

whole community. Through a process of education and awareness-raising that has already begun, Watchet has the potential to become a hub for technological innovation, employment, training and business diversification

### Context

The West Somerset Community Climate Change Strategy 2008-2012 identifies the need for a 'collective focus' of every individual and organisation in order to reduce our carbon emissions. People in West Somerset emit more carbon dioxide per person (11.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per person), than the southwest average of 8.9 tonnes carbon dioxide. The UK average is only 9.3 tonnes carbon dioxide.

The Strategy suggests action is needed across a number of sectors such as transport and energy use in the domestic, private and public sectors. A range of energy-saving measures is already available that are cost-effective and could make a significant contribution to reducing carbon emissions. The focus in Watchet, to achieve greater energy efficiency, will be to work with individuals and with small to medium-sized enterprises, which make up the majority of businesses in the town.

### Objectives

**We aim to achieve a reduction in the community's carbon emissions by**

**CC3 Encouraging energy efficiency measures across all sectors of the economy**

**CC4 Encouraging uptake of low-carbon technologies such as renewable energy**

**CC5 Encouraging uptake of domestic cavity and loft insulation**

**CC6 Seek opportunities to influence planning policies and process**

### *Producing our own energy and carbon offsetting*

#### Strategic Aims

Under this theme, WASP is seeking to engage the local community in addressing key issues relating to energy use and fuel poverty (where a household needs to spend more than 10% of its income on total fuel use). People in Watchet will make informed choices and take action to use energy more efficiently. Uptake of existing energy-saving technologies will help reduce energy demands, domestically and commercially. Greater uptake of renewable 'low impact' energy technologies such as solar, wind and water power, will mean energy needs can be met locally. The community will be enabled to build in some degree of 'buffering' and resilience to

**rising energy costs through generating its own electricity, at the same time as developing a highly skilled workforce, employment, increased connectivity to nearby rural markets and recirculation of money within the local economy.**

### Context

West Somerset spends £80 million per year to meet its energy needs (2008); households alone spend more than £20 million. Nearly 60% of households in West Somerset are without mains gas for space heating and are particularly vulnerable to rising energy costs. The district is very reliant on external sources to meet its current energy requirements for domestic, public and private sectors, resulting in a net outflow of revenue, skills and employment from the local economy, particularly into neighbouring towns such as Taunton and Bridgwater. Watchet has a number of natural assets that have the potential to be utilised for energy generation, e.g. micro-hydro on the Washford River; tidal power based on Watchet's tidal range (rise and fall) the second largest in the world, and exposed headlands with potential for wind power generation.

### Objectives

**CC7 Develop and support local means of energy production and carbon offsetting by**

- Developing local partnerships to deliver community-led micro-generation scheme(s)
- Promoting uptake of energy-saving technologies and services including woodfuel
- Identifying locally appropriate carbon-offset techniques (e.g. tree planting)
- Promote an improved local skills base in the context of new manufacturing and energy efficiency businesses

### Transport

#### Strategic Aims

**To reduce overall carbon dioxide emissions from transport sources, by encouraging the provision of alternatives to private car use, whilst enabling local people to access jobs, education, services, health and leisure opportunities.**

### Context

Petrol cars are the biggest contributor to transport carbon dioxide emissions in West Somerset, emitting more than 50,000 tonnes carbon dioxide (57%) of all transport emissions in 2007. In rural areas such as Watchet, people rely on their cars to access jobs, services, education and for leisure, particularly where public transport services are restricted. Whilst Watchet

is well served in terms of basic services: doctor's surgery, optician, pharmacy, Family Centre, Nursery, Pre-school, First School, various churches and many voluntary organisations, people have to travel out of the District for many services. Public transport options include bus services to major towns and demand-responsive transport for vulnerable people through an accessible transport company. West Somerset Railway is predominantly a 'leisure' route but has the potential to offer more options for commuting. West Somerset Cycle Network - the Steam Coast Trail - aims to encourage more cycling, via safe, mainly traffic free cycle routes.

### Objectives

**CC8 Support actions to reduce the number of car journeys, including raising awareness of car sharing and car clubs, improving cycling facilities, promoting public transport and encouraging alternatives**

e.g. reproduction of the West Somerset Transport Guide

e.g. campaigning to encourage people to use alternatives to their cars

**CC9 Influence decision-making and support actions that retain local services and supply chains to reduce the need for people to use their own transport**

### Local food

#### Strategic Aims

**WASP's strategic aim under the local food strand of this theme is to enhance the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of Watchet through a collaborative effort to build a locally based self-reliant food economy, in which production, processing, distribution and consumption are integrated.**

### Context

Food produced locally contributes to economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the area: agriculture provides jobs, high quality landscapes and low 'food miles', keeping transport costs and environmental costs to a minimum. Livestock farming is most common in the area, with the majority of agricultural land grass ley or permanent pasture, or planted with fodder crops for cattle and sheep. Vegetable growing is limited by local soil conditions, although asparagus is a successful crop in nearby Withycombe. The development of local food networks of production, processing, distribution and consumption will be influenced by the rising costs of fuel and foodstuffs as well as government-driven funding that,

it is predicted, will emphasise wider public benefits, landscape quality, biodiversity and improved public access to the countryside. The greatest change may well be a shift towards community-led food production: on allotments, through 'box' schemes, food co-operatives etc., involving far more people in the production of food locally. Forum 21, the local environmental group, is working with the Primary Care Trust's 2009 'Grow, cook and eat' campaign to promote small-scale vegetable production. The County Youth Service aims to expand young people's cookery skills through training workshops during 2009.

### Objectives

**CC10 Promote diversification in the local economy by supporting managed, strategically co-ordinated initiatives linked to local food production, processing, distribution and consumption by**

- Researching local food network opportunities including community gardening, 'box' schemes, allotments, food co-operatives, community supported agriculture (CSA), seed savers groups and expansion of the farmers' market
- Promoting healthy eating of seasonal, fresh, locally produced foods
- Supporting local producers, processors, distributors and food retailers
- Enabling the community to grow their own fruit and vegetables
- Enabling the community to buy local products and services

**CC11 Build capacity to stimulate new forms of community enterprise and entrepreneurship by**

- Attracting funding to develop a pilot local food network
- Researching demand for local organic high value niche products (organic vegetables etc)

## THEME 3 Quality of Environment

**A quality environment is fundamental to the whole of WASPs Community Plan, which to succeed must be sustainable and deliver not just for today's community but for tomorrow's as well. There are three aspects to this theme, firstly, the quality of Watchet's historic built environment, secondly the quality of residential property and its contribution to the well-being of the community and thirdly, the quality of the natural environment.**

## Built Environment

### Strategic Aim

**WASP's strategic aim under this theme is to protect, respect, conserve and enhance the local built environment and infrastructure.**

### Context

Watchet has been a port for over a thousand years; however much of the built environment around the 'Old Town' we see today can be dated from the 18th century onwards. The quality of the environment is reflected in designation of the Harbour and adjacent streets as a Conservation Area that includes a number of key 'feature' buildings such as the West Somerset Railway Station complex, the former Railway Engine Shed, currently the Boat Museum, and the Old Market House, currently the Town Museum. The main thoroughfare through Swain Street and Market Street is relatively narrow and can suffer traffic congestion. An Urban Design Statement prepared in 2003, a strategic Design Guide for Watchet's built environment to augment WSC Local Plan, identified a variety of town centre improvements, particularly to enhance the experience for pedestrians. A recently formed and very enthusiastic Conservation Society has developed a package of practical ideas that can make a significant contribution to the conservation and future enjoyment of Watchet's vernacular architecture and its public spaces. Future development of key sites around the Harbour will have a major impact on the aesthetic appeal of the waterside.

### Objectives

#### QE1 Achieve better design standards

- Promote community consultation and participation.
- Influence decision-makers to seek the highest build and environmental standards and pay homage to vernacular architectural styles where appropriate, e.g. within the town's Conservation Area
- Re-visit the urban Design Statement document

#### QE2 Encourage environmentally sensitive town centre enhancement by

Establishing a partnership of local people, private and public agencies that can influence and have a stake in the improvement of Watchet's town centre (link to the Conservation Society's Pavement Project)).

#### QE3 Respect and preserve our heritage

Protect the town and surrounding areas' heritage sites and provide mechanisms for their appreciation and enjoyment (link to Conservation Society's Lime Kiln project).

## Housing

The general perception in Watchet is of a town divided by the path of the West Somerset Railway, with the 'Old Town', with its medieval street plan, lying in the Washford valley and along the harbourside, and the areas 'across the tracks' dating mainly from the 1940's onwards.

### Strategic Aim

**To ensure current and future housing stock offers diversity and quality that enable people to choose to live in Watchet**

### Context

With very high house prices relative to incomes more needs to be done to provide local people with options for affordable housing and to provide the necessary services and community facilities for all residents. A recent survey showed that average house prices across West Somerset were seven times average earnings, making the area the least affordable for buyers in the southwest. Second home ownership is not perceived to be a major problem in Watchet. The opening of the marina has driven house prices up in an area that was previously considered more 'affordable' than Minehead or the National Park.

Watchet's housing stock is of variable quality: ageing properties together with poor insulation and poor construction techniques mean that investment is needed to upgrade homes to meet current standards and to benefit individual householders in terms of energy efficiency measures that could reduce their costs.

'Warm and well' and 'Warm streets' projects are promoting grants for cavity and wall insulation; however, to address issues such as fuel poverty and have a long-term impact to improve the quality of housing stock, more concerted efforts, by a range of organisations, street-by-street, will be needed.

### Objectives

#### QE4 Quality Homes

- Achieve better housing standards  
Influence decision-makers to ensure new housing meets high environmental and sustainability standards e.g. features to encourage energy and water efficiency, rainwater harvesting, locally-sourced materials
- Work in partnership to identify and develop a flagship housing project to showcase quality and sustainability
- Encourage existing homeowners to upgrade their homes to latest environmental standards through the uptake of grants e.g. for insulation

## QE5 Improve the availability of affordable housing

- Address actual demand for local affordable housing by undertaking consultations or surveys to establish a more accurate picture of demand and 'affordability' for local people
- Assess whether there is unmet demand for shared ownership schemes
- Ensure all eligible claimants take up their rights to means-tested benefits, including housing benefit

## Natural Environment

### Strategic Aim

**To protect, respect, conserve and enhance our natural environment**

### Context

The town is set in an attractive high quality natural landscape, straddling the Washford River valley with scenic cliffs and the fossil-rich Jurassic beds exposed on the foreshore. These fossil beds are allied to the geology of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site on the Dorset Coast, albeit on a smaller scale. However the coastline attracts interest in its own right from the Field Studies Council Nettlecombe, universities and scholars for its fossil elevations.

Watchet's natural environment has tended to be overlooked as an asset; however, a Heritage Lottery-funded project being managed by The Exmoor Society in partnership with Exmoor National Park Authority, to enhance and interpret the Old Mineral Railway Line from the Brendon Hills down to the port has highlighted landscape features of value in scenic and wildlife terms. More study of Watchet's natural areas is needed to inform future management objectives for public open spaces and land in private ownership, to enhance the landscape and wildlife value of the area. Opportunities exist for voluntary participation in habitat management and also the creation of 'greener' spaces within the town, through additional tree planting and sensitive management of public spaces etc.

### Objectives

#### QE6 Encourage environmentally sensitive management of key natural environments

- Identify opportunities for voluntary participation in wildlife habitat and landscape creation and management
- Identify key sites for preservation e.g. herb-rich grasslands, woodland etc

## THEME 4 A Safe, Strong and Inclusive Community

This theme has many strands that are interlinked and will need to be co-ordinated to achieve the vision of the Community Plan. Watchet has prided itself on its community spirit, its self-reliance and ability to mobilise local opinion to influence decision-makers on matters affecting the town. Looking to the future, the town's population is set to increase in line with the rest of the south west. In order to achieve an active, healthy, caring and inclusive community with access to high quality local services and facilities to meet the needs and interests of people of all ages, attention needs to be paid to retaining existing services and planning for changing needs. Watchet currently has a population structure with more people of working age with children compared to the majority of West Somerset, which supports a proportionally larger elderly population. Given the whole country has an ageing population profile, it seems likely there will be increasing demand for services and facilities to cater for more elderly people. A more strategic approach to service provision that ensures children and families can access good quality, affordable health, social and wellbeing support they need locally is suggested here.

The consultation identified training and building people's skills and confidence as drivers of a safe, strong and inclusive community, enabling people to express their aspirations and meet their needs based on a thorough understanding of community-led action

## Vocational Training & Lifelong Learning

### Strategic Aims

**People in Watchet will be able to access appropriate training and learning to equip them to be flexible, to lead rewarding lives, to be better qualified and rewarded in their work and to help meet the future needs of the Somerset economy.**

### Context

In 2006 the overall employment rate for Somerset was 78% between July 2006-June 07, for West Somerset the figure was 63.3%, with larger numbers of people of working age on benefits and/or with caring responsibilities. The percentage of people excluded from paid employment in West Somerset was 11.92% in 2006, compared to a Somerset average of 8.9%, triggering action under the 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund' to increase skills levels and employability of people in West Somerset, but in particular in Watchet, where individual average skills levels, and employment choices are limited.

## Objectives

**SS1 Improve access to life long learning opportunities**, including employment-related training, business skills, Information Technology, basic skills (literacy and numeracy) and personal development opportunities

**SS2 Work in partnership with others to access training and skills development opportunities through the Working Neighbourhood Fund**

## Facilities and Access to Services

Watchet aims to be an active, healthy community using local sports and leisure facilities that meet the diverse needs of all ages.

## Strategic Aim

**To maximise the social, health, leisure, and educational benefits to the community through increased participation in sports and leisure activities by**

- Improving existing facilities
- Creating additional high quality and affordable facilities
- Promoting existing opportunities

## Context

An audit of the facilities and services and the SWOT analysis demonstrated that local people have access to a wide range of health, education and care services, at a level to be expected for the size of population (See Appendices for details). In addition the town has an extensive assortment of voluntary and community organisations to meet the diverse needs of people of all ages. In all there are more than eighty local groups providing opportunities covering sports, healthy lifestyles, care for the elderly, cultural and youth activities. Whilst the community has little direct control over the delivery of healthcare and education services, there is more scope for more creative, sustainable, independent community-led solutions that are tailored to local conditions, can provide local employment and retain resources in the community. Increases to the population will require a review of facilities and the development of an overall concept plan for amenity, sports and other facilities.

## Objectives

**SS3 Youth & Community Inclusion**

- Facilitate mechanisms to include young people in the civic life of the community including issues of access to opportunities, services, facilities, transport etc.

- Support young people to address issues raised in response to consultations and to help them acquire the skills and expertise they need to engage with partners in the delivery of services targeting specific age groups

**SS4 Promote healthy living at all ages**

Encourage exercise, healthy eating for all through consultation, community engagement and partnership working

**SS5 Provide a mix of facilities and activities appropriate to the needs of all ages**

Develop a more detailed picture of emerging needs through further audit and mapping. Identify a concept plan based on further consultation and an assessment of changing demographic needs

## Voluntary & Community Sector

### Strategic Aim

**A community that is heard, has robust leadership and vibrant community and voluntary organisations**

### Context

Watchet is well-served by a diversity of voluntary and community groups at local, district and county level, with an exemplary track record of self-help, particularly for older people, young people and families on low incomes. Many organisations report problems with recruitment and retention of volunteers and there is a general trend, not confined to Watchet, of the average age of volunteers increasing and fewer recruits to take their place, as people place more emphasis on supporting their families, jobs etc. Through their voluntary and community engagement, many people have acquired a wealth of skills in managing resources, consultation, fundraising, participation and personal development. As a vehicle for building an inclusive community that is able to express and meet its needs, there is scope to provide more support through existing networks and engage in detailed discussions about the changes needed to meet the needs of the community in the future

### Objectives

**SS6 To increase the social, leisure and education benefits arising from the activities of a strong community and voluntary sector**

**SS7 To support individuals to develop a range of skills, leadership, expertise and confidence to engage in influencing policy at local, county and regional levels**

## THEME 5 Culture & Heritage

### Culture and Heritage

#### Strategic Aims

**People in Watchet can experience high levels of well-being through participation in rich and varied cultural life, with a choice of local arts, culture, heritage, sports and environmental opportunities for all ages.**

#### Context

Community wellbeing could be described as the degree of integration in a community between its economic, social, cultural and environmental elements. It's a complex concept for which there are few measures of success, other than how people feel about where and how they live. Wellbeing is holistic, affecting every aspect of people's lives and relies on people being empowered to address issues important to their community. Community well-being is often observable through the cultural life of a community.

The cultural life of a community is somewhat dictated by the experience of local people and their sense of a shared emotional connection to their locality, their ability to express and fulfil their needs and their capacity to participate and influence decision-making. Communities flourish where there is a clear identity, embodied within members of the community, the local environment, within the buildings and open spaces; an identity which embraces the arts, culture, heritage, sports and environment. Communities are becoming increasingly aware of the need to live in a more environmentally friendly way and to make changes to their lifestyles that can have a global impact. Whilst Watchet can be said to have a thriving cultural life, based on the high levels of participation in voluntary and community activities, there is potential to develop a more strategic approach. Such an approach can harness the enthusiasm, skills and initiative of local people and deliver long-term sustainable well-being for all sectors of the community.

Participation in cultural activities in Watchet is relatively easy because of the large numbers of people involved in organising voluntary and community activities, sports and youth action as well as notable town events such as the Court Leet, Carnival, Queen Caturday's Night, the Children's Festival, 'Wonderful World' music on The Esplanade, museum open days, local produce markets etc.

The town has a long history and many iconic themes upon which to write its cultural 'back story' e.g. its maritime history embracing Viking raids; links to the romantic poets (Watchet is understood to be the starting point for the poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' and borders The Coleridge Way, a recreational long distance path), through to 'Yankee Jack', famed for his repertoire of sea shanties; the route of the Old Mineral

Line, (for transporting iron ore from the Brendon Hills to be shipped across to Wales), and the manufacture of paper. Heritage is not just about old buildings and artefacts, but includes memories, customs and traditions that celebrate our culture.

Similarly, by raising the cultural profile of the town as a venue, and its reputation for high quality events and facilities, it is likely that the town can attract new audiences and boost visitors, to support the local economy. A rich cultural backdrop could also stimulate the development of a cluster of related businesses and enterprises in the creative industries, as has happened in other coastal rural communities in the southwest.

## Objectives

- C1 Improve community's cultural asset base e.g. Improve community venues, and the organisations that support cohesive, active and inclusive communities**
- C2 Seek support for community, social and cultural asset development projects e.g. Boat Museum extension**
- C3 Develop a community cultural development strategy to engage all sectors of the local community in cultural activity, to develop the community's range of skills and to create a vibrant cultural life for the town, its residents and visitors**
- C4 Create an attractive cultural environment with the potential to attract people working in the creative industries**
- C5 Increase participation by local people in sports and leisure activities by improving existing facilities and creating high quality and affordable additional facilities**

## Section 5 Community Plan Projects

### 5.1 Community Plan Projects

A series of projects has emerged through the process of developing our Community Plan, in response to the community's aspirations. WASP is confident that this process has identified a robust programme of initiatives that benefit not only the local community but the economy of West Somerset and the county as a whole. The projects are grouped under the theme headings; however, some projects contribute to realising one or more objectives under other themes in the plan. For each potential project there is a brief description of the actions needed. The list of projects is not set in stone: project opportunities will arise during the life of the plan and can be checked against the plan's goals identified through the consultation, Healthcheck and group working to ensure the greatest benefit can be achieved for the community.

Many of the actions identified will require the commitment of project champions, partners and funders. We recognise, as a community-led group, that the actions that have been identified must be prioritised and efforts concentrated on the projects, which will bring most benefit to the community. WASP also recognises that implementation will depend upon the principles of the Plan being aligned with the Local Area Agreement and regional strategies, as well as the work of the Watchet Regeneration Partnership. For evidence of strategic 'fit' please refer to Appendix 4.

In order that Watchet is successful in competing for resources, commitment will need to come from a senior level within the statutory authorities, Watchet Town Council, West Somerset Council, Somerset County Council and from South West Regional Development Agency.

The projects and actions in this Plan fall broadly into three areas of responsibility:

#### Influence

Activity which will seek to **influence** the policies and actions of others.

Partnership working, monitor outcomes

#### Endorse

Activity that **endorses** existing projects and actions of others.

With other agencies, monitor & review progress

#### Own Ourselves

Projects and activities which are not being addressed by others and on which we will need to take action and develop **ourselves**.

There is a need for roles and responsibilities to be clarified. Further discussion is needed with the statutory authorities to develop partnership working, to evidence the strategic importance of projects in the Plan and to secure financial support for their early delivery.



## 5.2 Summary of Community Plan Projects

Employment of Project Staff

Economic Regeneration Strategy

Web-based Directory

Tourism Development Plan

Tourism Organisation

Green Tourism

Steam Coast Trail

Watersports Centre

Improving Facilities and Services for Visitors

Environmental Awareness Campaigns

Commercial Waste Reduction

Low-Carbon Technologies

Attracting Knowledge-Based Industries

Investing in Skills Training

Watchet 'Pavement' Project

Town Design Statement

Quality Homes for Local People

Assessment of Demand for Affordable Housing

Youth Inclusion Strategy

Audit of Community, Sports & Leisure Groups, Facilities & Support Services

Audit of Vocational Training & Lifelong Learning Opportunities

New Community Building

Voluntary & Community Sector Support

Community Cultural Development Strategy

## 5.3 Individual Projects

Priority	PROJECT	LEAD GROUP
Now	<b>WASP Project Staff</b> Identify resources and partners to enable WASP or partner organisation to employ project staff to implement the Plan	<b>WASP/WRP</b>
<b>Theme 1 INCREASING PROSPERITY</b>		
Now	<b>Economic Regeneration Strategy</b> Identify partners and resources to commission an 'Economic Regeneration Strategy' to achieve WASP's stated objectives. Based on the recommendation of Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited provided through the MCTA.  A copy of the consultants' report 'Community Studies, Lot 2 Support for Communities in Project Planning Development, Watchet June 2008, Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited can be found in the Appendices to this report.  Cost estimate £20,000-£25,000, with potential funding sources identified as Somerset Rural Renaissance Scheme and Somerset County Council Rural Regeneration Fund.	<b>SCC/WSC</b>
Now	<b>Web-based Directory</b> Produce a web-based directory of local businesses and services	<b>WASP</b>
Soon	<b>Tourism Development Plan</b> Identify partners and resources to commission tourism development expertise to prepare a Tourism development plan and marketing strategy - to include key projects and events to attract visitors, extend length of stay and increase spend with minimum impact on the environment.	<b>Watchet Town Council/ WACET/WSC/SCC</b>
Later	<b>Promoting Tourism Organisation</b> Establish a new local group to take forward recommendations of the Tourism Development Plan	<b>New group</b>
Now	<b>Green Tourism</b> Research/undertake a review and consolidate existing initiatives to develop a local branding and promote Watchet as a 'Green Tourism' destination e.g. use of local foods, goods and services; promotion of sustainable transport options, public transport, cycling, walks leaflets etc.	<b>WASP/Private sector</b>
Now	<b>Steam Coast Trail</b> Work with Sustrans and other partners to take forward the proposals	<b>Sustrans/SCC</b>
Now	<b>Watersports Centre- making the most of Watchet's natural assets</b> Identify partners and resources to take forward the proposals for a major Watersports Centre	<b>WBOA, Watchet Marina, WSC</b>

Priority	PROJECT	LEAD GROUP
	<b>Improving Facilities and Services for Visitors</b>	
Now	Identify and promote training opportunities to tourism-related businesses and services to encourage accreditation and raise quality and service standards	<b>Training providers, WACET</b>
Soon	Work with traders to enhance the shopping experience, encourage longer seasonal trading, extend opening hours, and work in partnership to organise events and markets	<b>WACET</b>

## Theme 2 CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS

Delivery of the community’s aspirations under this theme will require external support for feasibility studies. Forum 21 will need support to develop its capacity to increase community participation and volunteering in environmental campaigning, education and awareness raising and publicity.

	<b>Environmental Awareness</b>	
Now	Identify funding to resource Forum 21 to deliver a programme of awareness-raising campaigns and practical environmental projects to promote greater participation and well-being and foster greater respect for the planet’s resources e.g. promoting domestic recycling.	<b>Forum 21</b>
	<b>Commercial Waste Reduction</b>	
Soon	Commission research to identify potential for local businesses to reduce their commercial waste and identify new opportunities for waste re-use and recycling. e.g. Commission feasibility to explore use of waste products from Wansborough Paper Mill	<b>WASP/Forum 21</b>
	<b>Low-Carbon Technologies</b>	
Soon	<b>Producing Our Own Energy through Micro-generation</b> Feasibility study into the potential for a community-led micro-generation scheme and the formation of a local community-owned energy services company (ESCO) that can develop community renewable energy micro-generation schemes e.g. micro solar, wind, water, biomass, for Watchet	
	<b>Energy Saving</b>	
Now	Develop and fundraise for a local campaign using Forum 21’s trained volunteers to reach every home in Watchet to offer renewable energy assessments, to raise awareness and uptake of grants for cavity & loft insulation and ways of saving energy at home and at work	<b>Forum 21/WSC</b>
	<b>Transport</b>	
Now	Co-ordinate partnership working with the Steam Coast Trail and others to develop practical volunteer projects that will help reduce local car use, promote walking, create safe cycle ways and seek to develop a pedestrian-friendly town centre	<b>SCC Highways/ Forum 21/ Conservation Society</b>

PRIORITY	PROJECT	LEAD GROUP
	<b>Community Woodland</b>	
Soon	Undertake a feasibility study into the planting of a community-owned or managed woodland as a local carbon offset scheme or as part of a woodfuel supply chain	<b>Private sector/ community group</b>
	<b>Local Produce</b>	
Later	Commission a feasibility study into local food network opportunities including community gardening, ‘box’ schemes, allotments, food co-operatives, community supported agriculture (CSA), seed savers groups and expansion of the produce market	<b>Forum 21</b>
	<b>Sustainable Home Building</b>	
Now	Influence others to adhere to Code for Sustainable Homes and adopt low-energy technologies in all new builds, conversions and renovations	<b>Forum 21</b>
	<b>Attracting Knowledge-Based Industries</b>	
Now	Identify resources and partners to undertake feasibility studies into the development of a cluster of knowledge-based industries and manufacturing relating to low-carbon technologies and services e.g. Use of local natural assets/resources to produce sustainable construction materials e.g. Waste wool, waste paper as insulation products e.g. Development of businesses based on the use of locally-sourced materials e.g. Development of local/regional supply chains	<b>SCC/WSC/private sector</b>
	<b>Investing in Skills Training</b>	
Now	Establish links to the Working Neighbourhood Fund Programme managed through West Somerset Council to meet emerging skills gaps and training needs. e.g. Potential for skills training in Sustainable Construction and Low-Carbon technologies and services such as installation of insulation, micro-generation appliances e.g. potential for skills training in rural and woodland management skills	<b>WASP/WSC/SCC</b>

## Theme 3 QUALITY OF ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS

The quality of the local environment is very important to many Watchet residents, and projects to enhance the built environment are seen to offer a broad range of opportunities for participation, celebrating local heritage, the acquisition of technical skills and for expressing civic pride.

Now	<b>Watchet ‘Pavement’ Project</b> Establish a partnership of local people, private and public agencies that can influence and have a stake in the enhancement of Watchet’s town centre.	<b>Watchet Conservation Society</b>
Soon	Develop a pilot to engage the expertise and resources needed to undertake practical physical repairs to historic ‘fabric’ such as cobbled areas.	

Priority	PROJECT	LEAD GROUP
Later	<b>Undertake a Design Statement</b> Identify partners and resources to re-visit the Urban Design Framework to inform the Watchet Pavement Project and other initiatives.	<b>WASP/Watchet Conservation Society</b>
Soon	<b>Quality Homes For Local People</b> Influence decision-makers to ensure new housing meets high environmental and sustainability standards e.g. to encourage energy and water efficiency, rainwater harvesting, and the use of locally-sourced materials.	<b>WSC</b>
Later	Identify partners and resources to test feasibility of a flagship housing project to demonstrate quality environmental and sustainability standards.	<b>Ecos Trust/TRUCE /Forum 21</b>
Now	<b>Assessment of Demand For Affordable Housing</b> Work in partnership with local housing providers and planning authority to review local needs and seek to attract proposals appropriate to Watchet, within the wider District provision.	<b>WSC</b>

**Theme 4 SAFE, STRONG AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

Now	<b>Web-based Directory</b> Research and commission a web-based directory of information on services, facilities and community activities, healthy lifestyles, lifelong learning and other opportunities in Watchet and elsewhere.	<b>WASP/PCT/Youth Service/Somerset Skills &amp; Learning</b>
Soon	<b>Youth Inclusion Strategy</b> Develop a partnership of local community, public and private agencies to create a coherent Youth Inclusion Strategy, better co-ordination of service provision and develop ways to involve young people in the development and delivery of services.	<b>Watchet Town Council/ WASP/ SCC Youth Service</b>
Soon	<b>Audit of Community, Sports &amp; Leisure Groups, Facilities and Support Services</b> Identify specific opportunities to improve the quality & access to services and facilities, particularly for disadvantaged groups of people e.g. youth café, indoor sports.	<b>WASP/ SCC Youth Service</b>
Now	<b>Audit of Vocational Training and Lifelong Learning Opportunities</b> Work with training providers and other partners to identify specific opportunities to improve the range and quality of learning and training opportunities and to improve access to opportunities elsewhere, e.g. affordable transport options, childcare etc.	<b>Somerset Skills &amp; Learning and other learning providers</b>
Now	<b>Investing in Skills Training</b> Establish links to the Working Neighbourhood Fund Programme managed through West Somerset Council to meet emerging skills gaps and training needs.	<b>WASP/WSC</b>

Priority	PROJECT	LEAD GROUP
Now	<b>New Community Building</b> Identify resources and partners to undertake a feasibility study into the level of support for and the longer term sustainability of a Community Building to provide shared premises for a variety of health, sports and leisure activities	<b>Town Council/ Working Group</b>
Soon	<b>Voluntary And Community Sector Infrastructure Development</b> Work in partnership with Engage West Somerset and others to identify resources to deliver training, build the capacity of voluntary and community organisations, raise skills levels and promote participation by individuals and organisations in civic life, volunteering, campaigning and delivery of services.	<b>Engage WS</b>

**Theme 5 CULTURE and HERITAGE Projects**

**Responsibility for the maintenance and sustainability of Watchet’s many cultural assets lies in the hands of volunteers who work tirelessly to achieve a rich and varied programme of activities, to manage highly-valued premises and who promote Watchet’s heritage and identity.** The projects identified below aim to build on existing strengths and establish a higher profile for Watchet that will be demonstrated by increased visitor numbers and a stronger local economy. An attractive cultural environment also has the potential to attract people to re-locate in the area.

Now	<b>A Community Cultural Development Strategy</b> Commission research and develop a model to engage all sectors of the local community in cultural activity, to develop the community’s range of skills, to create a vibrant cultural life and to foster creative enterprise, skills training and employment opportunities	<b>WASP/Artlife</b>
Soon	<b>Cultural Assets</b> Identify partners and resources to establish a co-ordinated package of local cultural heritage projects and events. This would include support for voluntary organisations such as the Museums and also developing events such as a Festival of the Sea or a Romantic Poets Trail (linked to the long-distance footpath the Coleridge Way), the Steam Coast Trail and the Old Mineral Line Heritage Project.	<b>WASP</b>

## Section 6 Implementing the Plan

### 6.1 The next steps

Watchet has seen several waves of regeneration initiatives over the last twenty years and much has been achieved through joint working with the local community, interest groups, the Watchet Regeneration Partnership and the public and private sectors.

The Watchet Community Strategic Plan is the latest step in developing the shared vision of many partners, newly validated by the community. The Plan builds on previous achievements with the added dimension of a community aiming to address global issues at a local level, such as climate change.

WASP's steering group recognises the need for a continuation body to work with partners to deliver the projects in the Plan. The steering group will be looking at a number of options to ensure that the plan can be taken forward, such as

- i) Creation of a newly constituted body such as a Development Trust or Community Interest Company
- ii) Hand-over to the existing Watchet Regeneration Partnership
- iii) Work with existing partners to deliver priority projects

The Steering Group recommends that early discussions be held between WASP and the Watchet Regeneration Partnership to consider the principle of establishing a constituted body capable of representing the full range

of interests of the community and those bodies with which it works. Independent from local government, this body would be community-led, self-managing, able to apply for funding and able to co-ordinate project delivery. This body would also have responsibility for monitoring progress over the lifetime of the Plan. At present, no organisation has a responsibility to undertake this work. Monitoring could take the form of a quarterly review (by members of the continuation body) and an Annual Review, which would look in more detail at achievements and obstacles and would update the Community Plan so that it remains relevant and acts as a stimulus for further community action. The on-going engagement with local people is a high priority. The Steering Group recognises the importance of communication with local people, through press coverage, the website [www.watchetonline.com](http://www.watchetonline.com) and as part of the delivery of individual projects, keeping people informed of progress.

The Market and Coastal Towns Initiative has ended. It is closed to further bids to support the development of detailed Action Plans or specific projects. Nevertheless, the Community Strategic Plan for Watchet provides the strategic framework to underpin the next phase in Watchet's regeneration. The Steering Group is keen that all efforts are focussed on forming a strong body, led by local people who can work in partnership, to deliver the vision for Watchet.



## Section 7 Contact Details

This report has been prepared on behalf of the Watchet Action Strategic Partnership by Carol Stone (Facilitator). A list of Steering Group members appears on the website: [www.watchetonline.com](http://www.watchetonline.com)

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