further identifies that (within South Gloucestershire):

- 33,000 employments were furloughed across South Gloucestershire as of 31 May. A further 9,800 residents were also claiming on the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.
- 5,300 anticipated job losses; a rise in unemployment to 4.6% (from 2.6% in 2019).
- Employment is also likely to rebound relatively quickly. The jobs lost this year are expected to be regained by 2022, followed by further growth in subsequent years. On average, employment is forecast to grow by 0.4% per year between 2020 and 2025, resulting in there being almost 4,000 more jobs in the district in 2025 than before the crisis took hold. This would be sufficient for unemployment to return to pre-coronavirus levels by 2023 and fall further through to 2025.
- South Gloucestershire's sectoral structure is skewed towards sectors which are more likely to be resilient during the crisis.
- Businesses where workers have been able to work effectively from home throughout the lockdown measures, are expected to be among the most resilient and drive future growth prior to the crisis.
- Most sectors will share in the rebound in economic growth through to 2021.
- Different groups of the population will be impacted by the crisis in different ways. Men are at a greater risk of losing their jobs than women, while a high proportion of

young people work in sectors most acutely affected, and hence are more affected than older age groups. Those who are 'Just About Managing' are particularly reliant on financial support mechanisms, and by extension are particularly vulnerable should the economic disruption last longer than anticipated.

- The structure of the South Gloucestershire economy (what it looks like) is unlikely to change significantly. The crisis however may lead to changes in how the economy operates e.g. capacity of public places, remote working, review of global supply chains.
- South Gloucestershire has favourable digital connectivity and sectors to facilitate higher rates of home working in the future.

A recent Business West survey reported that only 16% of businesses believe they would be able to cope as the pandemic stretches beyond six months. We are also likely to see additional emerging impacts as the Government's Job Retention Scheme is phased out with potential increases in redundancies being made and increases in unemployment.

How we will measure our success

Action	Measure of success	Delivery date
Develop and host a high-level business network to shape the work set out below	Good engagement and understanding of the issues faced by our businesses and employers	2020 and then updated annually
Provide access to local business support programmes (delivery partners, co-designing interventions for businesses in South Gloucestershire) and to develop a business case to provide a COVID-19 specific set of support products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of programmes accessed • £'s leveraged • Number of programme outcomes/outputs delivered 	Delivered in line with programme timelines
Provide businesses with information on services available to them through business directory and online at http://www.insouthglos.co.uk/	Percentage growth in new registrations to insouthglos.gov.uk.	2020 and then updated annually
Promote and develop further the South Gloucestershire 'Tec Arc' and deliver the UMBRELLA digital test bed Phase 1 (Science park to UWE) and develop and seek funding for phase 2 (UWE to Filton Airfield Enterprise area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity programme agreed • Launch of UMBRELLA 1 • Achieve funding for UMBRELLA 2 	2021/22
Secure Funding for Broadband to achieve 100% broadband coverage across South Gloucestershire.	Percentage of broadband coverage achieved.	2021
Review, publish and execute Digital Connectivity Strategy	Strategy published	2021
Strengthen networks to support innovation in the aerospace, composites, robotics, micro-electronics & environmental technology sectors (Programmes such as Digital Engineering Technology & Innovation programme (DETI).	Number of networks established	2021
Work with destination places to support the delivery of a Destination Management Plan to increase visitor numbers, by creating better experiences and to develop a business case to provide a targeted COVID-19 specific response.	Percentage increase in visitor numbers in line with the Plan	2021
Deliver activity identified within Invest Bristol & Bath/WECA marketing campaigns and promote investor and developer opportunities within the local area to provide stimulus for business growth.	Assessment of business growth relative to campaigns developed	2020 and then updated annually
Work with Department for International Trade / Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy to generate and host local Foreign Direct Investment enquiries.	Number of enquiries handled	2020 and then updated annually
Develop a 'Thrive' campaign for each of our town centre high streets, promoting the high street and supporting local businesses.	Thrive campaign launched on every high street	December 2020

Hold a series of community conversations based on communities of interest and place and develop a 'South Gloucestershire Deal' providing a new reciprocal understanding of roles and responsibilities and laying out joint expectations and agreement between the council and residents	South Gloucestershire Deal adopted	September 2021
Work with external equality groups and staff equality groups to improve results in the areas they have identified as most important to them (educational attainment of BAME, disabled, and SEND pupils; diversity of council management and leadership)	Themes to be identified and agreed	To be set pending agreed themes

Key Performance Indicators	Current Performance	Target
Headline Market Rate Indicators (derived from SGC Economic Briefings)	Suite of Indicators Reported Quarterly	Suite of Indicators Reported Quarterly
Number of residents claiming unemployment related benefits and then also the percentage that this represents of the working age population	7,260 residents are claiming unemployment related benefits; 4.1% of the working age population (June 2020)	Target to be reassessed pending Covid-19 impacts
Annual (March) Business Inter-Departmental Business Register since (contains information on VAT traders and PAYE employers) https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/bulletins/ukbusinessactivitysizeandlocation/2020	To be broken down to SGC data	To be developed
Percentage of residents who agree their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together	65%	Increased annually
Percentage of residents who think there is a problem with people not treating each other with respect and consideration.	12%	Decreased annually

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