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ADEPT President's Awards 2025

Entry form

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Award category	Innovation in Place-shaping
Project Title	Keynsham Recycling Hub
Local authority entrant	Bath & North East Somerset Council

Headline summary (150 characters max.)

Bath & North East Somerset Council opened its £41.8m in the state-of-the-art recycling facility in Feb 2024 after almost two years of construction.

Please note we need at least one supporting image per award submission. Upload your image/s below.

Video - please paste links to any video evidence here. (Leave blank if not relevant.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=_oGPs_PxXJ4

Innovation in place-shaping: How has this project used digital innovation and/or the imaginative use of new or existing technology? (150 words max.)

This new site incorporates the latest in digital technology innovation:
- Integrating existing council-wide waste service depot CCTV & ANPR to 3 new advanced in/out weighbridges, allowing fleet and 3rd party suppliers to access and exit site immediately, elevating time and disruption caused by queuing.
- Live data collection and recording available site and service wide.
- 5G mobile technology onsite for 'in-cab route / wayfinding waste collection efficiency and adaptability, updated over-night to enable remote tracking of vehicles and direct customer reporting when required.
- Smart BMS control systems ensure net zero carbon efficiencies can be maintained across site, live data streaming for interceptors, rainwater harvesting (70,000ltrs –for vehicle washing) and solar energy power use and collection from 3800m2 solar array, allows monitoring for improved site operating efficiencies to be captured onsite or by consultants remotely.

Innovation in place-shaping: How has this project shown evidence of improved outcomes for users? (150 words max.)

The new state-of-the-art facility means B&NES can react to future changes in waste management, have increased levels of staff moral and retention, whilst providing a safe and more enjoyable place to work.

The onsite Re-use Shop, integral to the public recycling centre, encourages the public to donate items suitable for re-use on a daily basis, rather than these items entering the waste stream. The sale of these items funds the shop's operations and allows direct supply or funding for local charities in a circular approach to benefitting the local community and reducing landfill.

The project also assists in the Council responding to the climate and nature emergency, where the site and buildings have been constructed with sustainability and bio diversity at the forefront. Centralising council waste and environmental services with an advanced vehicle servicing centre on this site improves operational efficiencies and generates income from public and commercial use.

Innovation in place-shaping: How has this project shown evidence of the transformation of a service/department/organisation by changing behaviours, delivering savings or improving ways of working? (150 words max.)

The project has transformed the Waste & Fleet Service of Bath & North East Somerset Council. It has provided a new operational hub, consolidating multiple operational facilities, namely residential roadside waste, green and recycling collections, trade waste, public recycling and re-use, vehicle washing, re-fuelling, servicing and maintenance, to now serve as a centralised depot for more than 100 recycling and refuse collections vehicles as well as modern offices and welfare facilities for the more than 250 operations and support staff now based here.

The highly advanced vehicle service building provides 10 bays to enable the servicing and MOT / ATF needs from all HGVs, cars, vans, motorbikes and even parks equipment. Public and commercial customers have considerably increased income, whilst saving through 'one site' provision and efficiency has been beneficial for staffing and operations alike.

Innovation in place-shaping: How can the innovation/technology in this project be applied in multiple sectors/areas? (150 words max.)

By consolidating various operational facilities and functions into one site that meets the demand of not only the hundreds of employees and vehicles the council has, but also members of the public as efficiently and effectively as the Keynsham Recycling Centre, the innovation/technology could be applied across a range of sectors like local government, healthcare and other areas that carry out large-scale operations. Utilising the site to meet a direct need, but to ensure capacity to generate revenue and education is much need across all sectors, whilst value and core use efficiencies improve performance and cost savings.

Innovation in place-shaping: How does this project demonstrate scalability and resilience - the ability to use technology in a wider scope and in a way that encourages longevity of use? (150 words max.)

The facility was designed and built with longevity in mind. The site accommodates a large 3800m2 PV-array which generates over 850kWp which is used on site. In the future, the power will be used to charge a new fleet of commercial electric vehicles, for which the site is already prepared to accommodate with EV charging points and ducting for future additional provisions.

The site also incorporates rainwater harvesting for vehicle washing and attenuation for landscape watering. The site has been designed for 40 years of likely growth and is adaptable in numerous ways for future change in waste management and recycling demands. Efficiencies in design allow maximum use of space, whilst ensuring efficiencies for quick turn around.