



**Somerset
Council**

Somerset Local Plan

**Drat Vision and Outcomes Report
(Regulation 20 Scoping Consultation
version)**

19 June 2026

Status of this draft

This draft Vision and Outcomes is published for **early engagement at the scoping stage (Reg 20)**, in line with national guidance on the 30-month plan-making process. It is intended to test direction of travel and priorities. **A refined Vision and final Outcomes will be consulted upon formally at the second statutory consultation (Reg 23)**, informed by evidence, Sustainability Appraisal and feedback received.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this report

This report sets out a draft Vision and Outcomes framework for the new Somerset Local Plan 2025–2045. It is being published as part of the Scoping Consultation at the initial stage of plan preparation.

Its purposes are to:

- Present a draft long-term Vision for the future of Somerset to 2045.
- Set out a clear set of Outcomes that the Local Plan should work towards delivering.
- Provide a SWOT analysis of key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that the Vision and Outcomes need to respond to.
- Offer a draft monitoring framework, including proposed indicators, to enable progress to be tracked over the life of the Plan.
- Invite comments from communities, stakeholders and partners on whether the emerging Vision, Outcomes and indicators are the right ones for Somerset.

This is an early draft, intended to stimulate discussion rather than to propose a final position. Responses to this Scoping Consultation will be used to refine the Vision and Outcomes in advance of the Regulation 23 consultation.

1.2 Role of the Vision and Outcomes in the Local Plan

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) expects Local Plans to provide:

- A positive vision for the future of the area;
- A strategic framework for meeting needs; and
- A clear basis for decision-making over at least a 15-year period.

Planning Practice Guidance on “Preparing a Local Plan: Vision” and the government’s 30-month Local Plan process guidance emphasise the importance of:

- Early definition of a shared vision and outcomes, informed by engagement and evidence.
- Using the Vision and Outcomes to shape spatial strategy options and policies.
- Ensuring that outcomes are measurable and monitored.

In this context, the Vision answers “where we want to get to” by 2045, and the Outcomes describe “what success looks like” in terms that can guide choices about:

- The distribution and pattern of growth;
- The type and quality of development; and
- The infrastructure and environmental improvements that are needed.

1.3 Status in the 30-month Local Plan process

This report sits within the early 'Explore / Scoping' stage of the 30-month Local Plan process. It:

- Draws on early engagement, baseline evidence and existing strategies;
- Provides an initial Vision and Outcomes framework to test with stakeholders; and
- Will inform the development of options for the spatial strategy and strategic policies.

Following this Scoping Consultation:

- The Vision and Outcomes will be refined in light of feedback.
- They will be formally consulted on at Regulation 23 alongside strategic options.
- They will then be finalised and carried through to underpin the Publication Plan and examination.

1.4 What we are seeking comments on

We are inviting comments on all elements of this report and particularly seeking views on whether the draft Vision and Outcomes achieve the following:

Box 1 – Consultation focus for the Vision and Outcomes

1. The draft Vision should provide a positive and realistic long-term direction for Somerset up to 2045.
2. The proposed Outcomes should clearly capture what “success” looks like for the new Local Plan.
3. Important themes should be fully represented, including (for example) rural issues, the coast, cultural assets and specific communities.
4. The draft monitoring indicators should be appropriate and proportionate.
5. The balance between economic, social and environmental objectives should be appropriate.
6. Suggestions are welcomed for rewording or restructuring the Vision or Outcomes to improve clarity and local relevance.

You may wish to respond as an individual, organisation, parish/town council or community group.

2. Policy and Legislative Context

2.1 National planning policy and guidance

The draft Vision and Outcomes have been prepared having regard to:

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), including its expectations on sustainable development, plan-making, housing, the economy, town centres, transport, design, climate change, the natural and historic environment and plan monitoring.
- Relevant Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on plan-making, sustainable development, healthy and safe communities, climate change, design and viability.
- Emerging updates to national planning policy, including the government’s emphasis on:
 - Delivering sufficient homes of the right type in the right places;
 - Supporting a productive, low-carbon economy;
 - Addressing the climate and ecological emergencies; and
 - Creating beautiful, well-designed, healthy places.

The Vision and Outcomes are intended to be consistent with national policy, while reflecting Somerset’s specific characteristics and challenges.

2.2 Town and Country Planning legislation

The Local Plan must comply with:

- The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026
- The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended);
- The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended);
- Associated regulations on local plan preparation and sustainability appraisal; and
- The “tests of soundness”, including the following:
 - Positive;
 - Appropriate;
 - Realistic;
 - Consistent; and
 - Conformity.

The Vision and Outcomes frame how these legal requirements will be interpreted locally.

2.3 Relationship to other Somerset strategies

The draft Vision and Outcomes are designed to be broadly aligned with and supportive of:

- The Council’s corporate vision and priorities on climate and ecology, fairness and inclusion, health and care, and a flourishing, resilient economy.
- The Local Transport Plan, including the focus on a “sustainable first choice” for travel, safe and healthy streets, decarbonisation and a reliable, resilient network.
- The Economic Prosperity Strategy, including ambitions for a flourishing, fair and green economy, higher productivity, skills, and inclusive growth.
- The Housing Strategy, including increasing the supply of homes across tenures, improving quality and affordability, and supporting independent living.
- The Improving Lives / health and wellbeing strategy, including prevention, fairer life chances, strong communities and healthier, independent lives.

- The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report, which provides a framework of environmental, social and economic objectives that the Plan will be assessed against.

The Local Plan is not a delivery plan for all of these strategies, but the Vision and Outcomes will help ensure that spatial decisions support their core aims.

3. How the vision and outcomes have evolved

The Vision and Outcomes for the Somerset Local Plan have been developed through an iterative and collaborative process. They reflect the combined influence of early engagement, technical evidence gathering, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) scoping, officer workshops and the need to respond to emerging national planning reforms. This section explains how these elements have shaped the evolution of the Vision and the ten measurable Outcomes included in this consultation.

3.1 Early engagement and the initial direction of travel

The starting point for developing the Vision was a programme of early engagement undertaken with the support of Allies and Morrison. Through workshops, discussions and written feedback, participants raised consistent themes about what matters to communities across Somerset:

- The distinctiveness of Somerset's towns, villages, rural landscapes and coast, and the need to protect and enhance this as the county grows.
- The importance of affordable and suitable homes for local people, including young people, families, older residents and those with specific needs.
- The desire for stronger local economies and more opportunities in key sectors such as low-carbon energy, manufacturing, agri-food, tourism and digital industries.
- Concerns about transport, congestion, public transport provision and the need for better walking, wheeling and cycling networks.
- The value placed on access to nature, green spaces, outdoor recreation, cultural identity and Somerset's rich heritage.
- The need for new development to contribute to climate action, nature recovery and healthier, more connected places.

These activities included participation from:

- Members;
- Local Community Networks;
- Parish, town and city councils;
- Community organisations;
- Businesses; and
- Young people and teachers.

A draft Vision produced at this stage described Somerset as a “characterful and forward-looking county,” combining rural character and heritage with innovation, energy transition, digital connectivity and thriving local communities. This early work established the foundations for the Vision’s structure and tone and helped identify the six themes used throughout the Local Plan.

These themes are reflected in the SWOT analysis and have shaped the draft Vision and Outcomes.

3.2 Developing objectives through the Sustainability Appraisal process

In parallel, work began on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. The SA process played a pivotal role in shaping the Vision and Objectives, and subsequently the Vision and Outcomes, by:

- Reviewing a wide range of plans, policies and programmes at national and local level.
- Establishing a robust baseline for Somerset, including data on housing need, environmental quality, transport patterns, health, water quality, biodiversity and vulnerability to climate impacts.
- Identifying key sustainability issues such as:
 - high housing need and worsening affordability
 - significant pressures on biodiversity and water quality
 - flood risk across parts of the county
 - low levels of active travel and public transport accessibility
 - the need to reduce carbon emissions from transport and buildings
 - inequalities in access to services, health outcomes and opportunities
- Creating a set of SA objectives and decision-aiding questions used to assess emerging plan options.

This evidence informed the Local Plan visioning work by highlighting the challenges Somerset must address and the opportunities for more sustainable patterns of development. SA objectives around housing need, climate change, biodiversity, landscapes, health, active travel and access to services helped shape the outcome themes and reinforced the need for measurable, locally specific outcomes.

3.3 Team workshops and testing through spatial strategy development

A significant milestone in developing the Vision and Outcomes was the Policy Team’s Spatial Strategy Workshop, attended by officers across planning policy, transport, economy, environment, and others. This workshop analysed delivery trends, sustainability constraints and the performance of existing spatial strategies.

Key messages emerging from the workshop included:

- An urgent need for more realistic and deliverable spatial options, acknowledging under-delivery in major settlements and the sustainability challenges of excessive rural dispersal.
- Strong emphasis on climate resilience, avoiding the most vulnerable areas, and reducing the need to travel long distances by car.
- Support for spatial options focused on public transport corridors, job opportunities and accessible locations.
- The importance of integrating spatial strategy with infrastructure capacity, including transport, education, health and utilities.
- The need for the Local Plan's Vision to express how Somerset can grow while becoming more climate-resilient, connected, nature-rich and economically vibrant.

This workshop helped refine the themes and pointed to the types of measurable outcomes that would need to be tracked as the Plan progresses, including transport mode share, housing delivery in sustainable locations, town centre vitality and environmental improvements.

3.4 Iteration and refinement through redrafting the Vision and Objectives

An early draft of the Vision and Objectives (Version 1) was produced to test the emerging direction and ensure alignment with:

- Somerset Council's priorities for a fairer, greener, more resilient and flourishing county.
- Evidence from the Role and Function Study, environmental baselines and demographic trends.
- Key strategic issues such as coastal change, nutrient neutrality, flood risk and infrastructure constraints.
- Local distinctiveness—recognising the varied roles of Somerset's market towns, coastal towns, rural service centres and smaller villages.

This stage highlighted the need to weave cross-cutting themes—particularly climate change, sustainability, health and wellbeing—throughout the objectives rather than isolate them in a single theme. It also clarified the need for explicit reference to inclusivity, placemaking, design quality and the importance of supporting rural and coastal communities.

3.5 Responding to national policy changes, including the proposed NPPF revisions

As the Plan evolved, the Government published proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework and reinforced the expectation that:

- All plans must identify no more than 10 measurable outcomes.
- Outcomes must be locally specific, tangible, and capable of clear monitoring.

- Outcomes must flow directly from the Vision and link explicitly to Local Plan policies.
- Plans should include clear, justified indicators and set out how the outcomes will be delivered.

This meant revisiting the earlier long-list of draft objectives and refining them to form a concise and coherent set of 10 measurable outcomes under the six Vision themes. The Outcomes contained in this consultation reflect this requirement for precision and measurability while keeping the spirit of the original visioning work.

3.6 Bringing it all together

Taken together, these strands—early engagement, SA scoping, internal workshops, baseline evidence and national policy changes—have shaped a Vision and Outcome framework that:

- Reflects what communities value about Somerset.
- Responds to the county’s environmental and climate imperatives.
- Supports a growing, modern, inclusive and resilient economy.
- Provides a clear direction for sustainable, deliverable spatial strategy options.
- Meets current and emerging national tests of clarity, soundness and measurability.

The resulting Vision is forward-looking and ambitious, and the 10 measurable Outcomes provide a practical, focused way of tracking progress towards real change in Somerset by 2045.

4. SWOT Analysis – Vision and Outcomes Context

The following SWOT analysis summarises the main contextual factors that the Vision and Outcomes need to address.

4.1 SWOT table

Strengths	Weaknesses
Strong sense of place, with attractive and distinctive towns, villages and rural landscapes.	Housing affordability challenges, particularly for younger households and key workers.
Rich natural environment and heritage assets that contribute to quality of life and tourism.	Variable public transport provision and heavy dependence on the private car in many areas.
Active communities and partnerships, including Local Community Networks, parish and town councils.	Pockets of deprivation and poor health outcomes, and inequalities between places.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Existing and emerging economic strengths, including advanced manufacturing, energy, agri-food, tourism and creative sectors.	Pressures on infrastructure capacity (transport, utilities, social infrastructure) and funding.
Strong corporate commitment to climate and ecological action, fairness and health.	An ageing population and challenges in meeting diverse housing and care needs.
Opportunities	Threats
Harnessing low-carbon economic growth, innovation and skills to support a greener economy.	Climate change impacts, including increased flooding, coastal change and overheating.
Aligning the Local Plan with transport, economic, health and housing strategies to deliver co-benefits.	Continued pressure on public finances and viability, affecting delivery of infrastructure and affordable housing.
Focusing growth to revitalise town and local centres, support rural communities and make best use of brownfield land.	Ongoing housing affordability pressures, leading to exclusion of local people from housing and communities.
Strengthening active travel and public transport networks, improving access to services and jobs.	Loss or erosion of environmental quality, biodiversity and local character if growth is poorly planned.
Using design, place-making and community-led approaches to achieve beautiful, healthy and inclusive places.	Failure to adapt to new technologies, changing work patterns and demographic shifts, leading to missed opportunities.

5. Draft Vision for the Somerset Local Plan 2025–2045

5.1 Draft Vision statement

By 2045, Somerset will be a greener, fairer and more flourishing county where everyone can live healthy, connected and fulfilling lives in beautiful and distinctive places.

New development will respond positively to Somerset’s landscapes, coast, historic towns and villages, supporting thriving communities and a strong sense of local identity.

The Local Plan will focus growth where it can be well-served by sustainable transport and infrastructure, making it easier to walk, wheel, cycle and use public transport, and reducing the need to travel by car. Homes will be more affordable, energy-efficient and inclusive, meeting the needs of all ages and communities.

Somerset's economy will be more productive, innovative and resilient, building on strengths in low-carbon energy, advanced manufacturing, agri-food, tourism and the creative and digital sectors, and offering good quality jobs and skills opportunities across the county.

Nature and the historic environment will be protected and restored, with a richer network of green and blue spaces supporting biodiversity, climate resilience, health and wellbeing. The Plan will support a just transition to net-zero, ensuring that the benefits of a greener economy and better places are shared fairly by all communities.

5.2 Key principles underlying the Vision

The Vision is underpinned by the following cross-cutting principles:

1. Sustainable Development
 - balancing economic, social and environmental objectives, and aligning with legal and national policy duties.
2. Climate and Nature Resilience
 - planning for net-zero, climate adaptation and nature recovery as core components of the spatial strategy.
3. Fairness and Inclusion
 - reducing inequalities, improving life chances and ensuring that new development benefits all communities.
4. Health and Wellbeing
 - creating healthy, safe, walkable places, with good access to services, green space and social infrastructure.
5. Place-making and Design Quality
 - delivering beautiful, distinctive, well-designed places that reflect local character and community aspirations.
6. Delivery and Partnership
 - ensuring that the plan is realistic, deliverable and supported by strong partnerships and infrastructure planning.

6. Draft Strategic Outcomes

6.1 Structure and relationship to the vision

The Vision for the Somerset Local Plan 2025–2045 is supported by 10 measurable Outcomes. These Outcomes:

- Flow directly from the Vision, expressing what success should look like in Somerset by 2045.
- Are tangible and locally specific, reflecting Somerset’s rural, coastal and town environments, its economy and communities.
- Are designed to be easy to monitor, with clear potential for quantitative and qualitative indicators.
- Will be delivered through Local Plan policies and site allocations, which will be explicitly mapped against each Outcome at Regulation 23 and Regulation 27 stages.

The Outcomes are grouped under the six broad themes used in the Vision:

- A. A Greener, climate-resilient Somerset
- B. Homes for all
- C. A healthy, connected Somerset
- D. A flourishing, productive Somerset
- E. Beautiful, distinctive and inclusive places
- F. Delivery, infrastructure and implementation

Each Outcome may contribute to more than one theme but is identified once for monitoring purposes.

6.2 Theme A – A Greener, Climate-Resilient Somerset

Outcome 1 – A low-carbon and climate resilient development pattern and built environment

By 2045, the location and design of development in Somerset will make a substantial contribution to radically reducing carbon emissions from buildings and transport. New development will be planned so that:

- A higher proportion of new homes and jobs are in locations with realistic alternatives to private car use;
- New buildings and places are designed to be energy-efficient, fed by low-carbon energy and adaptable to future low-carbon technologies; and
- New development is resilient to the anticipated impacts of climate change and contributes to wider community resilience.

Outcome 2 – Nature recovery and a stronger network of green and blue spaces

By 2045, the Local Plan will have helped to deliver a more connected and resilient network of habitats, greenways, waterways and open spaces across Somerset, including in and around settlements. New development will:

- Deliver measurable biodiversity net gain and support delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy; and
- Enhance access to nature for Somerset’s residents and visitors.

6.3 Theme B – Homes for All

Outcome 3 – Meeting Somerset’s housing needs

By 2045, Somerset will have delivered the homes needed to support its communities and economy, with a mix of sizes and types that reflects the role of:

- The larger urban areas, or *‘Tier 1’ settlements*, of Taunton, Yeovil and Bridgwater. Tier 1 settlements are Somerset’s largest and most connected centres, supporting the strongest employment base, the widest range of local and strategic services, and comprehensive digital infrastructure. With exceptional accessibility— including rail, extensive bus networks and high-quality active travel links—these settlements function as the principal hubs for growth, service provision and strategic investment across the county.
- *Tier 2 settlements*, which we are considering as large settlements, with well-connected communities that provide strong employment opportunities, comprehensive local and strategic services, and good digital infrastructure. Their accessible locations and sustainable transport links make them key centres for accommodating growth and enhancing service provision across Somerset. These settlements include Frome, Highbridge & Burnham (inc. Burnham Marine), Wells, Street, Wellington, Minehead & Alcombe, Chard, Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet, Cheddar, Crewkerne and Wincanton (inc. Bayford).
- Other settlements, as defined out in the role and function of settlements.

New housing allocations and windfall development will:

- Support the vitality of rural communities where this is consistent with the settlement strategy; and
- Avoid unnecessary dispersal of development that would increase car dependency or pressure on sensitive environments.

Outcome 4 – More affordable and accessible homes

By 2045, a higher proportion of households in Somerset will be able to access a suitable and affordable home. New homes will:

- Provide a greater share of genuinely affordable housing (for rent and for sale) in line with local needs;
- Be located in relative proximity to services and facilities; and
- Be built to high standards of energy efficiency and internal and external space, reducing fuel poverty, particularly in rural and older housing areas.

6.4 Theme C – A Healthy, Connected Somerset

Outcome 5 – Better access to everyday services by walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport

By 2045, more residents in Somerset – including those in rural and coastal communities – will be able to reach everyday services, schools, jobs, local centres and green spaces by walking, wheeling, cycling or public transport. The Local Plan will:

- Focus significant growth where sustainable travel choices can realistically be provided or improved;
- Safeguard and deliver key walking, wheeling and cycling links identified in Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans and other strategies; and
- Support bus and rail improvements and mobility hubs that connect rural settlements to towns and main employment locations.

Outcome 6 – Places that support healthier lives and reduced inequalities

By 2045, new development in Somerset will have contributed to healthier neighbourhoods and helped to narrow the gap in health outcomes between the most and least deprived communities. Development will:

- Provide or contribute to accessible open space, play space and community facilities and opportunities to access fresh and healthy food in new and existing neighbourhoods;
- Create safe, attractive streets and spaces which support physical activity, social interaction and independent mobility for children, older people and disabled people; and
- Avoid exacerbating health inequalities by ensuring that new growth does not overload existing facilities or worsen air quality in already disadvantaged areas.

6.5 Theme D – A Flourishing, Productive Somerset

Outcome 7 – Employment land and workspace that support Somerset’s key sectors

By 2045, Somerset will have a more productive and resilient local economy, with a portfolio of employment land and workspace that supports:

- Growth in key sectors such as low-carbon energy, advanced manufacturing, agri-food, digital and data, tourism and the creative industries;

- The economic roles of places such as Bridgwater (including the Gravity area), Taunton, Yeovil, Frome and Chard; and
- Smaller-scale employment opportunities in rural settlements, supporting local jobs and services.

Employment sites and allocations will be:

- Well connected to the labour market and sustainable transport networks; and
- Able to adapt over time to changing business needs, technology and the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Outcome 8 – More vibrant and resilient town and local centres

By 2045, Somerset’s town and local centres will be more vibrant and resilient. The Local Plan will:

- Support a broader mix of uses, including homes, community, cultural and leisure facilities in centres;
- Encourage investment in public realm, active travel and wayfinding improvements to increase footfall and dwell time; and
- Resist out-of-centre proposals that would undermine the vitality and viability of centres without clear justification, recognising the importance of growing settlements so that local populations can support strong and diverse centres.

6.6 Theme E – Beautiful, Distinctive and Inclusive Places

Outcome 9 – Locally distinctive, well-designed and inclusive development

By 2045, new development across Somerset will be recognised for its high-quality, locally distinctive and inclusive design. The Local Plan will ensure that:

- New buildings and spaces respond positively to the character and heritage of Somerset’s towns, villages, landscapes and coast, including the settings of National Landscapes, the Levels and Moors and other valued areas;
- Design codes and masterplans are used where appropriate to secure coherent, high-quality place-making on larger sites; and
- Development delivers safe, accessible and inclusive environments for all, including high-quality public realm and well-integrated green and blue infrastructure.

6.7 Theme F – Delivery, Infrastructure and Implementation

Outcome 10 – Infrastructure in step with growth and a deliverable, responsive plan

By 2045, new development in Somerset will be supported by infrastructure that is planned, funded and delivered in step with growth. The Local Plan will:

- Align strategic and local infrastructure (including transport, schools, health facilities, utilities, digital, green and blue infrastructure and community facilities) with the spatial strategy and site allocations;
- Secure appropriate developer contributions and support innovative funding and delivery mechanisms with partners; and
- Remain deliverable and responsive, through effective monitoring, plan review mechanisms and partnership working with infrastructure providers, communities and neighbouring authorities.

7. Draft Monitoring Framework

To understand whether the Local Plan is helping Somerset move towards the 2045 Vision, we will monitor a small set of clear and practical indicators. Most of the information we need already exists in national statistics or Somerset Council’s regular monitoring (such as housing delivery, town centre health checks and climate data). Other indicators will draw on established local evidence, including transport and accessibility mapping, open space audits, and biodiversity information submitted as part of planning applications. By using recognised and reliable data sources, we can track progress transparently and report the results each year through the Authority Monitoring Report and other updates.

The monitoring framework will be refined as policies are developed, but an initial set of **headline indicators** is suggested below.

Table 2 – Example framework and monitoring indicators

Outcome theme	Example indicator	Main data sources
A. Greener, Climate-Resilient Somerset	Per-capita CO ₂ emissions from transport and buildings	National greenhouse gas statistics for local authorities (DESNZ), supported by Somerset Council climate/environment monitoring.
	Percentage of new development in areas of lowest flood risk	Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning and Somerset Council planning/GIS records showing the location of new permissions and completions.
	Area of new and enhanced habitats delivered through biodiversity net gain and green/blue infrastructure	Biodiversity net gain submissions and habitat plans for planning applications, Somerset Council ecology/GIS records and, in future, national BNG registers.

Outcome theme	Example indicator	Main data sources
B. Homes for All	Net additional dwellings per year vs plan requirement	Somerset Council housing monitoring and Authority Monitoring Report, supported by national housing statistics.
	Number and % of affordable homes delivered	Somerset Council affordable housing monitoring (including S106 schemes and registered provider returns) and national affordable housing statistics.
	Number of specialist and accessible homes delivered	Somerset Council planning and housing monitoring for specialist schemes and accessible homes, with input from Adult Social Care and housing providers.
C. Healthy, Connected Somerset	Mode share for walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport	Census travel to work data, Department for Transport statistics and Local Transport Plan monitoring (including local surveys where available).
	Proportion of households within reasonable travel time of key services by sustainable modes	Accessibility mapping and Role & Function evidence, using GIS analysis of public transport, walking and cycling routes.
	Access to public open space and play space standards	Somerset Council open space and play audits, planning monitoring for new open space delivered, and GIS mapping of accessible green spaces.
D. Flourishing, Productive Somerset	Employment land developed by type and location	Somerset Council employment land and floorspace monitoring (permissions and completions).
	Jobs growth in key sectors	Official labour market statistics (e.g. NOMIS/BRES) for employment by industry, supplemented by local economic data where available.
	Levels of economic activity and unemployment	Labour market statistics for Somerset (e.g. NOMIS/Annual Population Survey).

Outcome theme	Example indicator	Main data sources
	Town centre vacancy rates and diversity of uses	Regular town centre health checks and retail/centre audits undertaken by Somerset Council.
E. Beautiful, Distinctive, Inclusive Places	Proportion of major schemes supported by design codes or design review	Somerset Council planning records for major applications, including information on use of design codes and design review.
	Heritage at risk indicators	Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register and any local heritage at risk surveys.
	Survey-based measures of place satisfaction where available	Somerset-wide or local resident surveys (where undertaken), neighbourhood planning and place-based engagement exercises.
F. Delivery, Infrastructure and Implementation	Infrastructure projects delivered vs planned (key schemes)	Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Local Transport Plan delivery programme and Somerset Council capital programme and project reports.
	Developer contributions secured and spent	Somerset Council Infrastructure Funding Statement and Section 106 / CIL monitoring.
	Plan review triggers and any subsequent actions	Authority Monitoring Report and Local Development Scheme, including reporting against any review triggers set out in the Local Plan.

Monitoring will be reported through the Authority Monitoring Report and related mechanisms and will be used to inform any plan review required by legislation or local circumstances.