

North Somerset Council, June 2020.

Bristol Airport

No further engagement regarding the subletting of the administrative building. The planning team have sought more information from the airport. I understand no space has been let but the airport is aware that if changes of use are proposed which require planning permission, then a planning application should be made. Subletting of space in itself however does not necessarily need planning permission as it depends to some extent on the use to which that space is put.

Flail Cutting

Any feedback from council about how this has been progressing. Any issues?

Covid 19 & The Funding Gap

So far, the coronavirus pandemic has cost NSC £35m. That's a combination of costs directly associated with coronavirus and income that's been lost due to the pandemic. So far, the government has committed £12m support to us. That's a funding gap of £23m!

These numbers aren't set in stone and scrutiny chairs and vice chairs attended a Zoom call to look at finances and how we may be forced to make some difficult choices in services over the medium term. Plenty of debate about the pros/cons of salami slicing to retain as much as possible vs cutting services completely to save others. I want to ensure that rural settings like ours do not lose out in a rush to save and prioritise town centres.

We continue to lobby Govt (who originally told all authorities to 'spend what you need to' during the pandemic before a now familiar u turn).

Local Plan

In my scrutiny role on Strategic Planning and Economic Development, I am helping to shape the documentation for the next phase of consultation around the Local Plan (which replaces the JSP). This will be a two stage engagement

1. Summer 2020 Challenges:-to enable an understanding of the challenges we all face in meeting North Somerset's needs to 2038. To gather feedback on what sustainable development means to communities/residents/landowners/businesses etc and what people think the priorities should be over the next 15 years;
2. Autumn 2020 Choices:- use the engagement feedback from "challenges" to present a number of potential options to meet needs. Gather opinions on the sustainability of each and what other considerations exist.

Given the important place this consultation will have, I am really hoping we can at least conduct number 2 above in a more open and safe post-Covid public forum.

Business Support

NSC continues to administer the business grant schemes for the estimated 3,500 eligible businesses in North Somerset. As of Jun 8 they had processed 3,151 grants and paid out £38m. Any eligible businesses who have not yet applied are urged to do so as soon as possible. The schemes come in the form of a small business grant fund and a retail, hospitality and leisure grant fund. Grants are between £10,000 and £25,000 depending on circumstances. **Some businesses are still missing out on government money to support their business.** Please encourage anyone you know who may be eligible to take up this offer. Once their eligibility has been confirmed, payment will be made between seven and 10 days. If they have any further questions on this they can contact me directly or North Somerset Council's Economic Development Team on 01934 426 266, email business@n-somerset.gov.uk.

Steve

07429 005512 or steve.hogg@n-somerset.gov.uk