



Westminster Forum policy conference 5th August 2021

Priorities for net zero strategies on a local and regional level

Paula Hewitt

President of ADEPT (Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport)

Deputy Chief Executive, Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure and Director of Commissioning – Somerset County Council



Local authorities are key to climate action

- Tackling climate change is a top priority for local government
- Working towards a green recovery from Covid-19
- Widely recognised that a place-based approach is essential
- Councils provide local leadership, engagement, and inspiration
- Councils help deliver the co-benefits of climate actions.



Collaboration is key to our effectiveness

- Working with a wide range of partners
- Blueprint Coalition
- Engaging with Government
- Markets and supply chains



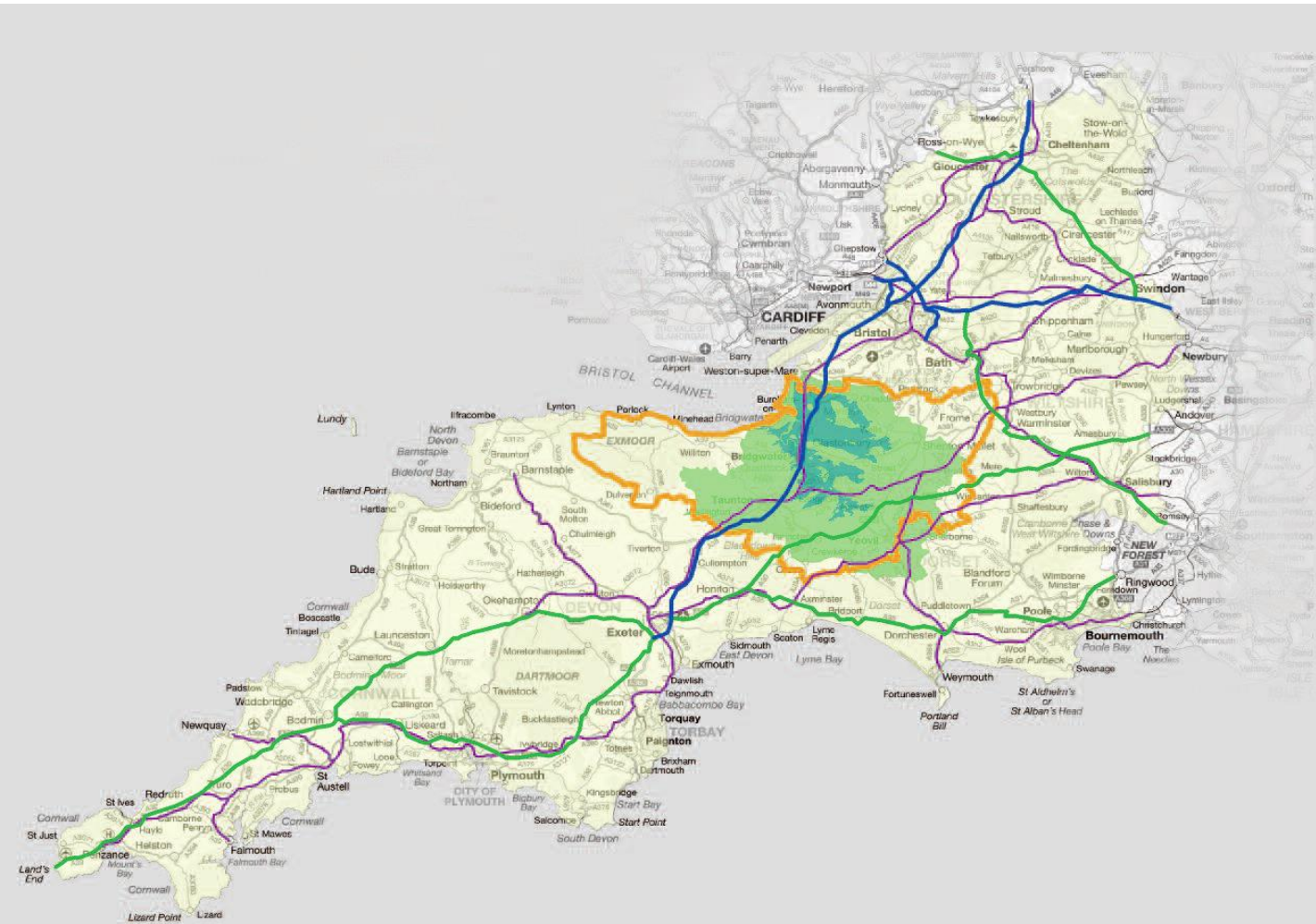
SOMERSET
County Council

ADEPT

Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport



**Climate
Resilient
SOMERSET**





Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy

- County-wide Climate Emergency Strategy jointly developed and delivered by Somerset County Council and the four District Councils

Goals of the Strategy

- **Goal 1:** To decarbonise Local Authorities, the wider public sector estates and reduce our carbon footprint
- **Goal 2:** To work towards making Somerset a Carbon Neutral County by 2030
- **Goal 3:** To have a Somerset which is prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of Climate Change



Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy

- **9 Key Workstreams**
 - Energy
 - Transport
 - Built Environment
 - Industry, Business and Supply Chain
 - Natural Environment
 - Farming and Food
 - Water
 - Waste and Resources
 - Engagement and Communication



Somerset - Key Jointly Delivered Actions

Since adoption, a number of key projects have been identified including;

- **Commercial Waste Contract Review**
- **Local Area Energy Plan**
- **County-wide EV Strategy**

More information on Somerset's response to the Climate Emergency can be found at:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/climate-emergency/>



Key Challenges for a Rural Local Authority

- Financing and affordability
- Lack of joined up approach at all levels
- Common commitment, but differing timescales
- Is climate a priority for business community post Covid?
- Decarbonisation of Energy, retrofit and supply chain
- Transport
- Adaptation, Ecology and Agriculture